

MINUTES

(1) CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Carlson at 6:30 pm.

(2) ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Jon Carlson, Christian Pederson, Jeanette June, Judy Iverson, Larry Schulz, Kevin Roberts, Amber Huttner.

Members Absent: Teresa Gregory

City Council Liaison: Tom Gregory

Staff: Park and Recreation/Public Works Director Ann Mahnke

Others Present: Troy Poppitz, Chris Thulin (Victoria Vics Baseball)

(3) APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF October 15, 2018.

Motion by Schultz and second by June to approve the minutes as amended to reflect that next meeting date should be November and not September.

Motion carried 7- 0.

(4) PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, SUGGESTIONS OR COMPLAINTS

A. Spring Volunteer Buckthorn Roundup – Jeanette June

June asked about the idea of a program in the spring that would include education and residents could help remove buckthorn. Mahnke stated it is something we could look at and try to program in the future.

B. June talked about a Tri-City Pickle Ball tournament.

C. Shelter type structure at Goodman Park

(5) OLD BUSINESS

A. Trail Connection and Gaps

Mahnke provided members with some ideas on ranking the existing trail gaps, which would then give some direction on how to advance them. Two samples of trail rankings were provided to give the members a starting point and to provide staff with direction on how to proceed. Members discussed the proposed criteria and methods at length. Carlson stated that there are a lot of priorities and that ranking will be challenging. Roberts stated that this has been a discussion for some time and thought that more priority should be given to “number of residents served”. Schulz stated that he liked the ranking and that connections to other regional trails give people more opportunities to get to them. He also asked about grant opportunities and stated that he would like to see something happen. Members liked the ranking and stated that it will provide some justification to the community. They have discussed this many times and suggested keeping it simple and while it may not be perfect, it is a starting point. There is a need to somehow measure, understand the benefits and prioritize. Members discussed what key points or criteria should be included; Number of residents served, connections to downtown and other public facilities, and connection to natural resources. Members suggested that adding the category “Residents Served” to the list is needed and then go through and rank each trail gap. Iverson stated that she thought crossing Hwy. 5 is one of the biggest challenges we have.

The consensus of the members was that staff should rank each trail gap with the criteria recommendations provided and bring back to the next meeting for further discussion.

B. Tree Survey Update

Mahnke indicated that Rainbow Tree has begun the tree survey and results will be available in the spring. They will also be preparing a Management Plan.

C. Wassermann Park Update

Mahnke indicated that the City Council will be discussing this on January 29th.

(6) NEW BUSINESS

A. Victoria Vics and Scoreboard Repair at Poppitz Field

Mahnke provided some background information on the Victoria Vic's baseball program along with Poppitz Field. Staff introduced Troy Poppitz and Chris Thulin with the Vic's. Thulin talked about his 20 years with the Vic's and that Mike Poppitz's dream was to have a ballfield that could host a State Championship. This year the Vic's will be hosting some Gopher State Legion games and hope to make field improvements to host more state games in the future. Mahnke stated that the scoreboard at the field is not working properly and needs to be fixed prior to the games this summer. The cost to replace the parts is approximately \$6500 and within the maintenance budget. Poppitz stated that they would like to make improvements to the facility including a grandstand, batting cage relocation and new shed. They hope to have additional teams use the field and wants to improve community support for the team. Thulin stated that there are some items that need to be improved now and more in the future. They would like to have more people see the games but there is limited seating. Members asked who used the field and Mahnke stated that the Vic's, Holy Family and some Legion teams use it. Poppitz stated that the club does most of the work on the field and there is some financial support from the City and Holy Family. There was discussion on fund raising, financial support from the City and others that use the field.

Members discussed communication to the residents and businesses and that the financial support from the City should be used to benefit the community.

Members thanked the Vic's for coming to the meeting and suggested that the City look to formalize the relationship.

B. Comprehensive Plan Review

Due to the time, Chair Carlson recommended that this item be placed on the next agenda discussion and members agreed.

C. 2019 Recreation Center Membership Fees

Mahnke provided the approved 2019 Membership rates which increased by approximately 3%. Rates have not increased in several years.

(7) OTHER BUSINESS

A. Volunteer for City Manager Interviews – Saturday, February 9th

Carlson volunteered to participate with Pederson next up.

B. City Council Composting Site Follow-Up

Members discussed that this will be disappointing to some residents and wondered if there was an opportunity to provide some type of service. The City Council voted to discontinue this service as of 2019.

C. Membership Reports – December 2018

D. Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, February 19, 2019

(8) ADJOURNMENT – A motion by June and second by Roberts to adjourn at 8:45 pm

Motion carried 7 – 0.