

WAYZATA PARKS & TRAILS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2020

Attendees: Chair Dan Baasen, Merrily Borg Babcock, Mary Bader, Jim McWethy, Ty Purdy, Sarah Showalter, Tory Schalkle

Staff: Director of Public Works Mike Kelly

Absent: Sarah Randolph

Call to Order: Chair Baasen called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Purdy moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Babcock. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Minutes: Babcock moved to approve the revised minutes from the January 15 Board Meeting, seconded by McWethy. Motion passed 5-0-1 (Baasen abstained).

Public Comments: None

Old Business:

Summer Parks Programming: Wayzata Community Education (WCE) was represented at the meeting by Deb Slomkowski, Enrichment Manager, and associates Katie Lee and Julie Menk. Ms. Slomkowski walked the Board through a series of slides on the programming plans for Wayzata Parks for summer 2020, including background research data and resulting proposed programs, marketing, and followup program evaluation. The programs proposed were a result of community surveys, evaluation of previous years program results, a Folkstone focus group, and other regional community programs, trends, and successes.

Discussion items included Beach Safety to be presented by beach lifeguard staff, Family Fun Day kickoff scheduled for June 13 at Klapprich Park, marketing plans, and participant followup. Boating Safety, a popular program in previous years, will not be included in the marketing catalog but Chair Dan Baasen is working with WCE to locate an instructor for this program; it will be marketed separately if the search is successful. Babcock asked WCE for assistance in distributing 60 trees donated by Cargill (sometime around Arbor Day in mid to late April) to replace trees throughout the community being lost to construction projects and disease. They will discuss further.

The possibility of trying some future winter programming through WCE, after summer programming has been completed and evaluated, was discussed. This would need to be part of a future CIP request.

Board Priorities for 2020: Priorities proposed during the January 15 Board meeting were reviewed. The Little Beach improvement proposal was divided into two projects for 2020 and 2021. Schalkle inquired about a shade structure for the main beach, and clarification of the Bike Fix Station project. Chair Baasen asked about the effectiveness of video cameras currently at the main beach and possible application for other selected parks. Bader moved to approve the Board priorities as presented, seconded by Schalkle. Motion passed 7-0.

Luce Line Grooming: Schalkle presented an analysis of Luce Line and regional trail grooming/plowing by neighboring communities. Neither Three Rivers Parks (Dakota Trail) nor the DNR (Luce Line trail) maintain their trails in winter—it is left to the discretion of individual cities. Wayzata does not currently have the equipment nor the manpower to maintain regional trails. Mike Kelly will contact Plymouth to determine the extent of their trail maintenance program.

Maple Tree Syrup Tapping: Discussion on the maple syrup program centered on the condition of the equipment and lack of funding. The stove is in the process of being repaired to get it through another season. In order to generate the funds to keep the program viable, the Board decided to request a \$20 contribution per sap bucket to accompany each program registration form, subject to city approval.

Communications/Publicity: Mike Kelly stated that the city is at this time in the application/interview process to hire a new city communications specialist to fill the current vacancy.

New Business:

Revenue Generating Ideas: Shalkle presented a brief overview of his research into strategies and options for funding of future P & T projects and programs as dedicated parks funds are gradually depleted. The Board decided to discuss this topic at the March 18 Board meeting.

Playground Discussion: Chair Baasen asked for Board volunteers to form a subcommittee to guide design and development of the Klapprich and Main Beach playground projects. Bader, Shalkle, Showalter, and Purdy volunteered to form this task force and will meet and report back at the March 18 Board meeting.

Other Business:

March Agenda: Three Rivers Parks trail workshop, Discuss P & T revenue generation, playground task force report, WCE update, maple syrup program update, summer Great Lawn concert update, and Garrison Landing signage update.

Adjourn: Babcock moved adjourn at 8:41 p.m., seconded by Showalter. Motion passed 7-0.