

9/24/2020 Vergas Park Advisory Board Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:17 p.m. by C. Albright

1. Present: Albright, Haarstick, Lammers, and Pinke

Absent: DuFrane, Goettel, Hanson

2. August Minutes were approved.

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- a. Haarstick asked that the spring/drain system at Long Lake Park be repaired.
- b. A correction was made to the Agenda: 5.b. The money approved by the Council (\$5000) this summer for the Trail planter was not Trail Committee money, but City money. The Trail Committee does not have any funds.

4. Vets Memorial Park Update:

a. Lammers noted that 12-14 people called wondering why Vergas needs two Veterans Memorials; one already exists at the City Cemetery.

b. Goettel added these comments via email after a conversation with Lyle Krieg, who relayed the Vets feel the ball field is a much better location than the Cemetery because it has higher visibility. They have contacted West Central Initiative about grants and Denise Laymon is helping with that.

- The fund raiser that Ditterich Farms were going to help with may not happen until next spring.
- They have contacted Dent Monument about pricing for granite monuments.
- They are looking at putting up a sign saying something like "Future Home of the Vergas Veterans Memorial".
- They are looking at how to get their tax exempt 501c3 status.
- They are raising funds with metal goats, of which you may have seen them in our front yard a couple weeks ago. It costs \$50 to remove the goats. Actually the goats are kind of neat.
- Soon a flyer will be ready to give out explaining the project and help raise funds. They have contacted West Central Initiative about grants and Denise Laymon is helping with that.

5. City Council Update: Albright relayed information from the Council meeting she attended last month.

- a. The Park Advisory Board cannot spend any money without Council approval but Utilities Superintendent (DuFrane) can spend up to \$1000 on budgeted items without Council approval.
- b. The Council did give approval to the Park Board to spend up to \$5000 earlier this summer for the planter on the Trail.
- c. Capitol Outlay money in the Park Budget can be carried over from year to year with Council approval.
- d. Council voted to keep the 2020 Budget in place for 2021.

6. Update from Trail Committee: Lammers reported the last meeting of the Trail Committee will be October 14 at which time the Committee will resolve. Responsibility for the Trail will then be transferred to the Park Advisory Board. She noted she has contacted a second person to build the steps to Goettel's dock. The first person she contacted decided not to do the job.

7. Berm Project Update: It will move forward next week because the Council has already approved it. Haarstick asked about where the water will flow into the lake. Albright asked if there is a drawing/specs or contract. DuFrane will be able to answer those questions.

8. Long Lake Park Work Day: is being planned by Goettel and Puetz. No date has been set yet.

9. Other Discussion: Concerns were expressed about adding more asphalt parking areas at Long Lake Park, fixing the spring/drain system installed in 1993, which no longer functions properly, the idea of turning the lower parking lot into park area, and which money can be “saved” for next year.

a. Lammers explained that Park Board money “left over” at the end of the year may or may not be put back into the Park Board budget for next year, depending on the entire City budget. For example, if the City Budget was \$200,000 and the City spent \$180,000, the remaining \$20,000 would be distributed to each department based on need.

b. Currently, the Park Board has \$2500 remaining in Engineering with no Engineering money allocated for 2021. The Event Center and Parks Budgets received the deepest cuts for 2021. In addition there is \$5000 remaining in Improvement, though Lammers said we should check with DuFrane to confirm that figure. Approximately \$2000 of that Improvement fund will be used for the Berm Project. There is also about \$2000 remaining in Operating Supplies and \$900 in Repair and Maintenance. Perhaps new garbage cans could be purchased yet this year with some of the remaining money; and some engineering for an overall plan at Long Lake Park could be started.

c. These concerns can be addressed at the October meeting during which Long Range Planning will begin.

10. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in the Event Center.