

12.17.20. Minutes/Vergas Parks Advisory Board

The ZOOM meeting was called to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. by President Sherri Hanson.

1. **Present:** Sherri Hanson, Carol Albright, Julie Lammers, Steph Hogan, Maggie Puetz, Dean Haarstick, Paul Pinke, Mike DuFrane
2. **November Minutes** were approved by a motion from Pinke, second by DuFrane.
3. **Additions to Agenda:**
 - a. **Glawe Family Bench**
 - b. **Comprehensive Plan**
 - c. **City Letter to Goettel regarding boat/dock storage.**
 - d. **Tree Planting**

4. **Pickle Ball Court:** Jill Shipman and Tom Falk from the Pickle Ball Court Group have measured the space next to the Little League Field and determined that four courts will fit there. Shipman is finalizing a budget for the project which is currently at \$97,000. She is exploring grant funding sources.

DuFrane asked about using the courts as a skating rink in winter. The idea was met with approval but questions were asked regarding bathrooms, warming house, gate, and inspection. **He will call the Loss Control Agent to find out what are the regulations regarding city skating rinks.**

5. **Citizens Group:** Hanson wants this group to be a standing agenda item, so Puetz, who is heading the group can report each month. **Puetz and Hanson will meet to start planning how the group will function.**

Puetz has contacted a few interested people. One asked about snow removal on the Trail between Wanna' Be's and the Assisted Living. Lammers said the City ordinance mandates businesses clean sidewalks in front of their property but there is no such ordinance for residential areas. The City does have insurance for volunteers, however, who could clean the Trail. DuFrane said the current equipment would not work but a brush attachment for the lawn tractor could be purchased to use. Members agreed the brush attachment would probably damage the boardwalk, though.

Puetz would like to provide activities for kids through the volunteer group, possibly using those activities as a fundraiser for the parks.

6. **Boardwalk:**

a. **Access:** Hanson and Albright had met with Goettel, property owner on 12.9.20. They agreed a deck/platform at the base of the ditch would provide adequate access to the lake. DuFrane and the City engineer designed a wood deck which is the same height as the boardwalk. Approximately four feet of the boardwalk railing will be removed to install the deck. **Lammers will send a drawing of the plans to Board members for approval, which will then be sent to the County.**

In addition, Goettel asked for a letter from the City stating that his dock and lift can be stored on City property (Long Lake Park) since he can no longer store it at water's edge due to a new County ordinance. The Council had previously approved the request. The Parks Board agreed to these dates for storage: October 15-April 15. **Lammers will work with the City Attorney to draft the agreement.**

b. **Reflectors have been ordered.** Bright yellow posts have been installed at each end of the boardwalk to discourage snowmobile traffic.

7. **Budget: There will be a \$9500 decrease for 2021.** Lammers said the Council cut areas that were not income producing in order to avoid tax increases.

In regard to last month's meeting: the Parks Board and Streets Department were charged equally for the Park View Easement repairs.

Garbage cans have been ordered and paid for. They should be shipped in January.

No balances remain in the Budget.

8. Other:

a. Glawe Bench: Albright had been asked about the bench purchased in memory of Jon Glawe. Lammers said two benches were purchased by the Glawe Family and are placed along the Trail in Tin Can Alley.

b. Comprehensive Plan: Hanson asked for a clarification about the time line for the plan because the Parks Board wants to provide input. Lammers reported the Planning Commission will likely not meet until May to discuss the Comprehensive Plan, which will probably be in place by September/October.

c. Planting Trees: Hanson wants to make sure Haarstick's request to plant trees in the parks is kept active. Puetz suggested a possible Earth Day event for tree planting. Lammers noted the City and Vergas Hardware will be buying a tree in memory of Duane Strand which will need to be planted in Peterson Park.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. via ZOOM.