

## 1.21.21 Minutes Vergas Parks Advisory Board

### 1. ZOOM 3:30 p.m.

2. **2021 Budget received.** No discussion. The Budget will now be included with every meeting packet.
3. **Attendance:** Sherri Hanson, Carol Albright, Steph Hogan, Julie Lammers, Mike DuFrane, Matt Engebretson. **Citizens:** Maggie Puetz, Paul Pinke, Mike Goettel, Adam Dresen, Joe Gehrts, Barbie Porter.
4. **December Minutes** approved with a motion by Hogan/second by Albright.
5. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**
  - a. **Meeting Date Should be the Fourth Thursday**
  - b. **Skating Rink**
  - c. **Add a Member to the Parks Board**
6. **Citizens Group Report:** Chair Puetz will set a meeting date and time in March at the Event Center for people who want to work with the Parks Board. The Event Center can now hold meetings of up to 15 people if they are wearing masks and social distancing. Each Board member should invite people to join the Citizens Group. Puetz would like to plan an event for Earth Day, officially announcing the Citizens Group.
7. **Resolution:** The Board will not recommend to the Council that a resolution be made granting future owners of the Goettel Property storage on City property in perpetuity for docks and lifts. They are happy to let Goettel store his dock/lift in the Park as was agreed verbally at the time the easement was signed. However, granting storage in perpetuity for future owners doesn't seem to be in the best interest of the City. Goettel said he will pursue legal action to get the storage area secured.
8. **Plans for Goettel's Access:** The County has agreed to the plans provided by KLJ Engineering for a 4' x 8' platform abutting the Boardwalk, as has the property owner, Mike Goettel. After the Council approves the plans, **Lammers will secure the County permit.** Engineering cost was \$776. **Lammers will try to get an estimate for the platform by the next Council meeting.**
9. **Snowmobile Traffic near Parkview Drive:** Albright will contact Howard Olson (**ULTRA Snowmobile Club**) to install 'No Snowmobiling' signs, preventing traffic on the Adam Dresen property. Lammers will ask the Otter Trail Club to place a notice on their website announcing the change in Long Lake access.
10. **Pickle Ball Courts:** The Board agreed to recommend to the Council that the Pickle Ball Court Committee can go ahead with fundraising. Donations can be made on the City website in the Parks and Recreation Category/Vergas Community Fund/West Central Initiative. Hanson noted the gate to the Vanna property could be moved, allowing continued access for Vanna's horses; and if the hill was excavated, there might be more parking space. Size of the courts is 68' x 128'. Albright asked for a drawn plan.

**11. Projects Happening and Overseeing Projects:** DuFrane prefers that project plans go through him. There seems to be a need for better communication between project committees and City employees.

**12. Addition of "Recreation" to the Parks Board:** The Council has added that designation.

**13. Clearing of Path (Trail):** Everyone agreed that keeping the Trail clean is a good thing. It has diverted some snowmobile traffic from the Trail. A resident asked Albright if the Boardwalk could also be cleared. At present, there is no equipment to do so, except shovels.

**14. Other:**

**a. Skating Rink:** Joe Gehrts, Loss Control Agent from the League of MN Cities was invited by DuFrane to answer questions. He said the City could maintain a Skating Rink on Long Lake as long as it follows DNR guidelines: Ice must be a minimum 4" thick for skaters and 8"-12" thick for a vehicle. The City is responsible for checking the thickness. It is "pretty well protected" by MN Statute 466.03 subdivision 6e for liability. No warming area or attendant is required on site. There are no size restrictions. DuFrane is uncertain if the rink will be developed this year but will definitely be put in place next year.

**b. Adding Members to Parks Board:** The Mayor has decided to have only one Council member on the Board instead of two. Therefore, a new member can be added at this time. A motion by Hogan/seconded by DuFrane was approved to add Maggie Puetz as the new Parks Board member. She agreed to continue to chair the Citizens Group.

**c. Meetings will continue to be held on the fourth Thursday of every month, as originally agreed.** During the holiday season meetings had been held on the third Thursday.

**The next meeting will be Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. in the Event Center and via ZOOM.**