

Vegas Parks Advisory Board Minutes

2/25/2021 3:30 PM

Vergas Event Center and via zoom

Attendees: Sherri Hanson, Steph Hogan, Maggie Puetz, Mike DuFrane, and Paul Pinke via Zoom.

January Minutes: Carol Albright had sent the January Minutes to members in the meeting packet. No one had corrections and Maggie Putetz made a motion to approve them. Motion 2nd by Sherri Hanson and approved by board.

Agenda Additions: Steph said she had been asked if the Veterans Memorial Group could somehow receive donations for the grant for their Veterans at the City Office. Sherri said the group would have to contact Julie Lammers when she returns but Sherri thought the Pickleball group was going to do that for their grant as well.

Open Meeting Rules: If the board is holding an open meeting they will be required to provide zoom coverage of that meeting.

Goettel's Property: This property has been sold. The new owner is Ryan Weibye. A letter has been sent to the Goettels from the city regarding the removal of their boat and lift from city property. The board must honor the terms of that letter.

Snowmobiles: Howard, from the Ultra Trail Snowmobile Association out of Becker County, and Mike DuFrane put up signs regarding the use of the trail by snowmobiles. They have been cleaning off the trail this winter because it is icy. Mike said they felt that grooming the trail might be good for both walkers and snowmobiles. Mike thought the trail groomer machine may be too big for snow removal during a normal winter. The Trail Association said no problem this year but might be in a normal winter. The trail groomer is a flat weighted blade which makes the trail level. The fence might be a problem for the equipment that pulls the groomer not the groomer itself. Sherri said the majority of the snowmobiles are going off to the side. The steepness of the ditch is a problem for some inexperienced riders. The snowmobile meetings maybe about done for the season. Mike offered to join the Ultra Association next year to keep informed of what is happening in Becker County. Julie's husband is a part of the Pelican snowmobile club. Their trail comes into Vergas on County 36 but that trail needs to be rerouted out by the water tower. Some riders are coming into town along the lake. Trail has been remarked and signs will be put up. Clubs been good to work with and work to keep folks informed. We need the snowmobiles in town.

Pickleball: Many of the ladies making up the Pickleball group are south for the winter and so not a great deal is happening. They have a listing on the Vergas City website and people can donate to the pickle ball fund project at that website. Paul Haarstick is the person who is in charge of the city's website. The city has gotten back to the group asking for information regarding the dimensions of the courts and the way the courts will be setting on the property before making a final decision. One concern is that if Pickleball does not happen, what would become of the money. There is also no resolution how to continue to provide access to the Vanna property if the courts are built. It is felt that we need to remain good neighbors to Vannas.

Citizens Group: Maggie is finding many of those who say they are interested in being volunteers are not really interested in getting involved. There will be a Citizens Group meeting on March the 23rd. People involved Paul, Dean, Scott Elhke, and Maggie. We could talk to the Lions and Master Gardeners groups about interested volunteers. One of the items on that agenda is a plan for the Earth Day celebration.

Earth Day: Earth Day is April 22. It is hoped the celebration can be held outdoors with the Event Center used if bad weather. Possible activities might be food and kids stations. Kids could have coloring projects, maybe rock painting, planting seeds, and tree planting. Scott at Pet and Garden had bird house kits at an event which would be fun. Food would be simple; chips, brats or hotdogs, and a soda. Event should have a small time frame maybe 4 – 6. We could advertise in City newsletter, make a Earth Day flyer, and have someone at Maple Syrup Fest (Maple Syrup Fest is April 10). We should stay small this year to start the Event so we can build each year. Mike informed us they are getting the picnic tables out for Maple Syrup Fest so they will be available for Earth Day.

Long Range Planning: Sherri is interested in putting artwork out along the trail. This has been done in Park Rapids and there is a grant available for such a project. We would need maybe 6 concrete platforms along the trail for artwork. Pat Shannon might be a source for artists since he participated in the Park Rapids project. There would be specific pieces from different artists for this project. Such activities are good for the city and a way to promote businesses.

There is also some interest in having a City Garden and Maggie would like to see a native restoration project along the trail with a perma culture which once established would take care of itself. She mentioned restoration pebbles used along an Indian path in the cities that forms it's own sustainable path. Mike thought Marks sand and gravel was going to pave the trail. Sherri didn't think so. We also have another bench for the trail in honor of Pat Prenty (check with Rick Nelson or Neil Strawhorn). Mike would like to see concrete pads for benches. Bench on Elhke Beach seems poorly placed but Mike said it was set there specifically for privacy.

Mike says the fence on the trail needs to be replaced. It is deteriorating and Franklin Fence no longer handles that material. Mike needs to be looking at other fencing. This will be huge expense and we have a very limited budget but The trail is busting up in this area. The estimated cost to repair is about \$17,000. People are using trail where it is being cleaned.

88 Parkview Drive: KIJ submitted a bid of \$7,830.00 for staking and locating for the stormwater and trail easement of 88 Park Drive. Sherri doesn't understand the billing. Steph thinks that portion may be \$2,900 which is being tacked on to an existing bid for other work. Question also is why this issue should be part of Park budget anyway. Mike said it's in our budget because they have to put a berm in this area as a result of water coming off the trail.

Agenda for Citizens meeting: List of what needs to be done by group: Clean in front of shelter and trim sumac.

Next meeting: March 25 at 3:30. Sherri will attend March council meeting.