

### **3.25.21 Minutes Vergas Parks and Rec Advisory Board**

#### **3:30 p.m. Vergas Event Center and ZOOM**

1. **Present:** Carol Albright, Maggie Puetz, Sherri Hanson, Julie Lammers, Paul Pinke, Mike DuFrane, Matt Engebretson, and Tony Sailer.  
**Absent:** Steph Hogan
2. **February Minutes were approved with the following recommended changes in a motion by Pinke/second by Albright.** Pickleball paragraph: Lammers is in charge of the City's website, not Paul Haarstick. Citizens' Group: date changed from March 23 to March 17. Earth Day celebration date is April 17, not April 22.
3. **Additions to Agenda:**
  - Swimming Lessons
  - Dock Placement
  - SOTA Rentals
4. **Trail Art Walk:** Hanson talked to Pat Shannon about the artwork on the trail in Park Rapids. Artists submitted their work to be selected by jury and were paid an honorarium if their work was selected. WCI may have grants available. Albright suggested having kids' art along the Trail. **Hanson asked her to look into the idea.**
5. **Goettel Property:** The City no longer has an obligation to Goettels but Goettels need to move their dock by April 15. The new owner, Ryan Weibye, would like the yellow poles removed from the end of the Boardwalk so he can get his lawnmower down the ditch. He will be meeting with Lammers this afternoon to clarify his request. DuFrane had planned to move the yellow poles for the summer. They were installed to deter snowmobile traffic on the Boardwalk. Weibye had also asked about a lawsuit from Goettels. Lammers has no record of a lawsuit being filed with the City.
6. **Earth Day Spring Fest is Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 10 to 1:00 at the Event Center.** Puetz has everything in place including demonstrations, activities, food, volunteers, and publicity. Albright noted Sam Underhill from the SWCD will demonstrate the Ground Water Model that day, as well; and hand out flyers describing SWCD programs. Puetz asked that the picnic tables remain at the Event Center from Maple Fest. DuChane confirmed that.
7. **Citizens Meeting:** Long Lake Park Clean Up Date needs to be changed from May 1 to an earlier date to avoid the Sumac bloom. **Jeff Norby will meet with us on Monday, March 29** at 4:30 p.m. at Long Lake Park to mark the trees/brush we want cut. Norby worked with SWCD for many years and understands what should be cut or kept. **Hanson will contact Lyle Krieg** with the Lions to let him know about the meeting. The Lions would like to help with the clean-up. **Albright will let Kevin Glawe know about the Monday meeting.** A new date for clean-up will be decided on Monday.
  - DuFrane is working on clean-up in Tin Can Alley.
  - Hanson/Puetz asked if the bench now sitting at the beach area in Tin Can can be moved so the lake is more visible when sitting there. It could be done at the same time the new bench is placed in Tin Can Alley.
8. **Drainage Issues at Beach:** In a quick conversation with Bruce Albright, DuFrane said they discussed adding rocks where wash outs occur. The plan wasn't clear. **DuFrane will be meeting with Bruce Albright to clarify. Carol Albright will also ask Bruce Albright to**

**attend the April meeting for further clarification.** DuFrane also reported another load of sand will be added to the beach this year.

**9. Pickleball/Basketball Courts:** The Committee seems to be moving ahead “full steam” after the Council approved them using the City website for donations. Flyers are circulating. DuFrane will be in charge of overseeing the construction.

**10. Veterans Memorial Park:** The group is in fundraising mode. They will have a groundbreaking ceremony on May 30. **Motion to recommend the group can use the City website to receive donations; made by Hanson/second by Puetz.** The veterans plan to be at the April Council meeting, as well.

**11. Budget:** DuFrane reported usual expenses so far. His intent is to purchase a new lawn mower, as budgeted.

- Yes, DuFrane has spray paint to use for marking trees/brush to cut at Long Lake Park.
- The question about \$7800 in last month’s budget for KLJ was answered by Lammers. The amount was a bid only, not an expense, for staking the easements at 88 Park View Drive.
- The \$13,209 Savings Account for the Parks can be used with Council approval for future projects. Unused budget funds are placed in the account every year.

**12. Summer Partime Parks Worker:** Hanson will check with the Mayor to find out if that position was approved.

**13. EDA Annual Meeting Invite for April 21 at Billy’s at 5:00 p.m.**

**14. Long Range Planning:** Hanson would like us to continue discussing long term issues. Lammers said there is no plan yet for when all boards/committees will get together to begin long range planning.

- Information from Jeff Norby, a member of the Parks Citizens Group, indicated there may be grant money or free services available for technical/survey type work when we begin to look at a design for Long Lake Park from SWCD. They can assist with design for run off and parking lots, etc. We may need to provide a drawing of our plans.

**15. Dock Placement:** Hanson wondered if the boat dock could be placed closer to the culvert, allowing more beach space. DuFrane said “muck” might prohibit that but is willing to try.

**16. Swimming Lessons:** Hanson will ask Council what they prefer: Independent Contractor or Instructor as City Employee.

**17. SOTA:** Darin Trites will be invited to April meeting. He proposes opening a rental business for paddle boards, aquamats, and kayaks at Long Lake Park. The general consensus was that the Park is not a place for private business but the Board would like to hear Trites’ proposal.

**18. Things to think about:**

- Hanson has an offer for free perennials. Is there a place we need them?
- Lammers asked where the Duane Strand Memorial Tree should be placed in Peterson Park. City Employees purchased it in his honor.

**19. Next Meeting will be Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 3:30 at the Event Center and ZOOM.**