

**4.22.2021 Minutes from Vergas Parks & Rec Advisory Board Meeting
3:30 p.m. Vergas Event Center and ZOOM**

1. Attendance/Present: Sherri Hanson, Steph Hogan, Maggie Puetz, Carol Albright, Matt Erickson, Mike DuFrane. Citizens present: Bruce Albright, Lyle and Pam Krieg, and Darin Trites.

Attendance/Absent: Julie Lammers and Paul Pinke.

2. April Minutes were approved with a motion by Steph and a second by C. Albright.

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- a. Budget**
- b. Brick Planter**
- c. Tree Planting/Peterson Park**
- d. Art Walk**
- e. Mulch at Playgrounds**
- f. Park Dedication Fund**

4. Weiby Property Update: Ryan Weiby has agreed to the platform plan designed by the City and county engineers. It will be placed next to the Boardwalk at the base of the road ditch. The railing that has to be removed will be added to the platform. The Council had approved the plan for Goettels but will need to approve it again for the new property owner, Ryan Weiby. Lammers has contacted Summers Construction to build the platform. A second bid is not required because the cost is \$1000.

The Board does not object to Weiby driving on the Trail when he needs to install and remove his docks each season.

5. Beach Drainage Update: DuFrane reported several of the blocks in the parking lot at the beach had been moved today to decrease erosion. Some blocks cannot be moved because they are attached to the asphalt. A new parking lot would solve the problem, in DuFrane's words. When asphalt is available he will fill in holes along the curb.

Councilman Bruce Albright added these repairs are also needed to stem erosion:

- a. Move more of the berm and patch/fill with asphalt
- b. Clean the drain by the shelter
- c. Change direction of roof drainage on the shelter

Eventually, a more permanent solution will be needed for the drainage issue.

Another beach question arose: When will the sand be put down? Two loads will be added to the beach sometime in May after the road restrictions are lifted.

6. Pickle Ball/Basketball Courts Update: The Committee continues to fundraise. They have a 4' x 8' sign to display at the entrance to the ball diamond which Justin Helmeke has agreed to install. DuFrane asked if the sign is too big according to the sign ordinance in Vergas. **Hanson will check with Lammers about the ordinance.** Meanwhile, a motion by Hanson with a second by Hogan to install the sign if it meets City ordinance sign requirements was passed.

Bruce Albright asked if the court could be moved 80'-90' north to open up more parking.

Carol Albright asked if there should be a form or contract with a checklist for projects like this. Sailer will try to get a copy of the one used by the Brainerd Parks & Rec Department for whom he worked.

8. Swimming Instructor: Hanson will recommend to the Council that City Administrators be in charge of collecting fees for Swimming Lessons and that the Lions be asked to pay the Red Cross fee as they have in the past.

The Swimming Lessons program needs to be evaluated regarding fees and whether or not the instructor should be a contract or city employee. No direction was given by the Council at their last meeting.

9. Vets Memorial Park Update: Opposition to the location of the Park was expressed at the last City Council meeting. The vets group, members of the Cemetary Association, and citizens who oppose the location will meet May 6 at 4:00 p.m. in the Event Center.

As a point of clarification, the Cemetary is not owned by the City.

Krieg noted that the Vets Committee has looked at the Cemetary location for their memorial but decided their project will be very different than the vets memorial at the cemetary; the memorials are two distinct kinds. Pam Krieg also mentioned she felt that people who signed the petition opposing the location were mislead.

10. SOTA by Darin Trites: This company proposed renting water toys from a location in Long Lake Park. A fee to the City could be a possibility but area resorts offer their location without a fee. After discussion, Hanson noted we would prefer that Trites do business from a location uptown. Sailer noted the Brainerd parks did the same, preferring not to mix private business on public property except for special events.

11. Citizens Group Update: Earth Day event went well. Puetz has decided to take a break from the group this summer. She handed out shoreline restoration information as a possible next project.

12. Summary of Earth Day Event/Spring Fest: Approximately 30 children attended. Ironical that while Tom Franklin was planting a tree, the group in the background was cutting down trees. Motion by Albright with a second by Hogan to use the remaining \$150 Thrivent Funds to purchase plants for the shoreline restoration project. **Albright will contact Aimee DuChene at SWCD to attend our next meeting and discuss a restoration project.**

13. Trimming/Park Clean Up Day: There was an excellent turn out of volunteers on two separate days to clean out brush and small trees, which had been marked by Jeff Norby, former SWCD employee.

14. Long Range Planning/Budget: Bruce Albright reported the Council has not yet received a second grant for the Comprehensive Plan.

DuFrane has no concerns about the Budget at this time. He noted he will buy the lawnmower through the State, with Council approval.

15. Brick Planter in Tin Can Alley: After May 1 there will not be any more memorial brick orders accepted.

16. Location for Tree in Peterson Park: DuFrane should go ahead with the purchase and planting of the memorial tree for D. Strand.

17. Art Walk on the Trail: Albright has not moved forward on this project except to think about a possible community art work of some kind and a rain proof display case for children's art.

18. Mulch for Playground: DuFrane can get 100 yards delivered from Sandstone for \$1872. A Princeton company would charge \$2363. The local provider, CrossRoads, has not responded to DuFrane's call and in the past has not been willing to charge to the City. **Albright will contact her.** DuFrane needs the information before the May 11 Council meeting.

19. Park Dedication Fund: Hanson is starting a conversation about a fee to be charged to new businesses and new home construction which would be dedicated to the Parks fund. Sailer explained the Brainerd Parks used their dedicated funds for new projects, not salary or repair. Hanson will bring the idea to the Council

Next meeting will be Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. in the Event Center and via ZOOM.