

**5.27.2021 Minutes from Vergas Parks & Rec Advisory Board Meeting/DRAFT
3:30 p.m. Vergas Event Center and ZOOM**

1. Attendance/Members Present: Sherri Hanson, Steph Hogan, Mike DuFrane, and Carol Albright. Citizens present: Tony Sailer.

Attendance/Absent: Julie Lammers and Paul Pinke

2. April Minutes were approved with a motion by DuFrane and second by Hogan.

3. Additions/Corrections to Agenda:

Report from DuFrane

Cheryl Glawe Garden

Brick Planter on the Trail

Placement of memorial benches and tables in the parks.

4. DuFrane's Report

a. Parking Blocks for Long Lake Park beach area are needed to replace the old ones; which will hopefully alleviate drainage problems. Cost will be about \$550, so DuFrane can order without Council approval. Sailer suggested painting them yellow for better visibility.

b. Sealcoat Trail: Motion by Albright, second by Hogan approved to hire Newling Asphalt Services, LLC from Frazee to sealcoat the Trail. Cost is \$2250 compared to \$2400 bid from Howard's Asphalt, Menasha. **Hanson will take it to the Council for final approval.**

c. Mulch has been laid down at playgrounds and flower beds in the parks. There's about three yards left. It was agreed that Hanson could buy that for \$10. Next time mulch is needed a full load (100 yards) could possibly be split with another town.

d. Tin Can Planter: Hanson reported Dent Monument will be engraving ten more bricks on the existing planter. The donations received from the sale of the bricks will cover the engraving cost. No more bricks or engraving will be added.

Albright expressed a citizen's concern about the unfinished appearance of the planter and surrounding landscape. Hanson noted the Trail Committee had run out of funds to finish the planter with cultured stone. No further plan for finishing it exists now. **Albright will get landscaping estimates from area landscapers.**

Hanson noted the parking lot site next to the planter is being considered as a location for the Vets Memorial. There are mixed opinions about that location.

e. Vanna Property: Frank Vanna expressed concern at the Planning Commission meeting about the need to expand park areas for the city; for example into his property abutting the Ball Diamond. Vanna asked why the City, then, would close off access to his property by building pickleball courts in the Ball Diamond parking lot.

f. What is the regular schedule for installing the dock? Depends on water temperature and when the spraying is done. Those present were about evenly split regarding whether or not the dock should be installed by Memorial Day weekend.

g. Lawnmower broke down this week. Trade in value is \$5000. Add \$6000 to purchase a new one. DuFrane will ask Council to approve.

h. Sumac will be sprayed where it was cut earlier in the year; and poison ivy will also be sprayed.

(DuFrane had to leave after this report for other commitments.)

5. Planting at Long Lake: Hogan and Albright will do some planting of prairie plants purchased with a Thrivent grant for the Earth Day Event.

6. Swimming Beach: Buoys are needed at the beach again for safety reasons. Three can be purchased for approximately \$1100. **Hanson will make the request to the Council.**

7. Duane Strand Memorial Tree: DuFrane is in charge of buying and planting the tree, as decided at the last meeting. **Hanson will look into markers for memorial plants.**

8. Waterski Lessons: will be held at Long Lake Beach July 9 and 10 (time to be announced) by the Northern Stars Team. Lessons will be free. All publicity will be handled by the Team. Certificate of insurance will be presented to the City. **Hanson will check with the Mayor to find out if the event requires Council approval.**

The Northern Stars Team will be performing two shows during Looney Daze, as well. They are promoting the theme of “Get on the Water” to celebrate the 100 plus years of waterskiing which started in Minnesota.

Sailer suggested we “pass the hat” during the lessons to help fundraise for the Parks Board.

9. Park Dedication Fund: Sailer agreed to help present the idea to the Council at their next meeting.

10. Vets Park: Their group is still searching for an agreeable site. Albright feels the Parks Board has done their job and no longer need to be involved with the vets’ proposal. The Board seemed to agree.

11. Pickleball Courts: Same situation as the Vets Park—The Parks Board has no further need to be involved with the planning.

12. Budget: upcoming expenses include:

\$6000/lawnmower

1500/buoys

1800/mulch

2200/sealcoat

550/parking blocks

Because Lammers was not at this meeting, we did not have the updated budget.

Board would like to start planning what will be needed for the Budget next year and to be able to have input into the process with the Council.

13. Albright’s Report from the Council: They approved hiring Nancy Jacobson and her assistant as City employees to teach swimming lessons. They approved the construction of the platform for the Weiby property.

14. Sculpture Trail: Albright will post the link for the Park Rapids art group’s ZOOM meeting in June. We will be able to ask questions about how they developed their trail with sculpture.

15. Placement of Smilie’s Bench in Tin Can Alley: A group of people have applied for a building permit to install a picnic table on Ehlke Beach in Tin Can Alley. It is in memory of Kevin “Smilie” Glawe. The City will have to forward the permit to the County because Tin Can Alley is leased land from the County. It is not City property. Sailer recommended the cement slab be flush with sod so no weed whipping has to be done.

Hanson will be meeting with another family next week who wants two benches placed on the Trail.

16. Cheryl Glawe's Garden: Hanson received an email from the Glawe Family stating they no longer want responsibility for the Garden. They will remove the stone with Cheryl's name. With Smilie's passing, there is no longer an interest or the ability to keep the garden going. Discussion of what to do with it next; possibly find a group to "Adopt A Planter" such as Master Gardener Clubs.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:15.