

**6.24.2021 Minutes from Vergas Parks and Rec Advisory Board Meeting
3:30 p.m. Vergas Event Center and ZOOM**

1. Members Present: Carol Albright, Steph Hogan, Sherri Hanson, Mike DuFrane, Paul Pinke
Members Absent: Julie Lammers, Maggie Puetz
Others Present: Tony Sailer, Don Snyder

2. Additions/Corrections to Agenda: Add approval of 6.15.2021 Minutes

3. May Minutes and 6.15.2021 Minutes were approved with a motion by Hogan/Second by Hanson.

4. Budget:

Hanson opened the discussion calling for more staff to assist with the Long Lake Park. DuFrane noted Engebretsen works full time from May - August 23; otherwise he has only 32 hours weekly. In years past there was another full time worker and part time worker in addition to DuFrane. A problem for DuFrane is they have to focus on people's complaints instead of regular duties; like the picnic tables, tripping hazards on the Pier, whether or not the security cameras work, and the plugged water fountain. Hanson asked if we really need the water fountain. DuFrane will establish a regular schedule for a walk through inspection of the park as discussed with the Mayor.

The new lawn mower is out of order. Cost was \$5700 plus \$4400 for the old one. Butch Zitzow at RDO will be fixing it.

Parking Stops have been purchased and will be picked up in Menagha next week.

City Council wants budget requests by the end of July. DuFrane will present his requests at our July meeting. **Hanson directed DuFrane to email his list to Park Board members one week prior to the July meeting.** The Budget will be the primary focus of the July meeting.

5. COVID Funds Dream List: The City of Vergas will be receiving approximately \$36,000. The Parks Board should provide a Dream List for using some of those funds. The following items were suggested:

- a. Adult playground/exercise equipment for the Trail and/or Long Lake Park.
- b. Educational kiosks on the Trail about plants, trees, and fish located there. Snyder suggested we might get money from civil defense funds if we would include weather reports.
- c. Get water fountain in working order.
- d. Grills
- e. Garbage cans
- f. Doggie Dump Station for Tin Can Alley
- g. Landscape for Tin Can Alley planter
- h. Small boat for installation of buoys and weights

More ideas can be added to the list at the July meeting.

6. Swim Beach: Hanson recommended we complete the defined roped area this year with a line and floats to address safety issues and make the beach a permitted one, as was discussed at the Special Meeting on 6/15. There was some confusion about whether or not large buoys are also required with the rope/buoy system. DuFrane also reported Lammers was having difficulty finding who issues the permit for the beach. He then noted that the Mayor had already directed him to install the rope. Albright stated for the record her wish to have a more clear line of communication among the Council, employees, Mayor, and Parks Board.

7. Berm on the Beach: was discussed in #4 above, Budget.

8. Drain at the Beach: DuFrane reported there was miscommunication with Dewey's Septic System, so they jetted the culvert under the road instead of the drain. When Dewey's comes back to clean the lift station they will clean the drain.

9. "Get on the Water" Event: the Council approved North Stars Waterski Show Team to conduct free waterski lessons at the beach; July 9, 10-6 and July 10, 9-1. They have provided their certificate of insurance to the City.

10. Looney Days Fundraiser: The Community Club is okay with the Parks Board "passing the hat" at park events: Waterski Shows (August 13 and 14 at 4:30) and Beatles Tribute Band (August 13, 6:30 to 9:00). We need people to help pass the hat. It will be noted on the posters that funds collected will be used for Long Lake Beach Projects.

DuFrane suggested selling "raffle" tickets at various events, then sharing the proceeds with one lucky winner. **Hanson will find out if that kind of raffle is legal.**

11. Tin Can Alley Landscaping Bids: Albright contacted two individuals about the project. Isaac Ratz was the lone respondent. His idea is to remove the large rocks, slope the hill and plant grass to make maintenance easier. Since no one else responded to the request for a bit, there was consensus to accept the Ratz bid of \$1800 but to get a more detailed breakdown of the costs to present to the Council. **Albright will get the detailed estimate and email it to Hanson.**

Hanson reported the engravers will be completing the 14 remaining bricks in the very near future. She will get a date from them.

12. Cheryl's Garden: The Mayor asked Albright to bring this item to the Parks Board: to relocate the three flag poles at the garden because the flags get shredded by the tree branches, which have been trimmed many times. DuFrane is concerned the poles will be damaged when moved and finding time to do it. **Hanson will check with AmVets to find out if they could provide new poles at no charge. DuFrane will check out what it would take to move the poles.** Sailer asked if the trees might be cut down instead of moving the poles. Albright thought that might be more controversial with the community.

13. Other: Sailer asked if there has been any feedback from the Park Dedication Fund proposal. None has been reported at this time.

Next meeting will be Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. in the Event Center and via ZOOM.