

12.16.2021 Minutes Vergas Parks and Rec Advisory Board
3:30 p.m. Vergas Event Center

1. **Members Present:** Carol Albright, Sherri Hanson, Maggie Puetz.
Members Absent: Steph Hogan, Mike DuFrane, Paul Pinke
Others Present: Tony Sailer
2. **No additions or corrections to the agenda.**
3. **November Minutes approved** with a motion by Hanson/second by Puetz.
4. **Skating Rink:** Are we behind in getting the rink completed? Ice should be good by the end of next week possibly. The “porta potty” will cost \$85/month and \$60 for each clean out. Those figures were relayed to Hanson by DuFrane.
An agreement was reached that hours should be posted 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
5. **Swingset:** Sailer talked to Chris Johnson from St. Croix Recreation. Johnson does not yet have the estimate put together for us and apologized profusely. It should be ready for January’s meeting.
6. **Trail:** DuFrane told Hanson he intends to go to another Ultra Snowmobile Club meeting to possibly get signs for lake exit/entrance.
Snowmobiles have driven on the Boardwalk and caused scrapes/gouges. Jeff Ratz saw six snowmobilers coming down Highway #60 from the Perham direction last weekend drive across the Boardwalk. He attempted communication with them.
DuFrane placed cement barriers at each end of the Boardwalk. **He needs to put reflectors on them.**
Hanson suggested getting cameras for the Trail and Boardwalk. **Puetz will look into cost and product options.** She purchased a home security camera for about \$50; though Sailer noted their security cameras in Brainerd cost in the \$1500 range.
7. **Boardwalk:** DuFrane does not yet have information about the warranty. He said at the Council meeting he would be contacting the company about how to repair the damage done by the snowmobiles.
8. **Donation Campaign:** Albright reported Barnesville has a Community Fund with its own website and Facebook Page. They send out a newsletter in the spring and fall seeking donations. Hanson noted Vergas already has a Community Fund page for donations to the EDA, Parks and Rec (including Pickleball), Veterans Memorial, and Vergas Event Center. She had the Community Club tech person create a newsletter format. We will all work on adding text and photos.
Another fundraising idea is to sell stickers for the Parks and Rec Fund. **Puetz and Albright will research ideas for that project, likely at JH Signs.**
9. **Parks and Rec Board membership clarification:** The Council will be revising the ordinance dealing with membership. According to MN League of Cities, advisory board members do not have to be residents of the City in which the advisory board operates. That change will be made by the January meeting, so Tony Sailer can be appointed to our board.

10. DuFrane will have a representative from Dakota Fence, Cody, at our January or February meeting to discuss the fencing they have available for the first part of the Trail.

11. New Park Design: Hogan, Hanson, and Albright met with Matthew Kirkwood, from the NDSU Landscape Architecture Department. He is excited to offer the services of his students to design a new plan for Long Lake Park. The fee is \$1000. Albright is waiting to get a written agreement from him for the Council's approval. She did inform the Council of this project at the December 14 meeting.

Albright also wondered if we might make use of his services to make a plan for the ball diamonds area. For example, Puetz thinks a dog walking park would be a good addition in that area. She reports there are about 80 dogs in the city of Vergas.

12. Budget Concerns: Sailer noted at the last meeting that donations do not seem to show up on the Budget. Albright brought up the same concern today. For example, Hanson wondered where the \$5000 Community Club donation for the swingset is shown in the budget; or the \$871 from Looney Daze, and the individual donations for the swingset and the doggie waste station. We will possibly invite Julie Lammers to the next meeting to explain.

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in the Event Center.