

5.26.2022 **DRAFT** Parks & Rec Board Minutes
5:00 p.m. Vergas Event Center

1. Members Present: Carol Albright, Steph Hogan, Tony Sailer, Paul Pinke, Mike DuFrane
Members Absent: Sherri Hanson, Sydney Dahlgren
Hogan conducted the meeting due to Hanson's absence.

2. Others Present: Emily Reno, Bob Hager (at approximately 5:30 p.m.)

3. Additions/Corrections to Agenda:

- a. Vets Memorial committee request to use picnic tables
- b. Who will get rid of dead trees in Peterson Park?

4. Approval of April Minutes was done with a motion by Hogan/second by Pinke.

5. Swing Set Installation is set for June 4. Prep work will be done June 3. Sailer is in contact with Chris Johnson from St. Croix Recreation who will be in Vergas to assist, as well as, DuFrane. **Hogan and Hanson are actively seeking volunteers to help.**

6. Swimming Lessons will be offered at the Vergas Beach through Frazee Community Education, who has received a grant to reduce the price. The first 60 students to sign up in each community (Frazee and Vergas) will not have to pay for lessons. Those signing up later will pay \$20, compared to \$40 in past years. The instructors have been hired by Frazee Community Ed.

7. Loon Park Planting Plan from Bob Hager: Hager was not present at this time to explain his planting plan. One copy was received by Hogan before the meeting. Board members agreed we did not have time to evaluate the plan though they agreed with the concept. Therefore it was tabled. However, a motion by Albright/second by Pinke passed. It asks the Council to provide some kind of consequence to Hager for planting trees on city/county property and burning on same property and moving survey stakes on the easement. These actions were done without permission and without a burning permit.

8. NDSU Plans for Park: Albright received the plans from Matthew Kirkwood but they cannot be forwarded to other Board members. Albright left a message with Kirkwood asking for a meeting and sharing of the plans for all Board members.

9. Budget: DuFrane explained expenses will now begin to come in at a more rapid pace.

10. Dug Outs at Baseball Field: Hogan passed along information from Hanson. The dug outs have never been insured. One was damaged by winds recently. The League of MN Cities who carries the insurance will cover the cost of replacement but the City will pay a fine (surcharge) for not having it insured. **DuFrane will get a bid from Summers Construction for replacement.** We already have a bid from Dakota Fence to build two new dugouts.

11. Friends of the Park: Hogan has contacted a few people from our volunteer list to ask if they are still interested in being volunteers. **She will continue contacting more of those folks.**

12. Trail Fence: **DuFrane will get additional estimates for replacing the fence.** Dakota Fence has already submitted a bid. Two bids are required before a decision can be made.

13. Boardwalk repair is done, as reported DuFrane. Regarding another topic, he asked where the **Doggie Station** should be placed. He prefers the park instead of Tin Can because there is often more dog waste in the park. Board members agreed. **Albright will send a thank you to Kelsey Varty thanking her for donating the doggie station.**

14. Looney Days Opportunity for Donations: Board members agreed we should collect donations again during the concert at the Park during Looney Days. Last year we collected about \$800. Perhaps there should be a poster at the event to show how donations have been spent. **Albright will check with the City about having a poster made.**

15. Comprehensive Plan Update: Emily Reno, WCI assistant for the Comprehensive Plan, has a list of questions for Board members to address about the Plan. She hopes for a response within the next 30 days. Lammers has also sent out the Plan for review.

16. Action Items from April have been completed; waiting to hear from Hanson if contacts have been made requesting donations for the Trail fence and dug outs. DuFrane reported Loon Lake Church no longer wants to order wood chips with the City.

17. Vets Committee request for use of picnic tables on June 11 for the dedication of the memorial. **DuFrane said he and Engebretson will haul tables to the memorial from the pile of extras that he has stored.** He will not use tables from the Park.

18. Dead Trees in Peterson Park: **DuFrane** said the trees are on Strand property not the park property. However, **he will work with Pat Strand and the Lions to remove the dead trees.**

Bob Hager joined the meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m.

There was a discussion with him after regular business was finished.

Albright explained the motion passed earlier in the meeting; and that we appreciate the concept of his plan; but further we do not appreciate his actions without having permission.

Sailer concurred noting there are procedures to follow to get things done.

Hager summarized what he did (planting trees because they had to be planted while they were budding) and noting he had trouble accessing a DNR Burning Permit online but he burned anyway.

He had met with DuFrane, Hanson, and Bruce Albright earlier in the week to explain his ideas. Those people said he would have to get a burning permit and get permission from the Parks & Rec Advisory Board for his plan. (A summary of that meeting is on record.)

Albright left at approximately 6:15 p.m. for another commitment.

The meeting adjourned shortly thereafter.

ACTION REQUIRED FROM MAY 26, 2022 MEETING

1. **Hanson:** Ask Community Club and Lions to donate to Trail fence and dug outs.
Continue to find volunteers for June 3-4 swing set installation.
2. **Sailer:** Continue coordinating with DuFrane to install swing set.
3. **Albright:** Send thank you to Kelsey Varty for her donation of the doggie station.
Ask City if Parks Board has to pay to have a poster made for Looney Days.
4. **Hogan:** Continue updating the volunteer list for Friends of the Park.
Continue to find volunteers for June 3-4 swing set installation.
5. **DuFrane:** Get an estimate from Summers Construction to replace dug outs.
Work with Sailer to install swing set.
Present more estimates for the Trail fence at June meeting.
Work with Engebretson to haul picnic tables to Vets Memorial for June 11 dedication.
Coordinate dead tree removal from Peterson Park/Strand border with Strand and the Lions.

EVERYONE:

Marketing/Donation Campaign