

### **3.23.2023 MINUTES (draft) Vergas Parks & Rec Advisory Board**

#### **Vergas Event Center 3:00 P.M.**

1. **Members Present:** Sherri Hanson, Carol Albright, Steph Hogan, Tony Sailer, Dean Haarstick. **Absent:** Maggie Puetz, Matt Engebretson
2. **February Minutes** were approved with a motion by Hogan, second by Sailer.
3. **Additions to Agenda:**
  - a. Bathhouse
  - b. Sign for Baseball Field regarding game dates
  - c. Painted Freedom Rock
  - d. Hager/EOT meeting
4. **Trail Fence:** We need to find volunteer workers to help City workers remove old fence.
5. **EOT SWCD Tin Can Erosion Project:** **Albright will be in charge of finding volunteers to help plant. Julie Lammers will coordinate the project with EOT SWCD.** She has the agreement with them that was approved by the City Council.
6. **Widseth:** Is there a time line for the park project? City Council approved working with Widseth at the January meeting. **Hanson will check with Julie Lammers about whether Widseth has contacted her or if we need to contact them.**
7. **3-D Loons:** The Community Club has agreed to purchase 100 loon statues for Parks & Rec to use for a fundraiser. We need an intentional parks fund raiser, possibly in May. Discussion: \$50 ticket includes appetizers, loon statue, one free drink ticket, supplies to paint your loon. Albright will get a loon from Hanson to try acrylic paint on it. Music possibly by Damian Anderson or Mitch Grothe. Hanson can get a Thrivent grant for paint supplies. Could we provide artists to help paint the loons? Can the Arts Club be a co-sponsor of the event to provide more helpers and use of the Event Center? The event seems to match the Arts Club purpose of providing art making activities for the community. **Albright will check with the Arts Club to find out if they would like to co-sponsor the fundraiser.** We definately need Widseth's proposed plan for renovating Long Lake Park for the fundraiser. There could be easels set up with questions/comments about the proposed renovation and the other parks in Vergas for attendees to answer.
8. **Water Ski Team:** The City Council has approved the team's installation of their docks and lifts at the base of the first parking area in Long Lake Park to use for their practices and several shows for the public. Trees and brush need to be trimmed/removed so audience has a place to sit. Dennis Pausch will be in charge of the trimming/removal. City workers will need to haul away the brush and trees. A plan will be submitted to the Parks Board for approval. We can reference the SWCD Plan from previous minutes for guidance. The Ski Team collects a free will offering at their performances and will donate those monies to the Parks Board.  
What if we allowed food vendors to set up at the performances?
9. **Ice Skating Rink:** Still looking for a place to set one up. Hanson is discussing a possible location at Paul's Insulation, which would help keep cars from using his property for parking.
10. **Ball Fields:** Facility Use Agreement has been completed with Frazee Public Schools for this spring and summer. Junior High baseball games will be played there. Discussion that if there is a Vergas Baseball Team they should help with upkeep and funding of the ball field, as well as posting their game schedule. **Albright will try to find out if there will be a team this summer.**
11. **Matt's Update:** none made because Engebretson was not present.
12. **Budget:** none received from J. Lammers.
13. **Other:**
  - a. **Bathhouse:** Dennis Pausch said he would paint the interior if City buys supplies and help maintain it this summer. **Hanson will write an agreement with him and have it**

**approved by the Council.** Motion by Sailer, second by Hogan to take the recommendation to the Council.

b. **Ball Field Sign:** Can we post a sign at the Ball Field listing the game dates/times so pickleball court won't be used during the games? Yes, good idea.

c. **Painted Freedom Rock:** The Council agreed that the Veterans Group can place a gazebo over a painted "Freedom Rock" next to the existing memorial if and when they get a construction permit from Planning & Zoning. Albright wondered why the Parks Board wasn't approached to approve the plan. **Hanson will bring up the question at the Council meeting.**

d. **Hager:** Albright read in previous minutes that Hanson, Haarstick, and Hager were meeting to discuss Hager's planting plans with EOT SWCD. Hanson noted the meeting was a private one to discuss plans for Hager's property, not the easement property.

**14. NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023 AT 3:00 p.m. in the EVENT CENTER.**

**Items to be approved by the Council:**

1. Agreement with Dennis Pausch to paint the interior of the bathhouse and help maintain the bathhouse this summer. City will provide painting supplies.
2. Why wasn't Parks Board contacted about the Freedom Rock?

**Follow-up Action Required:**

1. Albright will find volunteers to plant for the Tin Can erosion project.
2. Find volunteers to help City workers tear out old Trail fence.
3. Hanson will check with Lammers about the Widseth renovation project for Long Lake Park.
4. Continue the search for Ice Skating Rink location.
5. Albright will find out the status of the Vergas Baseball Team.
6. Make a sign for the ball field showing games schedule.
7. Albright will ask Arts Club if they want to co-sponsor a fundraiser for Parks & Rec.