

10.26.2023 Minutes Vergas Parks & Rec Advisory Meeting, 3:00 p.m., Vergas Event Center

1. Members Present: Carol Albright, Steph Hogan, Tony Sailer. Arriving later were Dean Haarstick and Maggie Putz. City Liaison Present: Julie Lammers. City Liaison Absent: Matt Engebretson.
2. Others Present: Dennis Pausch, arriving later with Haarstick.
3. Changes/Additions to Agenda:
 - FEMA Grant Update
 - Bike Rack Grant Update
4. August Minutes Approved (September meeting was cancelled because of no quorum.). Motion by Sailer/second by Hogan.
5. City Council Actions on P&R Recommendations (Sailer):
 - a. Approved Ski Team for next year but with one dock, not two.
 - b. Approved \$2500 for two flush toilets/vent/labor at Bath House.
 - Dennis Pausch will bring Hanson's quote to Lammers for her signature.**
 - Pausch will install as approved by Council.**
 - Concern was expressed about how Council actions recommended by P&R get completed. **Lammers said she will follow-up at the City Huddles to let City staff know what jobs they need to do.**
 - c. Approved renting Porta Potties for Ice Rink on Long Lake.
 - d. Approved asking OtterTail Power for an additional light on the beach light pole.
 - Engebretson should proceed with the request.**
6. Water Ski Team: addressed in #5a.
7. Ice Rink: Porta Potties approved by Council. **Hanson had said at a previous meeting she would try to find someone to keep the ice rink free of snow.** Motion Sailer/second Hogan to ask the Council to clear the Trail from East Scharf/East Frazee (just past the Express Laundromat) to the beach where the Ice Rink will be located. **Albright agreed to represent P&R at the next Council meeting. Two recommendations will be presented:**
 - a. **New P&R Board Member needed to fill Albright's position.**
 - b. **Clear the Trail of snow from intersection at E. Scharf and E. Frazee to beach.**
 - That way kids will be able to walk to the ice rink from downtown.**
8. Budget: Lammers reported the Preliminary Budget was approved in September. P&R and Streets are the only two committees that will receive Improvements funds for 2024. The question was asked if P&R had done well this past year. Lammers noted we overspent because the new pick up was paid for partially (\$13,000) with P&R Improvements funds.
9. Matt's Update presented by Lammers.
 - a. Landscape Dip at park has been filled.
 - b. DuFrane contacted DNR about a pier extension. They are still investigating; not sure if the pier can handle the water depth.
 - c. All ball bag hooks have been installed at the ball field.
 - d. The storage shed door at the ballfield was damaged during Hairy Man Festival but no entry was made. Handle has been replaced.
 - e. DuFrane and Engebretson removed the landscaping material at Tin Can Alley so no one will drive over the stakes.
 - f. Buoys have been removed. Pier has been moved for the winter.
 - g. Parks are closed for the season. Water is turned off.
 - h. DuFrane and Engebretson will be placing the barricades at each end of the Boardwalk to keep snowmobilers off.
 - i. Bike Racks have been purchased; hoping to install a couple this fall.
 - j. From Lammers who is working on the grant. FEMA Grant from OtterTail County is moving quite slowly.

10. P&R Board Position will be open for 2024. Albright will be resigning. **The position will be advertised in the City Newsletter.**
11. Other: Albright expressed concern about using the Ball Diamond for events. Is it being damaged? How many other towns would allow their diamond to be used for events?
Board agreed to put this on the agenda for next month for further discussion; as well as Pausch's suggestion for a cross-country ski trail.
12. Next meeting will be Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at Vergas Event Center.
13. Adjourned with a motion by Haarstick/second Sailer.

FOLLOW-UP

1. Pausch take Hanson's quote to Lammers for her signature and install toilets at Bath House.
2. Engebretson: contact OtterTail Power to install extra light.
3. Albright will present P&R recommendations to the Council.
4. Lammers will advertise for the vacant P&R board position in the City newsletter.
5. Include in next month's agenda:
 - a. Should the ball diamond be used for events such as Hairyman Festival?
 - b. Should P&R develop a cross-country ski trail?

Minutes written and submitted by Carol J.S. Albright, secretary.