

11.16.2023 Minutes **DRAFT** Vergas Parks & Rec Advisory Board 3:00 p.m. Vergas Event Center

1. **Members Present:** Carol Albright, Sherri Hanson, Steph Hogan, Tony Sailer. **Absent:** Dean Haarstick, Matt Engebretson, Maggie Puetz.
2. **Others Present:** Pam Krieg
3. **Additions to Agenda:** Report from Council Meeting, Cross Country Ski Trail.
4. **October Minutes** were approved with a motion by Hogan/Second by Sailer.
5. **Albright's Report from the Council Meeting:**
 - a. Council accepted Albright's resignation from Parks & Rec Advisory Board
 - b. DuFrane will try to keep Trail clear of snow from the laundry mat to the ice rink but it may be difficult when snow begins to pile up from the highway being plowed.
 - c. Clarification to install Toilets with Risers at Long Lake Park's restroom, not flush toilets, as Council approved. Council approved Parks request at previous meeting, Not to exceed \$2500.
6. **Pam Krieg, representing the Lions:**
 - a. asked if they could add a new sign to Peterson Park that would include giving credit to the Lions for taking care of the garden. **Motion by Hanson/Second by Hogan to approve installation of a new sign at Peterson Park; the sign will include credit given to Lions for taking care of the garden; the design and size will need to be approved by the Parks Board and the Council.**
 - b. requested that signs be placed by trees that have been donated as Memorials. **Motion by Hanson/Second by Hogan to recommend Council make a list of names that need to be added to donated memorial trees in the parks.**
 - c. asked that the small wood bench near the planter next to the veterans' complex be replaced by one of the newly purchased green benches from the Lions. **Motion by Sailer/Second by Hogan to recommend to the Council that the Lions replace the old wood bench by the ball diamond planter with a new green Lions bench.**
 - d. informed the Board that signage about the purpose of coins being left at the vets' memorial will be added in an effort to prevent the coins from being stolen. Also, the Freedom Rock will be painted this summer with patriotic symbols only. Albright reminded her the Council has to approve the design. Another pillar has been started. There are 104 lines per pillar. Albright asked if the Lions would be buying any spots for names of Vergas veterans who no longer have family in the area. Krieg's response was 'no' because the Lion's have already contributed alot.
7. **Ice Rink:** Dennis Pausch had talked about maintaining the rink; nothing definite yet.
8. **Loon Park Restrooms** discussed in #5 above.
9. **P & R Board Position** will be advertised in the City newsletter.
10. **Baseball Diamond:** Sailer walked the field after the Hairyman Event. There was a 2' x 2' square of damaged grass near third base. No visible ruts anywhere. Community Club has donated \$1500 to the City for maintenance of the ball field. The pitching mound needs to be rebuilt and edging needs to be done to the infield and outfield. **Motion by Hanson/Second by Sailer to recommend to Council that a contract be developed for all those who use the Ball Diamond, including the mens' baseball team; and that a person(s) be hired or be a volunteer to maintain the field.**
11. **Picnic Tables:** are usually stored under the shelters at Long Lake Park. **Board recommends that any repairs needed on the tables be done this winter.**
12. **No update from Engebretson.**
13. **No Budget received.** Frustration expressed because we do not know what exactly is coming out of our budget. Communication among Board, City, and Council seems unclear.

14. No December meeting.

Written and submitted by Carol Albright.

Follow-Up Items to be Addressed at the December Council Meeting

1. Approve installation of new sign at Peterson Park with Lions recognized as gardeners. The dimensions and design will need Parks Board and Council approval.
2. Request list of names to be placed on donated memorial trees, requested by Lions.
3. Replace old bench at Ball Diamond planter with a bench donated by Lions.
4. Develop a contract for Ball Diamond usage.
5. City guys should repair picnic tables this winter.
6. How can communication among the Council, City, and Parks Board be more effective?