

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
December 2, 2014
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Administrator Dana Young called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Members Present

Jim Elvestrom, Leslie Gustafson, Patrick Regan, Jonathan Weiss, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

John Flynn, Cindy Webster, and Scott Ferguson

September 9, 2014 Minutes

The Committee approved the September 9, 2014 minutes on a motion by Jim Elvestrom, seconded by Patrick Regan. Motion carried 4-0.

Park Reports

Committee members provided their monthly park reports:

- Dana Young stated that Scott Ferguson asked if we could get new hockey goals and the Northome Trail needs to be repaired after all the tree removals this fall.
- Dana Young stated that the ice rinks and warming houses at Thorpe Park and Village Hall Park have been open since Thanksgiving. He stated that the Wheaton family will again be opening and closing the warming houses this year.

Heating Units at Platform Courts

Dana Young provided an update on the installation of the heating unit at the platform courts. He stated that the heating unit is under construction by the manufacturer and the contractor reported that it will take another 2 ½ weeks before it will be delivered. He stated that the gas line from the Public Works Shed to the platform court will be trenched in within the next week or so.

Further discussion was held on the Council's review of a more expensive but effective heating system and the potential abilities of the purchased heating unit once it is installed.

Long Range Park Planning

Dana Young stated that he had included \$15,000 in the 2015 Park Improvement Fund Budget for the development of a Park Development Plan. He stated that the budget was reviewed by the City Council on October 20th and the Council decided that they weren't interested in spending \$15,000 for a Park Development Plan in 2015. He noted that the City Council tends not to support expensive planning documents such as a Park Development Plan unless an absolute need for the plan can be demonstrated. He stated that it might be worth the Committee's time to meet with some park planning companies to find out exactly what kind of services they could provide. He stated that the Committee would have to be prepared to make a much stronger argument to the Council in support of a park development plan.

2015 Committee Appointments

Dana Young noted that the one-year terms of John Flynn and Scott Ferguson are set to expire on February 1, 2015. Further discussion was held on advertising for additional members.

Quarterly Park Committee Meeting Dates

Dana Young stated that attendance at the regularly scheduled Park Committee meetings have been spotty at best. He suggested moving to quarterly meetings as a way to improve attendance.

Jim Elvestrom stated that the downside to quarterly meetings is that if you miss one meeting for a legitimate reason, half the year will have gone by before you're able to attend the next meeting.

Patrick Regan agreed and suggested the possibility of going to bi-monthly meetings as an alternative to quarterly meetings.

It was ultimately decided to keep holding monthly meetings and make a decision at the end of each meeting on when to meet again.

2015 Goals & Objectives

Discussion was held on 2015 Park Committee Goals & Objectives. Dana Young stated that there is a real need for the Committee members to start focusing on the development of future park projects in order to begin the process of Council review and to take advantage of potential grant opportunities.

Leslie Gustafson mentioned her interest in constructing a new warming house and restroom facility at Thorpe Park.

Dana Young stated that he will ask each Committee member to start generating ideas about future park projects for further discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Leslie Gustafson exits at 8:47 p.m.

Other

There were no other items to discuss this evening.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Patrick Regan, seconded by Jim Elvestrom. Motion carried 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015.