

CITY OF HERMANTOWN
PARK BOARD
January 14, 2020 Meeting Summary
4:30 PM

1. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Jim Sonneson; Kelly Tasky; Mike Miller; Dwight Morrison; Gene Shaw; and Natalie Peterson.

Members Absent: Paul Senst.

Others Present: Dale Reno; Bart Porter; Nathan Madill; Michelle Sweeny; Jim Sonneson, Jr.; and Eric Johnson, Community Development Director.

2. **MINUTES**

Motion made by Gene Shaw to approve the November 19, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Dwight Morrison. Motion carried.

3. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Dale Reno talked about what was going on with the snowmobile club. Dale stated that he is the vice-president of the club and he noted that this year, he had to contact approximately 350 people to get permission for the club to ride on those people's land parcels. If a person does not want a trail going through their property, they have to give the club a year's notice. The club then needs to change the trails. The club also conducts training classes on snowmobile safety.

One of the newest trails is at Keene Creek. The club is looking at getting a trail groomer.

Natalie Peterson asked about the work the club does during the summer.

Dale stated the work on the trails is done year-round.

Bart Porter indicated that there is flat land area at Keene Creek that he thought should be dedicated only to cross country skiers. Bart wondered if the City would donate the bear cat, fuel and a port o potty to the club. He would also like to see a Keene Creek Park website/Facebook page. Bart stated there is a \$75,000 grant and aid available from the federal government with a 10% match. That money could be used to purchase side by side and a little groomer (cost is approximately \$40,000) but in order to get the grant money, a city or government needs to back up the club on it. The cutoff date for the grant filing is February 20, 2020.

Motion made by Gene Shaw to loan the bear cat to the snowmobile club for this season ending 2020 at which time ownership can be worked out, and work with Joe Wicklund, Communications & Community Engagement Manager on a website; and awaiting documentation for the grant paperwork/City approval. Seconded by Dwight Morrison. Motion carried.

Motion made by Dwight Morrison to support a grant application for a \$75,000 grant from the federal government with a 10%. Seconded by Gene Shaw. Motion carried.

Michelle Sweeney introduced herself as the new head softball coach for Hermantown High School and she wanted to talk about the City helping purchase a scoreboard at Rose Road Field. She presented the quote/proposal to the Board for the cost of \$5,344, which she indicated Hermantown High School would pay. Michelle is asking if the City would cover installation materials and the actual installation of the scoreboard.

Eric Johnson, Community Development Director, noted that there is no electrical access at Rose Road Field.

Michelle stated that she knows an electrician and that his company would be willing to do the electrical installation for a very minimal cost.

Mike Miller asked if there was a cost estimate for the electrical installation.

Michelle stated there was not.

Eric commented that he had spoken with Paul Senst, and Paul stated the approximate cost would be between \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Michelle also added that she would like to have a flag pole installed at Rose Road Field.

Motion made by Jim Sonneson that City funds, either by the Park Board, or the Public Works Department, will be used for the installation and electrical work need to install a scoreboard at Rose Road Field contingent upon the approval of the Hermantown School Board for the scoreboard, and the installation of a flag pole. Seconded by Gene Shaw. Motion carried.

4. CONTINUING BUSINESS

5A. Community Recreation Initiative Update.

Eric presented the Park Board with different ways to fund a community recreation initiative.

The City has been discussing the ability to participate in the funding of a second sheet of ice at the Hermantown Arena with the Hermantown Hockey Association. The idea of utilizing ½ % sales tax increase will fund the ice sheet, updates to Fichtner Field and construction of the Hermantown portion of the Munger Trail Spur. A resolution will be brought to the January 21, 2020 City Council meeting. If approved we would proceed to follow the State of Minnesota process for the tax committee. If approved, a referendum would go out the citizens of Hermantown for their support of the project. The anticipated amount of money to be generated by the tax increase would be approximately \$30 million dollars over a 20-year bond (\$11 million dollars is interest based).

Natalie Peterson stated that HAHA (Hermantown Amateur Hockey Association) will be putting money toward the project as well.

Eric presented to the Park Board a packet of information on how the monies would be distributed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mike Miller – None.

Gene Shaw – None.

Jim Sonneson – None.

Natalie Peterson – None.

Kelly Tasky – None.

Dwight Morrison – None.

8. ADJOURN

Motion made by Kelly Tasky to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jim Sonneson.
Meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Officiated by:

Transcribed by:

Mike Miller, Chair

Mary Melde, Administrative Assistant