

CITY OF HERMANTOWN
PARK BOARD
May 19, 2020 Meeting Summary
4:30 PM

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mike Miller; Gene Shaw; Jim Sonneson; Kelly Tasky; Jenna Warmuth; Jesse Stokke; and Natalie Peterson.

Members Absent: Dwight Morrison.

Others Present: Nathan Madill, Hermantown Youth Soccer Association; Billy Tafs, Hermantown High School Baseball Coach; Eric Johnson, Community Development Director; and Paul Senst Public Works Director.

2. MINUTES

Motion made by Jim Sonneson to approve the February 11, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Kelly Tasky. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Billy Tafs, Hermantown High School Baseball Coach, is trying to put together a monument for the senior baseball players. He apologized for not seeking Park Board approval prior to the mention of the monument.

Eric Johnson, Community Development Director, stated that there was discussion with the Park Board regarding the monument and the background of it and how to move forward with it. The consensus with the Park Board is that they would support a banner.

Natalie Peterson suggested that a process should be implemented for requests such as the monument. She asked Eric to develop a process for that to happen and see that it is put on the City's webpage.

4. CONTINUING BUSINESS

4A. Recap of Park Tour Comments

Eric shared the 2020 Spring Walk Through memorandum with the Board.

Paul Senst, Public Works Director, explained that due to budgetary issues associated with COVID-19, there have been changes in his department. In prior years, Paul has had between 3 to 5 people doing mowing and trimming duties during the summertime. Currently, he has one person.

Natalie asked Paul to send Eric a list of items that will need to be worked on. She also asked if Paul had some people that might coordinate volunteering to help with the field mowing and trimming.

Nathan Madill, Hermantown Youth Soccer Association asked what the City would be doing regarding the parks and fields being open or closed. He also stated that the Soccer Association are getting pretty close to not having a spring soccer season.

Mike Miller stated that the City should have a common vision of what is safe to do with reference to the parks and fields. He feels there should be some consistency with the State with how sports and gathering places should be handled.

Staff has been asked to identify up to 10% of cuts for provided services, expenses and purchases. One of the cut items is the spraying and fertilizing of the turf areas as well as reduction to seasonal Public Works employees. These budget cuts may result in a lower level of upkeep and appearance than has been the case in previous years.

Nathan asked what the City would be doing regarding the parks and fields being open or closed.

Eric noted that staff is checking with the City Attorney on how to proceed because of insurance issues.

Paul updated the Board regarding the scoreboard for Rose Road Field which has been at the Public Works building since February, 2020. He noted that once the batting cages come in, they will be installed along with the scoreboard and flagpole. Possibly mid to late June.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5A. Lights at rear fields – Stebner Park

Nathan noted that one of the issues that came up during the fall season was that some of the younger teams play later in the evening, sometimes up to 7:00 – 7:30 pm, so that thought was to install lights on the back field. He stated that Minnesota Power will donate their equipment for installation. The cost to the Soccer Association would be running and wiring and electrical and the hiring a certified contractor. He also thinks that having lighting in the back parking lot so that people can exit safely.

Jim Sonneson agrees that lighting would be a good idea.

Jesse Stokke thought the soccer field was the only field that did not have lighting. He agrees with lighting of the field at Stebner Park.

Eric gave an update to the Board regarding Fitchner Park and the prospect of the City being able to utilize an extra ½ percent sales tax to fund some different recreational projects.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Eric updated the Board regarding the Stream Restoration project on Keene Creek.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mike Miller – None.

Gene Shaw – None.

Jim Sonneson – AG Lime at Rose Road Field and the benches on Field No. 3.

Paul Senst will look into those issues.

Kelly Tasky – None.

Dwight Morrison – Absent.

Jenna Warmuth – None.

Jesse Stokke – None.

Natalie Peterson – Briefly discussed the reopening of the Essentia Wellness Center.

8. ADJOURN

Motion made by Jenna Warmuth to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jim Sonneson.

Meeting adjourned at 5:41 PM.

Officiated by:

Transcribed by:

Mike Miller, Chair

Mary Melde, Administrative Assistant