

CITY OF HERMANTOWN  
PARK BOARD

February 17, 2021 Revised Meeting Summary  
4:30 PM

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

Members Absent: Jenna Warmuth.

Others Present: Eric Johnson, Community Development Director; Natalie Hoff; Crystal Holden, Hermantown Softball.

**2. MINUTES**

Motion made by Jim Sonneson to approve the January 12, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Gene Shaw. Motion carried.

**3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

None.

**4. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

4A. Update on Community Recreation Initiative.

Eric Johnson, Community Development Director, updated the board members of the Community Recreation Initiative (CRI) survey. The deadline is March 1, 2021. To date, 622 responses have been received, and he noted that the City should hear in May from the Minnesota Legislature.

Natalie Peterson suggested the Park Board draft a letter to better support the legislative effort with the use of sales tax.

4B. Update on Morris Thomas Road to Keene Creek Park trail feasibility study.

Eric stated that he has met with the City Engineer, David Bolf, and that the plans for the trail segment (Keene Creek Park to Morris Thomas Road) will be wrapped up shortly, and that it is anticipated that the plans will be bid on by April, with a completion date of June 30, 2021.

Funding – remaining grant (\$120,000 to \$140,000) that was received by the Greater Minnesota Reg. of Parks & Trails Commission is available. The remainder will come from park dedication fees, which is approximately \$170,000.

4C. Update on Transportation Alternatives Grant Submission

According to Eric, the City's application was received as #4 of 12 applications submitted, and that only the top 3 applications were funded. The application will again be submitted in 2022. Eric noted that there are additional grants (DNR connector) that will become available.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5A. Discussion on Keene Creek Park**

Eric discussed with the Board that with the trail soon coming through, Keene Creek Park is the most natural of all the parks in Hermantown and has the opportunity for enhancements.

Currently, there is a softball field in the Park that has not been used in some time. There is also a large grassy turf area which currently serves as the defacto dog park in Hermantown. Under the trail plan, the City is providing a concrete pad area with picnic tables, a trash receptacle and bike rack. Eric added that a playground area would also be nice there.

Jim Sonneson stated that he has seen people at the Park eating their take-out meals. He agreed that more picnic tables would be needed, that the backstop on the softball field should be completed and weed control should be done on the field. He also asked about prior comments made by either Natalie or Eric that the City was going to be putting in \$100,000 per year into park dedication fund.

Eric stated that this was correct as part of the City's financial management plan. Eric believes that will be starting in 2022, and he will confirm that with the Finance Director, Kevin Orme.

A decision will be centered around different options for the field, namely a dog park, disc golf, or usage by softball.

Natalie suggested choosing a destination activity for the Park.

Dwight Morrison suggested a covered area with bathroom facilities.

Kelly Tasky is interested in seeing a large playground at the Park.

Jesse likes all of the ideas presented, but he's concerned about the Park being out of sight out of mind and who will monitor the Park.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

21-10 Correspondence from Ben Sosniecki, 5320 Sunnyview Rd. regarding Maple Grove Property.

**7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Mike Miller – None.

Gene Shaw – None.

Jim Sonneson – None.

Kelly Tasky – None

Dwight Morrison – Security at Keene Creek Park.

Jenna Warmuth – Absent.

Jesse Stokke – None.

Natalie Peterson – None.

**8. ADJOURN**

Motion made by Gene Shaw to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dwight Morrison. Meeting adjourned at 5:28 PM.

Officiated by:

Transcribed by:

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Mike Miller, Chair

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Mary Melde, Administrative Assistant