

CITY OF HERMANTOWN
PARK BOARD
March 16, 2021 Meeting Summary
4:30 PM

1. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Eric Johnson, Community Development Director, and Bill Tafs.

2. MINUTES

Motion made by Mike Miller to approve the February 17, 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 shared a presentation of the survey results with the members.

Natalie Peterson stated that overall, everything went well from the City Council standpoint. She noted that thank you cards will be sent out to all participants (who included an email address) and to the committee for their assistance in the survey. Surveys will be shared with the various user groups and will also be posted in the City's webpage. She stated that moving forward, the survey information will be used to develop a marketing strategy plan and that bonding and other financing alternatives will be looked at.

Mike Miller commented that he was struck by the strong support of the trail system and surprised by the larger split on support for the hockey arena addition.

Gene Shaw stated that he has had a few conversations with commercial companies and that some of them are concerned about how high the sales tax is getting.

Mike asked when the Minnesota Legislature is expected to give a result on the raising of the sales tax.

Eric stated that it is being discussed in the current session.

Jesse Stokke also commented that he would be open to hear from businesses with what other options they see fit to keep our community growing with everyone else.

According to Natalie, the City has been working with and has been keeping the Hermantown Chamber of Commerce updated throughout this process, and that the Chamber has been very supportive during this process.

Jim Sonneson agrees with the sales tax.

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

Eric updated the Park Board of the various attachments that were included in the March 16, 2021 Park Board Agenda Packet. He noted that bids for the project are due March 25, 2021. From there, it would go before the City Council for their approval. Eric further noted that this trail is actually slated to be paid for by existing grant dollars as well as park dedication money. Upon City Council approval, the contractor can start the project. June 30, 2021 is the anticipated completion date. Minnesota House Representative, Mary Murphy, is looking into a potential extension of the June 30, 2021 date.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Eric has been in contact with the Proctor trails person, and they are looking at meeting within the next month or two to go over both City's trail plans.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mike Miller – None.

Gene Shaw – None.

Jim Sonneson – Money for park dedication from Capital Improvement Fund. Eric responded that will happen in 2022.

Kelly Tasky – None.

Dwight Morrison – None.

Jenna Warmuth – None.

Jesse Stokke – None.

Natalie Peterson – None.

8. ADJOURN

Motion made by Jim Sonneson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kelly Tasky. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Officiated by:

Transcribed by:

Mike Miller, Chair

Mary Melde, Administrative Assistant