

CITY OF HERMANTOWN
PARK BOARD
February 15, 2022 Meeting Summary
4:30 PM

1. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Jesse Stokke; Dwight Morrison.

Others Present: Eric Johnson, Community Development Director; Mike Fox – Hermantown Youth Baseball Association

2. MINUTES

Motion made by Gene Shaw to approve the January 19, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Jim Sonneson. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

4. CONTINUING BUSINESS

4A. Improvements at Keene Creek Park for Hermantown Youth Baseball

Eric Johnson, Community Development Director, stated that back in August of 2021, there were discussions from Little League that they would like to try to utilize Keene Creek Park for both practice facility and game ready field. Eric has spoken with Paul Senst, Public Works Director, and Paul has stated that there are some monies available through park maintenance that could be used for fence improvements on that field. The field needs two new dugouts and work done on the backstop area.

Mike Fox, Hermantown Youth Baseball Association, asked if there was a hard number that have been given for the improvements.

Eric stated that approximate figures from a budgetary standpoint are between \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Mike asked if his association were to put forth \$10,000, would that expedite the project.

Natalie Peterson commented that there might be cost savings of doing all of the fencing at one time.

Mike also mentioned that they have donors that would be willing to donate funds for the project in exchange for advertising banners for the backstop or fencing.

Mike will forward an estimated cost to Eric, and Natalie suggested getting some additional bids for the project from a few contractors.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5A. Discuss Soccer Association request for water usage subsidy

Eric stated that the Soccer Association made a request to look for a grant from the City to aide them in their water usage at Stebner Park. Currently, the City does provide a grant to the Hermantown Area Hockey Association for 20% of their water usage associated with the flooding of their outdoor rinks. The Soccer Association is looking for that same sort of grant.

Eric noted that with his conversations with the city's utility billing clerk, that \$16,000 in water usage was used in 2021 at Stebner Park, with primarily 99% was meant for irrigation associated with the soccer fields.

The Soccer Association is asking for a grant of 20% of their water usage. That amount would come to approximately \$3,200.

Natalie would like to see the water usage figures for the years 2019 and 2020 as well.

Motion made by Gene Shaw to table the Soccer Association's request for water usage subsidy till the March 15, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Jenna Warmuth. Motion carried.
to table

5B. Update on Transportation Alternatives Grant

Eric has submitted the application to St. Louis County for the Transportation Alternatives Grant. He is anticipating hearing back from the selection group in late February to see if the City was successful with their application.

Eric will share information for a potential grant from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission Connecting People to the Outdoors Small Grant Fund. Eric is going to contact the grant contact to verify what the grant can be used for. The deadline for this Grant is May 31, 2022.

If approved, Eric would like the monies to go to furniture at the various parks and trails.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mike Miller – None

Gene Shaw – None

Jim Sonneson – None

Kelly Tasky – None – via Zoom

Dwight Morrison – Absent

Jenna Warmuth – None

Jesse Stokke – Absent

Natalie Peterson – Natalie brought up attendance issues with Park Board members and the importance of those members being present and active at the in-person monthly meetings.

8. **ADJOURN** Motion made by Jim Sonneson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mike Miller. Meeting adjourned at 5:24 PM.

Officiated by:

Transcribed by:

Mike Miller, Chair

Mary Melde, Administrative Assistant