

**PARK BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016**

Chair Craig Kittel called the Park Board meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

Members Present: Craig Kittel, Jon Hailey, Brian Schroeder, Christine Melby, and Tania Strawn (6:25), and Joe Ard (8:50)

Members Absent: Student Representative James Elkin and Frank Norton

Others Present: Susan Heuser, Ben Heuser, Dave Mandel, David Sharretts, Jerry Simms, Gary Christian, Ken House, Darian Blattner, Jim Zajkowski, Jerry Frey, Brad Altena, Kim Hennings, Jeremiah Wendt, Noah Wiedenfeld, Michael Mroz, and Marie Bannink

Jon Hailey moved to adopt the agenda moving up VFW Freedom Park, VFW Car Show, St. Croix Bike & Pedestrian Trail, Use of Concession Stand at Hatfield Park, and Library Story Walk, seconded by Christine Melby, motion carried.

Jon Hailey moved to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2015 meeting, seconded by Brian Schroeder, motion carried.

Public Business Items

None

Unfinished Business

VFW Freedom Park:

Ken House updated the Park Board on securing the 99 year lease with the VFW Post and the City. The next step is to ask two firms, to bid this project at no cost. If we are turned down we can work with the Reserve Group. The VFW will also be hiring an architect for the building design work. The building will consist of a public banquet center, Day-A-Way Center, and pavilion. The next step on the City side is to work with the VFW Post on getting the developers agreement completed.

Skate Park Design/Fundraising:

Noah Wiedenfeld updated the board and stated; the current donations are \$78,750.00. He and Michael Mroz have been doing research and found concrete to be quieter; more durable than other materials. The initial cost may be higher but more economical in the long run. The preferred concrete design is called the "Plaza Style". The RFP will go out listing the funds currently raised with a notation that other funds that are donated to the project ~~Hawk Grant, if awarded, we~~ could be added to the contract. Motion was made by Jon Hailey to recommend sending out RFP for designing/building a park with concrete material, and move forward building the skate park seconded by Christine Melby, motion carried.

2016 Projects:

Jeremiah will send out the Park Plan summary sheet with cost estimates. Each member is asked to rank the items according to their priority ~~from 1 to 100~~ and return to Jeremiah by the due date. This will give us a starting point for 2016 projects.

Athletic Field Reservation Form:

Michael gave information on the reservation procedure and the new reservation form. He plans on placing the calendar on the website for all teams to view. Craig Kittle moved to accept the registration form as presented, seconded by Brian Schroeder, motion carried.

New Business

VFW Car Show Saturday, September 17, 2016:

Dave Sharretts stated this will be the third year at Mary Park for the show. They will use the park all day. Jon Hailey moved to allow the VFW to hold their car show at Mary Park on Saturday, September 17, 2016, seconded by Christine Melby, motion carried.

St. Croix Bike and Pedestrian Trails Coalition:

Ben Heuiser presented background information on the projects and objectives of the plan. There are over 15 communities on the coalition working on this project. The plan is to connect some of the trails throughout the county. Safe Routes to school are also being included in the plan. The final plan should be adopted in August or September.

Use of Concession Stand at Hatfield Park:

Jeremiah Wendt gave some background information on the concession stand. Brad Altena, representing the baseball club, was asking about selling concessions at the small concession stand on the nights they use both fields. Jerry Frey, on behalf of the Hatfield Softball Association stated he would like to work with see the groups ~~come to the Sports Association and ask to on~~ use of the concession stand. Youth Softball or Baseball should have exclusive rights to the concession stand when they are holding tournaments, as well as league nights. The lease agreement will be redone to reflect the usage of the concession stand.

Library Story Walk:

Kim Hennings the librarian of the Friday Memorial Library presented information on the Story Walk. The Library has received a grant to purchase 16 frames; these frames can be permanently placed. Discussion was held on what park would be the best for the placement. Motion was made by Christine Melby to place the Story Walk at Mary Park, seconded by Brian Schroeder, motion carried.

Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan:

Noah gave background information on the plan.

The following are recommendations in the Master Plan:

- ⊙ Provide bicycle safety class to local youth
 - Bike Federation of Wisconsin
 - Centre
 - New Richmond School District
 - New Richmond Police Department
- ⊙ Create a public awareness campaign about driving safely near bicyclists and pedestrians, and distracted driving
- ⊙ Organize activities for National Bike to Work Week and National Bike Month
- ⊙ Add signage and way finding maps near all trails and strategic locations
- ⊙ Add bicycle parking in the downtown and at key destinations (e.g. city parks, Civic Center, etc)
- ⊙ Extend the Doughboy Trail north to Hatfield Park using the old railroad route
- ⊙ Add street lighting on 140th Street
- ⊙ Add bicyclist and pedestrian accommodations from the eastern extent of Paperjack Drive to 140th Street
- ⊙ Add bicyclist and pedestrian accommodations to North Fourth Street and 125th Street
- ⊙ Connect the Doar Prairie Restoration to the Nature Center
- ⊙ Explore the addition of traffic calming measures to Knowles Avenue, including:
 - Textured sidewalks
 - Landscaping
 - Parklets
 - Bump outs
 - Improved pedestrian crossing signage

- ⊙ Collaborate to improve the safety of East First Street/CTH K for residents who live in Fox Run and Whispering Prairie
 - ⊙ Consider adopting a local “Complete Streets” ordinance
 - ⊙ Improve safety of intersections identified in the SRTS plan
 - ⊙ Improve the connection from the Rail Bridge Trail to the Mill Pond Trail
 - ⊙ Explore creating short-cut bike paths
 - ⊙ Monette Avenue to 5th Street (through park)
 - ⊙ Monette Park Trail to Marshall/Jefferson Road
 - ⊙ Williams Avenue to Mary Park
 - ⊙ Create a trail connecting Peninsula Heights to Paperjack Place using existing easement
 - ⊙ Connect existing North Shore Trail to the east to Fox Run Park
 - ⊙ Connect “Orphan Trails” to larger system
 - ⊙ North Shore Trail
 - ⊙ Willowind Trail
 - ⊙ Monette Park Trail
 - ⊙ Woodland Creek Trail
 - ⊙ Review local ordinances to ensure that bicyclist & pedestrian safety is promoted and ordinances are being enforced
 - ⊙ Review bicycle registration process to prevent loss and theft of bicycles
 - ⊙ Explore the possibility of adding a police bicycle patrol
 - ⊙ Identify goals each year at a City Council Work Session, with input from Park Board & Plan Commission
 - ⊙ Apply for grants to fund these activities
 - ⊙ Pursue designation as a gold level Bicycle Friendly Community and Walk Friendly Community
 - ⊙ Acquire better data regarding sidewalk and trail use in New Richmond
 - ⊙ Continue to update the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan – it should be a living document that can change
 - ⊙ Engage with the New Richmond Pathway Committee for input & partnerships
- This will go to City Council for final approval.

Doughboy Trail Benches:

Motion was made by Jon Hailey to recommend the Duck Bill Anchors for the benches located on Doughboy Trail, seconded by Tania Strawn, motion carried.

Recreation Planning:

Darrin Blattner and the School District have contacted the City on working together on increased communication. Michael would like to develop an activity guide for people to click on and see what is happening in the community. We would like to hire a consultant to see where the strengths and weaknesses are. The RFP was in the packet if there are any changes or suggestions please send them to Michael or Jeremiah. It was suggested to contact the Chamber to see if they would want to be involved.

New Richmond Park Board 1st Annual Medallion Hunt:

Jeremiah stated Mike Darrow has come up with a way to get more people to visit the parks and trails with a Medallion Hunt; he will be in charge of this activity. Businesses have donated prizes for the winner. Motion was made by Jon Hailey to approve the medallion hunt, seconded by Joe Ard, motion carried.

Park Land Trust Report:

Jeremiah reviewed the detail project sheet and Park Land Trust Fund sheet. The ending balance date should read January 31, 2016.

Park Land Trust Fund - \$116,784.94

Impact Fee Fund - \$17,681.78

Announcements:

The question was asked about the backflow preventer, it is still being worked on. Packet will be out in a timelier manner next month. Jeremiah announced that since he will be ~~working~~ spending a lot of time on street/utility projects, ~~and~~ Michael will be taking over more responsibility with the Park Board. The March meeting will be March 30th. The May meeting will be held on May 25th.

Jon Hailey moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brian Schroeder, motion carried.

The meeting of the Park Board was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by
Marie Bannink
City Secretary