

**SPECIAL PARK BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015**

Vice Chair Joe Ard called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2015.

Members Present: Jon Hailey, Joe Ard, Craig Kittel, Tania Strawn, and Brian Schroeder

Members Absent: Frank Norton, and Student Representative James Elkin

Others Present: Chet & Lynnete McCarty, Heidi & Scott Herron, Ben & Alexa Wanless, Kathleen Early, John Walsh, Jim Zajkowski, BJ Olson, CJ Kenney, Parker Olson, Alec Swiggum, Forrest Cooper, Calvin Weinl, Katelann Wauahr, Mary Walker, Colton Walker, Michael Gullickson, Jeremiah Melby, Christine Melby, Hayden Donahue, John Sutton, Damon Trinko, Raymond Merrill, Croix Stambough, Matt Nelson, Stephanie Annis, Izabel Barrett, Trish Norman, Aaron Anderson, Elliot Smallidge, James Snyder, Colin Mimikel, Ryan Muller, Ryan Stephens, Chad Walker, Tyler Ross, Jordan Johnson, Andrew Annis, Alissa Salia, Val Mergan, Tony Vsedata, Cash Crowder, Andrew Baribeau, Liz Fall, Charles Einnis, Judy Bakke, Mary & Irv Sather, Mike Foley, Mike Darrow, and Marie Bannink

Jon Hailey moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Brian Schroeder, motion carried.

New Business

Election of Officers:

Jon Hailey nominated Craig Kittel for President, seconded by Brian Schroeder, carried.
Craig Kittel nominated Joe Ard for Vice President, seconded by Brian Schroeder, carried.
Brian Schroeder nominated Jon Hailey for Secretary, seconded by Craig Kittel, carried.

Park Plan Amendment:

Mike Darrow thanked Jeremiah Wendt, Marie Bannink, and staff that have worked on project. Background information was given on the Park Plan. The question tonight is to amend or not to amend the Park Plan for the skate park.

Public Comment:

John Walsh -- He is in favor of the skate park. He was disappointed that Jim Zajkowski was removed from the Park Board.

Lynette McCarty – Lynette gave the background on the planning for the skate park. This has been in the making for 2 ½ years. She stated nothing was done with the kids as there was no site; it is hard to get them involved when we didn't know where it was going to be located.

Vern Olson – He has a 20 year son who has been skateboarding since the age of 6. He would like to see a place in New Richmond; this will bring people to town.

Christine Melby – Her son, Jeremiah does BMX riding and has made jumps and ramps in his yard. She likes the Hudson site because it is supervised. She is concerned that if a storm came in there would be no place to go.

James Snyder – Give the kids an opportunity to skateboard.

Elliot Smallidge – If the community can draft a plan, they can pass it too.

Trish Norman – She has been working with others on the committee for the skate park. We haven't had the kids input yet because we weren't at that point. She was definitely in favor of the park.

Tyler Ross – He started a petition at school during lunch hour and gathered 202 signatures for the park. He felt it would bring a lot of business to New Richmond. If we have a unique skate park people will come to use it.

Charles Dennis – He has been involved with the scouting program and kids for years, this would be a big benefit for the community.

Mary Walker – Her son is BMX rider and has been able to travel the country with this skill. He has to go into the cities to practice because there is nothing locally.

Jordon Nelson – Would be good for this town.

Somerset Resident – Skateboards in his driveway would like to see a park built in New Richmond.

Jim Zajkowski – Commend all the people here tonight. This is the most people that have ever attended a Park Board meeting. There is \$60,000.00 raised at this time. This is not just a one night deal, we need your help to make this happen, and we want this to be the best park around.

Craig Kittel thanked everyone for being here. Thank you for caring and coming down. If you want to get something done you need to show up. Working together as a group is much more effective.

Joe Ard stated we need your support; we will build this with you.

Jon Hailey thanked all those for showing up and asked they please continue with the support.

Joe Ard moved to amend the Park Plan to allow the Skate Park, seconded by Jon Hailey. Jon Hailey stated the originally the Park Plan was to be updated/reviewed during the regular June meeting. Roll call taken, motion carried and will be sent to the City Council.

Skate Park Design/Construction:

Mike Darrow explained the plan needed to be approved before moving ahead. Mike explained there are a lot of projects going on and it may take a while to get it on the schedule. There was discussion on the \$2,500.00, (the design cost), after contacting the company it will be credited towards the bill for equipment. The signed agreement from the donor has been delivered to the City.

Memorial Bench Application:

The Company that we order benches from no longer offers the benches that have lettering in the back in the color black (which is the designated color for Citizens Field - the location selected by the family for this bench). I've discussed with the family, and they still would like to have the bench at Citizens Field, but instead of "Peterson" spelled out in the bench, it would be fitted with a plaque that reads "In loving memory of Ray and Joretta Peterson." Motion was made by Jon Hailey to approve as presented, seconded by Craig Kittel, motion carried.

Freedom Park Update:

Jeremiah Wendt has asked for proposals from Cedar and CBS2 for staking the roadway at Freedom Park, and should have those back this week. The stormwater discharge permit with DNR has been renewed, and the county has been notified of our intent to add a driveway connection to CTH CC. Based on the lack of a firm commitment from the 652nd Engineering Company, we are planning on taking on the project with City staff (we certainly would still accept help from the 652nd if available). I would note that it is a very ambitious project for us considering the size of our crew, the timeline, and the equipment available, but we are committed to giving it our best shot. We will plan to start on the south end with the parking lot and restroom/handicapped facilities and work our way to the north, ending at the connection with CTH CC. If

something unforeseen should prevent us from completing the roadway all the way to CTH CC in time for the moving wall event, the "safety valve" would be to come up with a traffic control plan that would have traffic departing the event taking a right on CTH CC from Industrial, and get them back to STH 64 at a different point.

Announcements:

Craig Kittel thanked Irv and Mary Sather for what they have done for these kids. Joe Ard thanked Jim Zajkowski for all the years of service on the Park Board. Jim was thanked for the time, effort and energy given to the parks, the kids and the community.

Brian asked if the irrigation was on, comment was made that we don't want to turn it on too early with nights at 30 degrees it can cost thousands of dollars in damage.

Police National Memorial program will be tomorrow night at the high school auditorium at 6:00 p.m.

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

The meeting of the Park Board was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by
Marie Bannink
City Secretary