

**PARK BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2018**

Chair Craig Kittel called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25, 2018.

**Members Present:** Craig Kittel, Jon Hailey, Joe Ard, Brian Schroeder, Mandi Erickson, and Christine Melby.

**Others Present:** Noah Wiedenfeld, and Mike Mroz

**Members Absent:** Frank Norton

Jon Hailey moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mandi Erickson, motion carried.

Joe Ard moved to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2018, seconded by Jon Hailey, motion carried.

**Public Business Items**

Craig Kittel commented City staff, along with the City Attorney are looking into language for field reservations and prioritization at Freedom Park. Any changes to the ordinance or field reservation form will not be in effect until 2019 as the 2018 season has already been set. Further discussion on the development of a fee schedule for field use will also need to be addressed in 2019.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Update on Mary Park Boat Ramp:**

Noah Wiedenfeld stated we had two responses for the Mary Park boat ramp reconstruction RFP, MSA Professional Services \$11,500 and Cooper Engineering \$20,240. Staff reviewed the proposals and timelines from both companies and recommended MSA. Joe Ard moved to accept the bid from MSA Professional Services for \$11,500, seconded by Jon Hailey, motion carried.

**Old Middle School Site:**

Mike Mroz updated the board prior to any community engagement at the Old Middle School site, City of New Richmond staff contacted the School District to inform them of our intentions with the space. However, at this time, the Board of Education would like the property to remain as “green space” as originally planned and outlined in the agreement.

**New Business**

**Pickleball Court at Mary Park:**

Mike Mroz explained the local Pickleball Association has inquired about creating permanent pickleball courts on the east tennis courts at Mary Park. Consensus was to table the issue and request the association to attend the next meeting to discuss their request.

**Conceptual Designs for Fox Run & Whispering Prairie Developments:**

Noah presented initial design concepts from CRS for Whispering Prairie and Fox Run to receive feedback from the board and determine if CRS could proceed with a final rendering. The board felt the initial designs encompassed what they heard from the community open houses held last fall. Noah will reach out to CRS and notify them to proceed with the final designs.

**Paperjack Park Reconfiguration:**

With the recent decision by the Park Board to replace the toddler equipment at Paperjack Park, City staff is recommending we reconfigure the park to save on maintenance costs and eliminate unsafe/unused equipment. The following is a list of recommendations to consider;

1. Remove the old swing set in the large play area and replace with the set that matches the playground. This is currently in the play area to the west of the shelter.
2. Place the new equipment in the play area to the west of the shelter to create a new toddler play area.
3. Remove the merry-go-round from the toddler play area.
4. Remove the small play area all together and plant grass thus reducing the continual need for trimming and mulch.

Furthermore, over the course of the last month staff has received several phone calls of wasps building nests in the climbing walls at both Mary and Paperjack Park. Public Works staff would eliminate the problem only to have another call come in a few days later. This has been an annual occurrence with these two pieces of equipment therefore, staff made the decision to remove both walls to eliminate the hazard. The Discovery Cave that Park Board voted to purchase has the same types of holds that was removed and staff would like the board to reconsider their decision and choose a different piece of equipment to replace the cave. The total expense for the cave was \$3,792.00. Following discussion, the board supported eliminating the old toddler play area and creating a new one to the west of the shelter. Recommendations were made to remove the merry-go-round to create space for the new toddler play equipment. Everything else in the park is to remain in place at this time. Mandi Erickson move to reconfigure Paperjack Park as discussed, seconded by Joe Ard, motion carried.

**Park Land Trust Report:**

**Park Land Trust Fund - \$183,430.65**

**Impact Fees Fund – \$25,826.97**

**Inspection Reports:**

Turned in. Joe requested the weeds in the basketball court be taken care of at Monette Park. Staff will prepare to have an open house at Monette park prior to the August meeting.

**Announcements:**

Mike Mroz is working on getting costs to upgrade the restrooms at Hatfield Park.

Joe Ard moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jon Hailey, motion carried.

The meeting of the Park Board adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by  
Marie Bannink  
City Secretary

