

**PARK BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017**

Vis Chair Jon Hailey called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, 2017.

Members Present: Jon Hailey, Brian Schroeder, Christine Melby, Mandi Erickson, and Frank Norton.

Members Absent: Craig Kittel and Joe Ard

Others Present: Dave Green, Ken House, Catarina Parsons, Scott Counter, Noah Wiedenfeld, Jeremiah Wendt, and Michael Mroz

Brian Schroeder moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Mandi Erickson, motion carried.

Brian Schroeder moved to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2017 meeting, seconded by Christine Melby, motion carried.

Public Business Items

Nothing.

Consent Agenda

Nothing

Unfinished Business:

FWW Site Request in Freedom Park:

Ken House and Dave Green updated the board on the VFW building project in Freedom Park. The VFW is trying to get permission from the Pentagon to receive government aid to make this building happen. One of the requirements is the VFW needs to own the property before any aid can be received. They would like 5 acres in Freedom Park near the north shelter. A MOU needs to be drafted and signed before official ownership can take place. This would include a purchase of \$1.00 for 10 years. Motion was made by Frank Norton to sell 5 acres to the VFW in Freedom Park for the construction of the building, seconded by Christine Melby, motion carried 4 yes, 1 no.

Freedom Park Turf Management:

Michael Mroz updated the Park Board on the Athletic Turf at Freedom Park. City staff contacted turf management professionals to examine our athletic fields and determine different courses of action to remedy the problem of thin turf. The following is a list of corrective actions and an estimated cost associated with each recommendation.

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| 1. Strip, seed, and mulch <i>one</i> field | \$34,000.00 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- This process would involve stripping turf, hauling in nutrient rich soil/mulch, and reseeding. The field would be unusable for two years to allow for proper turf establishment. | |
| 2. Aerate, seed, and top dress <i>one</i> field | \$7,000.00 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Aeration breaks up the compacted soil while topdressing slowly modifies the soil profile to allow thicker turf establishment. | |
| 3. Hydraulic Core Aeration | \$1,500.00 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Process consists of pulling plugs of soil out of the lawn breaking up the compactions and allowing all the air, water, and nutrients to reach the root system. | |

4. 5-application program

\$10,000.00

- Combination of fertilizer and weed control management through the spring, summer, and fall months.

Motion was made by Brian Schroeder to proceed with the 5 application program, seconded by Mandi Erickson, motion carried.

LWI Adaptive Playground:

Brian Schroeder, a representative from a local LTI group made a request to utilize space at Freedom Park to install an adaptive playground. In order to move forward with their planning process and fundraising they needed an exact location of the playground. Multiple areas were discussed to put the playground but the board felt the area between the two shelter make the most sense due the it's proximity to parking, shelter, and the walking trail. This piece of land is currently occupied by the volleyball courts, which can be moved by city staff when the project is ready to break ground. Motion was made by Mandi Erickson to dedicate the volleyball land to LTI Project for adaptive playground at Freedom Park and amend the Park Plan to incorporate the playground, seconded by Frank Norton, motion carried.

New Business

2018 Campground Fees:

The stats from 2017 camping season were reviewed to indicate the occupancy levels throughout the season. Staff also obtained campground rates from surrounding facilities and found that the City of New Richmond was on the low end for full hook-up at \$22.00 per night. Staff suggested we raise the daily rates to \$25.00 per night and 30-day rate to \$680.00. The City would still be on the low end for daily rates compared to surrounding campgrounds, however the amenities that we have to offer are very basic. Motion was made by Frank Norton to raise our daily rates to \$25.00 and our 30-day rate to \$680.00, seconded by Christine Melby, motion carried.

River Planning Grant:

Noah Wiedenfeld presented background information on the \$10,000 River Planning Grant. The grant funds would be used to create a website and maps/brochures for the Willow River, help establish a citizen group that is trained in removing fallen trees and debris, and develop a comprehensive recreation management plan for the Willow River. The matching requirement for the grant would be fulfilled through hours of volunteer and in-kind labor, so there is no actual financial commitment necessary to receive the grant funding. Motion was made by Frank Norton to authorize city staff to submit the River Planning Grant Application, seconded by Mandi Erickson, motion carried.

Adopt-A-Park Program:

Staff presented an adopt-a-park program to the board to get their input on whether or not this would be a great way to get community involvement in the park system. Many communities have some type of Adopt-A-Park or Adopt-A-Garden Program. These programs engage private citizens, local businesses, and civic organizations in improving their communities, while also helping our Public Works Department with projects such as weeding and watering flower beds, adding mulch, etc. that can sometimes be difficult to keep up with due to other projects and limited resources. Park Board directed staff to move forward with establishing this type of program for 2018 by preparing some draft program materials and providing them at the next Park Board meeting.

Park Land Trust Report:

Park Land Trust Fund - \$127,690.59

Impact Fees Fund – \$7,057.45

Announcements:

None.

Frank Norton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brian Schroeder, motion carried.

The meeting of the Park Board was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by

Marie Bannink

City Secretary