

**PARK BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018**

Chair Craig Kittel called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2018.

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

Members Absent: Joe Ard

Others Present: Noah Wiedenfeld, and Michael Mroz

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

Christine Melby moved to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2017 meeting, seconded by Mandi Erickson, motion carried.

Public Business Items

Nothing

Consent Agenda

Nothing

Unfinished Business:

Adopt-A-Garden Program:

Noah Wiedenfeld reviewed the Adopt-A-Garden information that was in the packet. The City would provide materials if needed and a volunteer group would take care of a designated flowerbed. Recognition signs will be placed in the garden with the volunteer's or organizations name. Brian Schroeder moved to approve the Adopt-A-Garden program as presented, seconded by Mandi Erickson, motion carried.

125th Street Design:

The City of New Richmond hosted a 125th Street open house on February 12th to obtain citizen feedback from the initial design proposals. The reconstruction of 125th Street is scheduled to be completed in 2018. This will accommodate bicycle and pedestrians with the potential to connect to the rail bridge trail.

Some of the design components are as follows:

- Curb on east side north of 9th and south of Maple, no curb in between
- 10' travel lanes with 4' bike lane either side
- Signed truck route to discourage truck traffic
- Possible median island on south end to discourage truck traffic
- Active radar signage & pavement markings
- Street lighting at regular intervals, ~200ft

There was also discussion on putting in a nature trail that would connect 125th to the Rail Bridge Trail. There has been a number of mixed opinions; some thinking it was too close to residential areas. The cost to install the trail, if decided to proceed, will be included into the road project; Parkland Dedication funds will not be used. Jon Hailey moved to include a nature trail on the north side of the Paperjack Creek as an alternate bid as part of the 125th Street project, seconded by Christine Melby, motion carried.

New Business

Doughboy Trail Legacy Benches:

Michael Mroz handed out the brochure for memorial bench styles available for purchase along the Doughboy Trail. The designs match the benches currently along the John Doar History Trail. Brian Schroeder moved to approve the brochure, seconded by Jon Hailey, motion carried.

Hatfield Athletic Park Advertisement Policy:

The New Richmond Softball Association recently approached the City of New Richmond with a proposal to sell advertisement signage, which will be hung on the outfield fence from April 1 to September 31. To be consistent, since this program would be similar to Citizens Field, the New Richmond Softball Association would utilize the same agreement as the one currently used for Citizens Field. The New Richmond Softball Association would be selling the signage on behalf of the City of New Richmond.

Generated funds would be deposited into the Hatfield Park line item in the Park Land Trust Fund. These monies will be used solely for the development of Hatfield Park. Representatives from the Softball Association would be able to request those funds from the Park Board for facility improvements in the future.

The signs, which are in the shape of baseballs and have the businesses name and contact information, are sold in one, two, or three year increments.

There was discussion on this also being offered to the other organizations that use the facility which include New Richmond Youth Baseball and New Richmond Fast pitch. Mandi Erickson moved to approve the Hatfield Athletic Park Advertisement Policy with the three entities, adding negotiated price must be approved by the Park Board, monies raised by each organization will be earmarked in Park Land Trust Fund according to each group, seconded by Frank Norton, motion carried.

Freedom Park Open House:

Based upon the Comprehensive Plan discussion staff and the Park Board need to revisit the original design for Freedom Park with input coming from the community and those organizations that would utilize the facilities. Does the original design fit current needs? We will be looking at the week of March 19th to host an open house to get such input.

Bid Approval for Turf Management at Freedom Park:

In December 2017, the Park Board approved the solicitation of bids for turf management at Freedom Park for the 2018 season. Bids were opened on February 22, 2018, the lowest bid being submitted by Fitzgerald Lawn Care for \$9,561.00. Payments will be made from the Parks operating budget. Mike will ask about a prepay discount. Jon Hailey moved to should move to accept the bid of \$9,561.00 from Fitzgerald Lawn care for turf management at Freedom Park for the 2018 season, seconded by Brian Schroeder, motion carried.

Park Land Trust Report:

Park Land Trust Fund - \$129,105.10

Impact Fees Fund – \$16,228.47

Announcements:

There was discussion on how the Comprehensive Plan would affect what the Park Board does for future parks. Noah Wiedenfeld stated we received a \$10K river planning grant from the Wisconsin DNR. The grant application was for Mary Park Boat Ramp project and the CTH A trail, and the Park Board will be kept updated.

The Nature Center Canoe Launch will be finished in the spring. A local business has offered to provide free canoes, kayaks, and shuttles for a grand opening event to encourage people to try it out and explore the Willow River.

Jon Hailey moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Frank Norton, motion carried.

The meeting of the Park Board adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by
Marie Bannink
City Secretary