

PARK BOARD MINUTES      JANUARY 27, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Kate. Those present were Kate, Judi, Amy, and Brian

The agenda was reviewed and two additions were made

The minutes from the October meeting were approved. There was no meeting held in November or December.

Brian updated us on the skating rink. There have been an average of 24 people per day using the rink. There are about 75 pairs of skates available for the public to use. Mike Magnuson has sharpened about 20 pairs of them. Kate asked why there is no area to play hockey. Brian stated that there is not room for a second rink, but there is a duck hockey game at the rink which keeps the puck on the ground and not flying through the air, making it safer for skaters. It was suggested that the employees make an effort to encourage rink games.

A discussion was held regarding the Gabarkewitz property located on the river across from the old laundromat. Kate has been contacted by the family to see if the city would be interested in purchasing this. The park board does feel that this would be a possible area for the bike trail head as well as a great spot for launching canoes and kayaks which would bring more people in to town. Kate will contact them regarding a purchase price and we will discuss at the next meeting. At that time we will decide about presenting this to the council. Brian voiced that the old legion building across the street from this property would also be nice to obtain.

Brian brought information regarding a grant for outdoor recreation. The board has previously discussed the playground at the Peterson Park. The pea rock as well as the majority of the equipment is not handicapped assessable. The grant provides matching funds up to 50% of the cost. It is felt that the money available to the park program in the city would be well spent in this area. Brian will file for the grant.

The bike trail head was discussed. This will be tabled again until the next meeting when we have more information on the possibility of obtaining the Gabarkewitz property.

Amy and Kate gave an update on the pool progress. The committee is very optimistic about the reality of the new pool happening perhaps starting in the spring of 2021 which would make it usable for the summer season that year.

Brian gave an update of the existing pool. There are continuing and worsening problems with the structure. There will need to be more repairs to it so that it will be usable this summer. These repairs will be costly and only be a temporary bandaid and not a fix. The pool hours will stay the same as last year.

Discussion was held regarding the peace trail. There is a 4H group that wants to apply for the Cal Melke Grant for the purpose of putting 1-2 benches on the trail. The city has extended the trail so that it makes a continuous loop coming out on 6th street. This trail was originally a rotary project and they continue to be active in it. The park board would like signage at both ends of the trail, with a larger one at the entrance in Sherin park. Kate will talk with the rotary about a collaboration on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by Judith Engebretson, recorder.