

CITY OF PELICAN RAPIDS PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2009
8:30 a.m.

The City of Pelican Rapids Park Board held its regular meeting at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 27, 2009, Council Chambers, City Hall, 315 N Broadway. Board Members, Mel Zierke, Sandy Irely, Terra Fitzsimmons, David Gottenborg, Mikayla Jensen and Sally Huynh were present. City Administrator Don Solga, Street and Park Superintendent Brian Olson and Secretary Kristi Skramstad were present. Annie Wrigg was also present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mel Zierke.

Sandy Irely made a motion to approve the January 27, 2009 minutes. Mikayla Jensen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Additions: None
Deletions: None

Council Actions Since Last Meeting: Brian Olson reported that Council approved Cary Johnson's resignation and David Gottenborg's appointment.

NAPA Estimate:

Brian received an estimate of \$2,280 for the concrete work. This estimate does not include the cost to level the area. There is nothing allocated for this in the budget right now. Item tabled until next meeting.

Letters:

Letters were signed to Cary Johnson and Denise Magnusson thanking them for past service to the Park Board.

BBQ Pits:

Mel reported that he and Sandy have not yet attended a Rotary meeting to discuss the BBQ pits. Dave Gottenborg stated that Rotary is interested in doing repairs to the BBQ pits. Don explained that Park Board wants to work with Rotary on this project. Brick work and covers have been discussed with safety being the foremost concern because the BBQ pits are located near the playground.

Antique Store Sign:

Tabled until March meeting.

Park Board Opening:

An application was received and reviewed.

Sandy Irely made a motion to recommend to the Council to appoint Annie Wrigg to the Park Board to fill the remaining term thru 2009. David Gottenborg seconded the motion. Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Park Assignments:

E.L. Peterson Park:	Sandy Irely
Sherin Park:	Dave Gottenborg
Thompson Park:	Terra Fitzsimmons
David Brown Soccer Field:	Mel Zierke
Skate Park:	Sally Huynh & Mikayla Jensen
Veterans' Memorial River Park:	Annie Wrigg

Members are asked report any concerns to Brian Olson.

Veterans' Memorial River Park:

Don Solga reviewed the original grant application and layout for the Transportation Enhancement Grant. The engineering work, parking lots and bridge to replace the white bridge were not part of this grant. The final plans need to be ready in 2009 with bid letting in the spring of 2010. The City's costs will be at least \$68,794 to get \$125,000 in grant money which would only pay for paths. This would deplete the city reserves and other projects will need to be eliminated to accomplish this. Discussion. Would it be a better fit to get away from grant and pursue project on our own without being tied to Federal guidelines? Local people could work on the project. Still would need to check with DNR because of the river. The white bridge and property acquisition to the west across the river was discussed. Dave Gottenborg felt it was a good idea to secure acquisition of this property and that donations are a good way to get it done like Vergas has done with their path. Terra Fitzsimmons felt there are so many other opportunities for improvement. Annie Wrigg expressed that even a few benches with a path would be nice. Mel Zierke stated he is concerned about the white bridge repair or replacement. Brian said that new bridge abutments are an issue. Opportunities for other grants were also discussed. Don felt it was important to decide if we are going forward with this project so we can let the state know.

Terra Fitzsimmons made a motion to recommend to Council that the City find another way to pursue the Veterans' Memorial River Park Project and let grant money go back to the state. Sandy Irely seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave Gottenborg expressed that Rotary is very interested in developing a river walk in the area of Sherin Park and Trinity Lutheran Church. They are interested in assisting with funding and using an international spirit in the project. They also plan on enlisting volunteers to do some work. It is exciting because it will be a visible project that should generate interest. Rotary would need area staked out and was also wondering about surfacing. Don Solga stated that ideally crushed asphalt would be the best.

Chairman Zierke adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am

Kristi Skramstad
Park Board Secretary