

CITY OF PELICAN RAPIDS PARK BOARD MINUTES October 29, 2018

The city of Pelican Rapids held the Park Board Meeting on October 26, 2018 at the fire hall. Those present were Don Solga, Brian Olson, Lenardad Zierke, Van Holmgren, Rudy Butenus, and Kate Martinez. The meeting was called to order by Len Zierke at 0805.

Kate Martinez was introduced as a new park board member

Minutes from the August 27, 2018 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to delete two items as they were not part of the Park Board Meeting. The remaining minutes were motioned and seconded to be accepted.

Judi Engebretson was appointed secretary

A request was made to have the board members provide telephone numbers for themselves in the event that another member would want to get in touch with them. They are as follows:

Rudy 218-329-1999

Len 701-446-7290

Van 218-849-5581

Judi 218-731-3616

Kate 218-731-1967

Brian and Don can be reached by calling city hall.

Discussion of the future of the Historic City Hall was conducted. Judi and Rudy have been on the committee for recommendations regarding the future of the building. It was presented that the committee has voted unanimously to recommend to the city council that the building remain owned by the city. The results of the committee meetings were discussed. These recommendations are to keep a tourist information center as well as incorporate more history of Pelican Rapids. Future meeting of the committee will involve drafting a recommendation letter to the City Council. All Park Board Members agreed with the committee's recommendation to keep the building owned by the city as it is a unique piece of the city's history. A letter stating such will be written up and reviewed by the Park Board at the next meeting before sending it to the city council.

Added to the agenda was discussion of Veterans Park. Some citizens have voiced concern that they feel the flags should have their own light and not rely on the street lights to light the flag at night. Electric vs. solar lighting was discussed and solar was thought to be too unreliable. A motion was made and seconded to have Brian look into getting an electric light hooked up. Other discussion regarding the park was a request made by a group from town that would like to plant a tree in memory of Tanner Markgraff who enjoyed spending time in the park. Brian will find out what kind of tree to be sure it is appropriate for the size of the park. Additionally discussion was continued regarding some type of monument for the Veterans Park in memory of Pelican Rapids Veterans. Brian volunteered that he has a number of pictures of ideas and will present them at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Kate presented an idea to have metal benches made which would be designed by the elementary art class and produced by an artist in northern Minnesota. These benches cost \$6000. each and have no maintenance. The artist will deliver and install them. Kate states there is a grant available which will cover the entire cost which she volunteered to write. She did add that we would have a better chance of getting the grant as well as getting a larger grant if there was some monetary contribution from organizations or businesses in town. She will approach some of the larger businesses and present them with the idea and report back on this at the next meeting.

Kate also volunteered to be on the Swimming Pool Committee along with Len. She will get the information from Brian and Don on the results of the previous committee and began seeking funds. She will report back on her progress at the next meeting.

There was a request from Kate to have a port-a-potty at the Thompson Field. This field has been being used more heavily for soccer practice as well as by the public. Currently people have been requesting to use the bathroom at a neighbor's residence. Motion was made and seconded to pursue this and Brian states he will get one placed there.

Other Discussion was held regarding the ongoing planning on various items to further the beautification and usability of city parks and streets. Don talked about the large project that will be taking place in 2024 when MDOT will be working on Hwy 59 through town as well as 108 east and west. A goal of the the city

will be to help make the streets more user friendly, update the aesthetics, and plan the bike trail with this. These will be things that the Park Board will be giving some recommendations towards. He also states that the Senic Biway sign by Pelican Drug is going to be redone in the near future. Ottertail County is responsible for this with some monetary input from the city also. Brian commented that the information board as well as the picture cut-out board will be winter projects for him.

A motion was made by Len and seconded by Van to adjourn the meeting.  
The next meeting will be held on November 26, 2018 at the Fire Hall.