

CITY OF PELICAN RAPIDS PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 24, 2007

8:30 a.m.

The City of Pelican Rapids Park Board held its regular meeting at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 24, 2007, Council Chambers, City Hall, 315 N Broadway. Board Chairman Mel Zierke, Board Members, Denise Magnusson, Cary Johnson, Jessica Toftely and Sandy Irey were present. Street and Park Superintendent Brian Olson, City Administrator Don Solga and Secretary Kristi Skramstad present. Theresa Halverson and Nancy Buck from Lake Region Electric and Terra Fitzsimmons representing the Early Childhood Initiative were also present.

Board Members Ross Wamre and Becky Benhardus were absent.

Approval of March 27, 2007 Minutes

Denise Magnusson made a motion to approve the March 27, 2007 minutes. Cary Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Additions to Agenda:

Parks Update

Downtown Planters:

Nancy Buck and Theresa Halverson from Lake Region Electric Cooperative gave an update on the committee's decision regarding the watering of the downtown planters. The planters will be watered, fertilized and dead-headed by Lake Region Electric employee volunteers 1 time per week on Mondays. Lake Region Electric will also be donating \$200 toward the cost of the planters. Kristi Skramstad will mail a bill to Lake Region Electric. They will also be planting some shrubs and plants by the south Pelican Rapids sign and maintaining them. The Park Board will divide up the businesses and talk to them about watering and checking the planters near their business once per week. Nancy and Theresa indicated which planters were always dry and gave the list to Brian. Chairman Mel Zierke thanked Nancy and Theresa for coming and for all their work with the planters. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

Early Childhood Initiative Playground:

Terra Fitzsimmons reported that so far Early Childhood Initiative has raised \$7,500 of the \$7,700 needed to purchase playground equipment for the birth to 2 year age group. Once the equipment is ordered it will arrive in 4-6 weeks. Terra is not sure who will be doing the installation. Brian Olson stated the equipment could be shipped to the Public Works Facility but he would prefer it not be stored there for a long period of time. The equipment will be a great addition to E.L. Peterson Park as each age group will have their own play area.

Council Actions Since March 27, 2007 Meeting:

Brian Olson stated that the council approved the pool policy.

Windmill Estimate:

Brian stated so far he has one estimate nearing the \$10,000 mark for the repair of the windmill building. Other estimates are still welcome. This is an item we will need to budget for. The possibility of writing a grant for paint was discussed. There was paint left over from painting Pelican Pete but a different type of paint is needed for the windmill. Don Solga stated he would put it down as a budget item at this point.

Trinity Church / Sherin Park:

Brian Olson stated there are grants available for this project. Brian and Ross still need to get together and create a drawing. Brian presented ideas that involved tearing down the existing bath house and adding a building at the north end of the pool that could be utilized as both the pool and the bath house. He would like also like to see more campsites developed in the park. There was a discussion and was decided that until a drawing is presented it is difficult to visualize. Brian hopes to have a drawing soon.

Y-Monument Update:

Don Solga has met with Chris from the Otter Tail Historical Society and since the monument is not on the scenic byway (Hwy 108) it cannot be restored with that particular grant. At this point the cost estimate to restore/preserve the monument, which is the largest such monument in Otter Tail County is \$12,000. It would need to be cleaned and sealed. Chris has applications into different places for grant monies and he is committed to getting the monument restored. Keep item on agenda for May.

Chair Project:

Mel Zierke and Cary Johnson have sprayed the chairs. There are 37 chairs. Julie Siehl will compile a list of businesses who would like the chairs and get the list to Brian.

Skate Park Committee:

Still looking for volunteers. Kristi will put in the May newsletter again. The idea of moving the Skate Park to Thompson Park was revisited. Don Solga reported that Greg Nelson of Superior Lakeside had stated he may be interested in donating some of the materials. Brian will have Kevin speak to him about getting an estimate. Item will be on May agenda.

Other Park Board Items:

The soccer nets in Thompson Park were discussed. Mel Zierke is concerned about the grass wearing in front to the nets. Brian Olson stated the soccer nets can not be moved closer together because the field needs to be regulation size for the games. Brian also stated that David Brown has approached him and they will be playing U12 games there until the season ends in mid-July. Brian stated that the southwest corner of Thompson Park needs to be evened out as water pools there. This will have to be done after the soccer season is finished in mid-July. Brian will have Kevin talk to Greg Nelson about an estimate.

The David Brown Field has been vandalized. "David" has been scratched out. Need to look into repairing it.

Brian Olson gave an update on the parks. He stated that the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and an Eagle Scout have contacted him about doing work in the parks. An Eagle Scout is interested in shingling the shelter in E.L. Peterson Park.

The annual walk thru of the parks will be on May 29th during our regular meeting.

The downtown planters are at Mary Nelson's.

Brian is working on a proposal to Rotary regarding moving the BBQ pits to a different location. The pits are falling apart and are a safety issue. Brian wants to work out a compromise with Rotary.

Brian stated he would like to move the flower bed that is by Pelican Pete to the area near the east end of the parking lot near the E.L. Peterson park sign. It would not cost anything because they would be using materials they already have.

Sandy Irey made a motion to move the flower bed from the north side of the river to the E.L. Peterson park sign at the east end of the parking lot. Denise Magnusson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The 3 to 5 year Plan and checklists were updated. See attached for details.

The list of downtown planters was divided up so members could contact business owners to see if they are willing to assist in watering. Mel Zierke will take care of those on Hwy 108 W and 1st Ave NE. Sandy Ireby will take care of those on West Mill. Cary Johnson will contact those on Broadway between the stop lights. Denise Magnusson will take care of the south Broadway starting at 108 E. Denise will also take care of talking to the dental office. Members were asked to let Brian know if someone does not want a planter.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am

Kristi Skramstad
Park Board Secretary