

KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES JANUARY 13, 2012

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Kasson Park Board meeting was duly held at Kasson City Hall on the 13th day of January 2012 at 8:00 A.M.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Mike Marti, Greg Kuball, Joe Fitch and Liza Larsen

THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT: Becky Diekman and Terry Meyers

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Randy Lenth, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Ron Unger and Secretary Jan Naig

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:12 A.M. by Chairperson Kuball.

II. Approval of minutes: Motion by Larsen and second by Fitch, with all voting Aye, to approve the December 2011 minutes.

III. New Business:

A. Oath of office-Meyers. Meyers was not in attendance so the item was tabled until the February meeting.

B. Applicants for vacant position. Meyers had submitted a name for a potential board member and an application has been sent to her. Unger will follow up with the people that had expressed interest in the position, but have not returned an application. Board Members should let Naig know of any potential candidates so that applications can be sent to them.

C. Tree maintenance program. Unger reported the list of trees that need to be removed is short so more time will be spent on trimming and pruning boulevard trees this year. City crews should begin tree work soon and continue through March.

Unger reported on some of the information he found in his files concerning the money spent on the tree maintenance program in the 1970's. At that time, grant funds were available to help cities with the cost because of the Dutch elm disease problem. The DNR has done tree surveys of the communities in southeast Minnesota due to the Emerald Ash Borer threat. Approximately 16% of Kasson's trees are ash. The DNR also recommended species of trees that work well as boulevard trees. Unger plans to incorporate some new varieties since about 36% of the city's boulevard trees are maples.

IV. Old Business:

A. Swimming Pool Committee update. Tom and Rick Schaffer from USAquatics made their presentation of the Pool Feasibility Assessment and

proposed aquatic center design to the City Council on January 11th. The City Council passed a resolution to hold an election on April 3rd for a referendum to bond \$2.8 million of General Obligation bonds for a new aquatic center. The estimated cost to bring the present pool up to code is \$1.4 million. Copies of the feasibility assessment were distributed to members of the Park Board.

The Pool Committee needs to find a sales/marketing venue to promote and get factual information into the community because City funds cannot be used to advertise or promote the project. Larsen will work with Wendy Forthun to set up a venue to fund the advertising.

B. Outdoor ice rink update. Unger updated the Board on the status of the outdoor skating rink project. He also gave a brief overview of the improvements that will be made inside the arena this year.

Kuball asked what was happening with the Arena during the week of the Dodge County Fair. Members of the Fair Board were at the City Council meeting on January 11th. They would like to use the arena building for vendors and other events again. The members of the Parks/Dodge Co. Ice Arena Committee (Lori Hopkins and Mike Marti) were appointed to meet with the Fair Board.

A question was asked about the “back checking” issues that have caused some serious injury to Minnesota high school hockey players this year. Unger has been in contact with Manager Howarth. If players are following the normal code of conduct for hockey, these injuries should not happen. At this point arena staff and coaching staff are waiting to see what changes come from the State and the Minnesota State High School League.

C. 2012 Budget. Unger reported on a few budget items which are in addition to the items that were discussed in December:

- There will probably be two openings for part-time summer mowers this year.
- The City is in the process of purchasing a warehouse and approximately 2.5 acres of land from the owners of Kasson Concrete.
- The work will be done to upgrade the Veterans Park Concession stand.

E. Other.

The Board will meet on Friday, February 17th instead of Monday, February 20th due to the Presidents’ Day holiday.

V. Correspondence: None

VI. Adjourn: Motion by Fitch and second by Larsen, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 A.M.

Chairperson

Secretary