

KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES OCTOBER 20, 2015

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Kasson Park Board was duly held at Kasson City Hall on the 20th day of October 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

THE FOLLOWING PARK BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Janet Sinning, Jason Farnsworth, Chuck Coleman, Roger Franke, Liza Larsen and Greg Kuball

THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT: Terry Meyers and Jason Moritz

ALSO PRESENT: Parks and Recreation Supervisor Ron Unger and Deputy Clerk Jan Naig

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by Kuball.

- II. **Approve minutes:** Franke asked if Howarth would be attending the meeting. Unger indicated Howarth is still working on it. Franke would like to have the arena fee discussion on the November agenda to make sure Dodge County Youth Hockey is aware of the Park Board's concern. Motion by Larsen and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the September 2015 Kasson Park Board Meeting.

III. New Business:

A. Set 2016 Parks & Recreation fees. Unger indicated the Aquatic Center cannot be fully winterized until the bathrooms are closed for the season. The shelter reservation ordinance may need to be revised to have reservations cease in mid-October. Once youth football is done, Unger would like to be able to winterize the pool and bathhouse. The other option would be to re-plumb the bathhouse so that the bathrooms are separated from the pools.

There was discussion about having an adult swim in place of lap swim some evenings. The funbrella rentals went over well in 2015. The Board will consider blocking off two of the funbrellas in 2016.

Motion by Sinning and second by Larsen, with all voting Aye, to recommend keeping all Aquatic Center Rates at the 2015 level in 2016, but to change the early pay deadline for Family and Single passes to March 1st.

Coleman asked if the K.A.C. could be kept open the last week of August. Unger indicated that staffing becomes the problem. College students begin leaving in mid-August and sports practices start at the high school level making it very difficult to find people who are available to work.

The Board also reviewed the other Park & Rec fees. Motion by Farnsworth and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to leave all Park & Rec fees and ball field related fees at the 2015 level in 2016.

Howarth also submitted a copy of the 2015-2016 Arena Fee Schedule. He is still working on the Winter Ice Rental fee. This fee schedule will be reviewed by the Park Board at the November meeting.

B. Eagle Scout project. Jonathan Root has been doing landscaping around the east "Welcome to Kasson" sign on Highway 14 as an Eagle Scout project. He worked with Unger to come up with a plan for some low maintenance plantings. Less than \$300.00 was spent on materials.

IV. Old Business:

A. Parks update. Unger gave a brief update of what is being done in each of the parks.

Lions Park: The grass is growing in. City crews are working to fix the ditches so that the grass is able to be mowed up to the highway. Will plan for the extension of the disc golf course in the spring. The crushed tile line has been repaired near Southridge Townhomes. Need to plan for future lighting near the modular. Work with the Lions Club to come up with plans for the park entrance signs.

West Park: More trees will be taken down for the library construction project. The location of the tile line was changed. Unger has not gotten the quote for moving the ball field backstop yet. The shed will probably be moved to Veterans Park near North 1 ball field to be used for storage.

Northwest Park: City crews will core aerate and seed the soccer fields this fall. The dog fecal matter on the fields was not a problem this summer. Unger also contacted the youth programs when garbage became a problem.

Veterans Memorial Park: The City has been working to extend the infield on North 2 ball field. It will be used for high school J.V. baseball this spring. Unger will be ordering a taller backstop for the baseball field. Cement is raised on the 3rd baseline gate and left field base line post due to frost.

Unger received many compliments about the football field this fall. Dirt will be added to mid field and it will be seeded this fall.

The youth football association did a great job of maintaining the concessions stand in Veterans Park. It is ready for winter. The picnic tables will be stacked in the K.A.C. fenced area over the winter.

Northeast Park: Unger hopes to have the cement pads for the bleachers poured by the end of the week. Some modification will need to be done to the sidewalk on the west side because the slope is too great to meet ADA requirements. The scoreboard should be hooked up this fall. The infield will be extended so that the baseball field can be used for baseball tournaments. The additional lime for the baseball fields came from the high school field that was removed.

Kasson Meadows Park: Work on the modular will wait until spring.

Fitness stations: The two fitness stations have been completed along the Dodge County Trail. A suggestion was made to add solar lights-that would need to be done by Dodge County since this was a County project.

- V. Correspondence:** Unger will be working to keep the public informed of what is happening as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer infestations. Tru Green has an injection that has a 90% success rating. It needs to be applied every two years. He will leave a tag on the door at residences where trees are more susceptible. Unger plans to start removing about 25 trees this winter. The homeowners will have the option to save the tree by injection or have the City remove the tree. Once the homeowner takes responsibility for the tree, the City will no longer be responsible for the removal of the tree. Unger plans to get the information out this winter so that residents know how the City plans to handle the EAB.

Unger has gotten quotes for three Vermeer stump grinders. The cost varied from around \$15,000.00 for a 27 hp unit to \$33,417.00 for a 44 hp diesel unit. The pull-behind 74 hp unit runs \$49,527.00. He did find a grinder attachment for the Bobcat which would cost \$6,000.00 on state contract. Unger will add this as a Capital Improvement item next year so we are proactive about having it in the budget now. He also advised the Board that when we are no longer able to burn trees, the City will need to invest in a chipper.

VI. Adjourn:

Motion by Kuball and second by Larsen, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 P.M.

Chairperson

Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, November 17th at 6:00 P.M.