

KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES APRIL 21, 2015

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Kasson Park Board was duly held at Kasson City Hall on the 21st day of April 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

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

THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT: Janet Sinning and Jason Farnsworth

ALSO PRESENT: Jerry Struthers, Ron Eidem, Ken & Karin Murry, Tom & Jennifer Dole, Parks & Rec 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:** Motion by Moritz and second by Larsen, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the March 2015 Kasson Park Board Meeting.

- III. **New Business:**
 - A. **Oath of office-Meyers.** This item was tabled since Meyers was not in attendance.

 - B. **Hire Veterans Park concessions stand workers.** The two Veterans Park concessions stand workers from 2014 did not apply to work this season. Unger has two applicants who will work the evening ball games and weekend tournaments. The wage is \$8.00/hour and will increase to \$9.00/hour in August when the Federal minimum wage increase goes into effect. Motion by Moritz and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to hire Cole McGowan-Burke and Lucas Carstensen as Veterans Park concession stand workers for the 2015 season at a wage of \$8.00/hour.

 - C. **Review possible Park Board ordinance changes.** Coleman has been working with City Attorney Guzinski concerning a possible revision to the City's Park Board ordinance. Guzinski recommended that the Park Board work on a recommendation and have the Council approve the changes. Two sample ordinances were distributed for the Park Board to review. Kuball asked to move this item for discussion later in the meeting.

 - D. **Parks.**
 1. **Signage.** Unger recently placed signage in the Northwest Park that is similar to the signage that was posted in Veterans Memorial Park a few years ago which states "No Pets on Athletic Fields". The soccer fields are being used more and the schools will be using the fields for football programs this fall which prompted placement of the signs. Several neighbors

have expressed their concerns through phone calls and emails about signage being placed in the park without notification. Unger has responded to the people that contacted him. He also encouraged them to attend the meeting.

Ken Murry (903 12th Ave NW) has lived in the neighborhood since 2005. He thanked Unger for coming to talk to them about the signage. The development of the park has been a good thing for their property and a place of enjoyment for the people in the neighborhood. He was taken aback when the signs went up. The dog owners feel they are being banned from the parks and the majority of them are responsible dog owners. He also talked about the amount of garbage he and Jim Rath have picked up in the park after youth sports practices and games. He asked if youth sports activities would be banned because the participants are not responsible for their garbage.

Karin Murry also commented on how they enjoy the park space. She explained other cities resolve similar park issues by putting up bags for dog waste. She also shared a story of a girl in the neighborhood who spends a great deal of time in the park with her dog and how this has benefitted the girl.

Tom Dole (209 12th Ave NW) has lived in the neighborhood since 2008. The soccer programs only use the parks for about two months of the year. The neighbors use the park year-round. He feels the signs have eliminated people from the park.

Jennifer Dole feels there needs to be a "solution mindset". People should be given a chance to change bad behaviors before everyone is banned from having pets in the park.

They also talked about the people who are hitting golf balls and driving four wheelers in the park. This has been reported to the Police Department without resolution to the problem. Unfortunately, this information never got back to Unger. Signage has been posted that these activities are prohibited in the park.

Unger has ordered the bag dispensers and bags for the park. He will change the signs. New signs will ask pet owners to clean up after their pets. There was also a suggestion to add more trash cans. Unger asked the neighbors to continue to be our "eyes and ears" to keep him informed of what is happening in the Park. If problems develop, communication is encouraged. Eidem asked if the City has a Leash Law. Unger will also talk to the youth soccer program director and the K-M Schools Athletic Director about working with their participants to clean up garbage left in the Park after practices and games. If pet waste on the athletic fields continues to be a problem, the

Board may need to consider fencing off the fields in the future and putting the more restrictive signs back into the Park.

2. West Park/library building project. The new library construction project should start around the third week in May. Unger met with Library Director Tiff to go over what needs to be done in West Park before construction begins.

The bid to disassemble and reassemble the West Park playground modular is \$15,000.00. Unger was asked if anything could be done to cut some of this cost. The modular has a clamp system which is easier to disassemble than the city's other modulares. City crews will take down the modular and store it until late fall. The company will be hired to reassemble the modular at a cost of \$11,000.00. This will be a cost savings of \$4,000.00 to the construction project costs.

The bleachers in West Park are a safety hazard. They will be removed and grass will be planted for easier maintenance. The backstop for the ball field will be moved in 16' and the shed will be moved into another park. The 1st and 3rd baseline fences will also be used in another park. The Board was in agreement to leave the "sandlot" ball field in the park.

E. Youth program donations. Unger had been asked for figures for the construction of the Northeast Park ball field. The total price for the land, fencing, dugouts, bleachers and infield lime came up to \$285,232.00. Unger has received many compliments on the field. As funding is available additional amenities will include: lighting, concession stand and bathroom. The modular will also be reassembled behind right field.

The Board discussed the donations that have come into the Parks budget from the various youth programs. The summer youth baseball programs would use the Veterans Park ball fields if a batting cage was available. It was suggested that a recommendation be made that the youth baseball programs construct a batting cage or donate funds for the construction of one.

IV. Old Business:

A. Adult softball league update. There are 13 men's teams and 5 co-ed teams registered to play this season. League play begins on April 30th and May 1st. If there are just three games per night in 2016, it was suggested that the start time be moved to 7:00 P.M.

B. Boulevard tree program update. Sixty-one residential boulevard trees have been ordered. Ten trees will also be planted in the cemetery. The Treehouse will plant the week of May 4th-May 8th.

C. Movies in the Park sponsorships. Naig is still checking into sponsors for the movies. The Lions have committed to sponsoring a movie night.

D. Arbor Day celebration. Board Members were reminded that Friday, April 24th is our Arbor Day celebration. They were encouraged to meet in Veterans Memorial Park at 10:00 A.M. for the tree planting. This is our 35th year as Tree City USA.

E. Park Projects.

-The dugouts in Northeast Park should be completed this week. Unger expressed his appreciation for the work Anderson, Carstensen and other city workers have done on the project.

-Early in May the West Park modular will be disassembled and moved to the Public Works Building for storage.

-Cody Snow has been hired to work the ground and seed Lions Park.

-The modular for the Northeast Park will be constructed in the fall.

F. K.A.C. update.

1. Set holiday hours. The Park Board set the Aquatic Center hours for Memorial Day and July 4th. The open swim hours will be noon until 6:00 P.M. on the two holidays.

2. D.C.P.H. Free Swim days. Unger has worked with Dodge County Public Health concerning the Free Swim Days at the county pools. The three days scheduled at K.A.C. are June 11th, July 7th and August 4th. The County Public Health Department has applied for a UCare grant in the amount of \$1,500.00 to help implement the program at our facility.

3. General update. Letters have been sent to all of the people who have been offered employment at the K.A.C. this summer. The payroll forms and clothing order forms were included with the letters. The first meeting with the staff will be on May 16th.

G. Dodge County Trails meeting-fitness stations. Fitness stations will be placed along the trails from 16th Street NE to Hwy 57. There will be 5 or 6 stations in Mantorville, 5 or 6 in Kasson and 5 or 6 in the County. The materials (treated lumber) will be stored in the Kasson impound lot until installation.

H. Just Pick It Up litter clean-up campaign/Lions & Leo Clubs. Terry Meyers has indicated that the Lions and Leo Clubs are planning a clean-up day on April 25th. They should pick an area and coordinate with Sinning or Coleman so that the area they clean up is off the list for the May 16th clean-up.

I. Other.

-Summer mowers. Unger was asked about the summer lawn mowing situation. He is still looking for two college students that will work 40 hours/week at \$10.25/hour.

-Gibbs Lawn Care has been hired to mow the cemetery this summer. Their cost is \$475.00 per mowing. They also did the spring clean-up and will do a fall clean-up for an additional fee.

-Unger has been contacted by Pat Coy. She belongs to a group that has a water aerobics class at the Americinn. They would like to use the K.A.C. for their class during the summer. They will provide their own instructor. The group would like to know what times would be available and what would be charged for the use of the facility. This was table for discussion at the May meeting.

Unger indicated he has not set up any fitness programs at the K.A.C. for the summer yet. Khendra Johnson is a certified instructor. He may see if she is willing to teach some classes. She would be compensated for the extra training. Unger let the Board know we have been unsuccessful in our attempts to collect payment from Michelle Jacob of Xtreme Fitness for the programs she conducted in 2014.

III. New Business: (continued)

C. Review possible Park Board ordinance changes. Kuball had a conversation with Mayor Johnson concerning the makeup of the Park Board. The City Council has made the decision to increase the Park Board to nine members. Kuball explained as recommending body the Park Board has nine members compared to the City Council which only has five. The Board Members had concerns about the wording of the two samples that states "No action to change the size of the Board shall be taken, however, except upon two-thirds vote of all members of the City Council and no action shall be taken until at least three years after the establishment of the Board or until at least three years after the last resolution or ordinance modifying the size of the Board." Neither sample fits the bill when it comes to waiting three years to make a change. The Board is in agreement to finish out 2015 with the eight who are now serving. In 2016, Board Members would all be given an opportunity to step off. The person who agrees to step off would be given the first opportunity to come back if there is a vacancy on the Board.

Kuball also commented on appointing people from outside the City to serve on the Board. His recommendation is that the majority of the members live within the city limits and a minority could be from outside the City. Coleman and Kuball will get together to work on the ordinance revisions before they are brought back to the Board and a recommendation is forwarded on to the City Council.

V. Correspondence: None

VI. Adjourn:

Motion by Larsen and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 P.M.

Chairperson

Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, May 19th at 6:00 P.M.