

KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES FEBRUARY 17, 2015

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Kasson Park Board was duly held at Kasson City Hall on the 17th day of February 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

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

THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT: Jason Farnsworth, Jason Moritz and Chuck Coleman

ALSO PRESENT: Jerry Struthers, Mayor Steve Johnson, Terry Meyers, Parks & Rec Supervisor Ron Unger and Deputy Clerk Jan Naig

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Kuball.

II. Approve minutes: Agendas for the January Park Board Meeting were sent before city staff was aware of the change of the Mayor's appointees to the Board. Franke asked that his name be removed as being absent in the January minutes. He was not notified of his appointment until after the January meeting date. Motion by Sinning and second by Larsen, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the January 2015 Kasson Park Board Meeting with the amendment as noted.

Kuball welcomed the Mayor to the meeting and gave him an opportunity to address the Board prior to discussing the agenda items.

III. New Business:

A. Oath of Office: Franke. Naig administered the oath of office to Franke for another three year term.

B. Arena Liaison expectations discussion. Meyers expressed his feelings on becoming the Arena Liaison to the Park Board. He has worked with the Arena from conception. Meyers feels he brings a lot to the Board from the Arena as well as other area organizations. The only way to keep Meyers on the Board will be to increase the size of the Board to nine members. There were concerns expressed about increasing the size of the Board. It will change the number required for a quorum and it has been difficult to find volunteers to fill open seats in the past. A resolution by the City Council is required to increase the size of the Park Board. Mayor Johnson indicated the City Council will do the best they can to straighten out the situation. Meyers will not continue to serve on the Park Board unless full membership and voting privileges are restored.

C. Boulevard tree program. Unger has received tree prices from the Tree House and the boulevard tree order forms are now available. The information is already on the city's web site. There is funding in the budget for 75 trees. Plans are to plant 10 trees on the west side of Maple Grove Cemetery this year.

D. Softball managers' meeting. Unger has set the first team managers' meeting for March 10th. The city's adult softball league is currently NSA-MSF sanctioned. There has been some discussion about changing to an ASA-USA sanctioned league. Unger will find out more details when he attends the league directors' meeting. The umpires Unger has hired are NSA-MSF sanctioned so a change in the city's league sanction could mean finding different umpires to work the games.

E. K.A.C. discussion-hours, personnel and programs. Unger has been looking for ways to reduce expenses and save money at the Aquatic Center. He and Public Works Director Fjerstad met with personnel from the City of Stewartville to compare operation and financials of the two facilities since their facility is very similar to Kasson's. They have been operating for four years and are closer to operating in the black. The biggest savings is in wages since they have fewer open swim hours.

Some of the adjustments that Unger asked the Board to consider include:

- Close the facility one hour earlier- 8 P.M.
- Change scheduling so that shift supervisors and managers are not working together
- Close the pool and send staff home when there are less than 10 people using the facility
- Consider purchasing another pizza oven or pizza warmer to keep up with the demand for product
- Require rubber pants along with swim diapers to reduce the incidents of fecal matter in the pool-a MN Department of Health recommendation

Motion by Larsen and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to recommend the following changes at the K.A.C. in 2015: close one hour earlier at 8:00 P.M.; eliminate the crossover of managers' and shift supervisors' hours; on days/evenings when there are less than 10 people in the pool-close the facility; find ways to increase concession sales and work on scheduling so half of the staff is sent home at closing and only retain half to clean the facility.

F. Movies in the Park. Naig asked if the Board is going to continue showing Movies in the Park this summer. Kurt Albrecht will be contacted to find out his prices for showing the movies. We have one carryover from 2014 to show in 2015. Unger has received a catalog from Swank Productions with movie information. The Board will go forward with Movies in the Park.

G. Strategic planning-20 year plan. The City Council has set a work session for Saturday, February 28th, to do strategic planning. Each department has been asked to come up with their long-term and short-term goals. Unger distributed the information he prepared for Parks and Recreation, Maple Grove Cemetery and Dodge County Ice Arena. Board Members were encouraged to go through the packets and let Unger know of any additions or changes.

H. Discuss change of March meeting date. Due to a scheduling conflict the Board was asked to consider moving the March meeting date. The Board was in agreement to change the March meeting to March 16th.

IV. Old Business:

A. Arena update. Meyers presented information he received at a Kasson Ice Arena expansion committee meeting. The packet showed the participation in the Learn to Skate program and in the hockey program since 2010. There has been considerable growth so a committee has formed to work toward a second sheet of ice – three to four years in the future. The group is looking into individual and corporate donations and grants to help fund the project.

B. Parks update. Unger has a list of park projects. He is not sure how much the City Council will allocate for 2015 projects. A total of \$18,000.00 to \$20,000.00 has been projected for three projects with the highest priority.

Those projects are:

- Finish the dugouts for the Northeast ball field.
- Cultivate and re-seed the new Lions Park and finish the disc golf course
- Build the small modular in Northeast Park

The seventh and eighth grade football programs from K-M School will use the Northwest Park for the next one to two years during the construction project at the K-M Schools.

C. Other. There was discussion about naming the parks. No dollar amount has been set to allow naming rights to a park. Members were encouraged to find out what criteria other cities use to name their parks.

V. Correspondence: None

VI. Adjourn:

Motion by Larsen and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Chairperson

Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, March 16th at 6:00 P.M.