

## **KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES**

### **OCTOBER 18, 2016 draft**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Kasson Park Board was duly held at Kasson City Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October at 6:00 P.M.

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

**THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT:** Terry Meyers

**ALSO PRESENT:** Parks & Rec Supervisor Ron Unger and Deputy Clerk Jan Naig

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:06 P.M. by Chairperson Larsen.
  
- II. **Approve minutes:** Motion by Kuball and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the September 2016 Kasson Park Board Meeting.
  
- III. **New Business:**
  - A. **Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan.** After the September meeting Unger and Coleman reviewed the 2012 EAB Management Plan and made the decision to bring the EAB Plan back to the Park Board for review rather than present the recommendation from the September meeting to the City Council. The Plan was good for 2012, but updates are needed. Parks employees did an inventory and measured the ash trees in the City's boulevards. They looked at each tree and ranked the condition. There are 231 boulevard ash trees - not 1800 as was reported last month. (That is a countywide number that was provided by the State.) Approximately 4.5% of the trees in Kasson are a variety of ash tree. The entomologist from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture reported at the informational meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> that it is more costly to remove a tree than to treat it. Unger estimates it will cost \$150,150.00 to remove all 231 boulevard ash trees and that cost will be higher if Dodge County no longer allows burning.

Unger presented a revised EAB Management Plan which has changes to Items 4, 5 and 6. Item 9 was also added. The revised proposal includes a 50/50 share cost of the chemical injections for a maximum of 150 boulevard trees for five injections - which means these trees would be treated for 10 years. Unger estimates the City's cost share will be \$18,691.50 bi-annually to treat all boulevard ash trees with five injections. The estimated cost to treat 150 trees is approximately \$14,000.00 bi-annually. There was discussion about the cost to the City for treating the trees, the cost of removing trees and the logistics of operating the program. Two additional items will be added to the proposed EAB Management Plan. Item 10 states the timeline

for doing the bi-annual treatments is during the months of May through October. Item 11 will have the Park Board review the plan every five years. Coleman will present the proposed 2016 EAB Management Plan to the City Council. Once a plan is approved by the City Council, Unger will need to get the information to the homeowners who have ash trees on their property since treatments should begin in the spring. The next one to two years will be critical since the EAB is present in Dodge County.

**B. Park naming.** Board members were asked to come prepared to discuss their ideas for park names. There was some discussion about whether the public should be involved in the park naming process. It was decided that recommendations should come from the Park Board. The Board agreed to discuss some names tonight and to come back to the November meeting to make the final recommendation. The names that were agreed upon by the Board but open for discussion at the November meeting are:  
current West Park: J. Hyde Kasson Park (named after the City's founder)  
northeast park (Blaines Subdivision): East Diamond Park  
north northeast park (Kasson Meadows Subdivision): Meadowland Park  
northwest park (Bigelow Voigt Subdivision): Northwest Prairie Park

#### **IV. Old Business:**

**A. Lions Park signage.** The donated Lions Park sign that will be placed near Hwy 14 is nearly ready for installation. Unger has been working with Abel Signs to find the best lighting option for the sign to be visible from the highway. The sign at the Co Rd 34 entrance should be installed this fall, but the landscaping and lighting will wait until next year.

**B. Arena updates.** Unger reported the dehumidification sock is installed and everything is working properly. The indoor air quality is much improved. The electric Zamboni is here, but it is still being tested. A wildcat logo has been donated that will be placed in center ice.

Coleman has spoken to Manager Howarth about ice arena employees wearing uniform shirts. He has not been back to see if the situation has changed.

**C. K.A.C. update.** The work at the Aquatic Center should be done this week and the facility should be ready for winter. Financial information should be available for review at the November meeting.

#### **D. Park projects update.**

-Clearwater Recreation completed installation of the West Park modular. Wood chips are in place. Unger found Southeast Cooperative offered a very good price for the wood chips.

-City crews have completed installation of the modular in the park in Kasson Meadows Subdivision. In 2018 Unger plans to budget for more elements to complete this modular. The neighbors have been very appreciative for the playground equipment.

-Jim Christianson's family is buying the 2 sugar maples and 2 northern red oaks that will be planted near the Library. The bench has been installed.

-Unger met with Scott Lampland, developer of Kasson Meadows, and K-M School representatives to discuss plans for a route for children to walk to school from the new park area. There are some areas where water accumulates that need to be addressed. The school is looking into constructing a bridge. The walking path would also need to be constructed.

-The Shakopee lime has been ordered for the ball fields. All fields have been aerated and over-seeded.

-If the weather holds, Unger would like to start on construction of the batting cage in Veterans Park this fall. The school's J.V. baseball team will be playing at Veterans Memorial Park so it would be good to have it ready for the spring baseball season.

**V. Correspondence:** None

**VI. Adjourn:**

Motion by Farnsworth and second by Sinning, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

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Chairperson

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Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.