

## **KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES SEPTEMBER 20, 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of September at 6:00 P.M.

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

**THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT:** Liza Larsen

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

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Unger.
- II. **Approve minutes:** Motion by Kuball and second by Sinning, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the July 2016 Kasson Park Board Meeting.
- III. **New Business:**
  - A. **KM Youth Football.** Unger indicated that a representative from KM Youth Football was going to attend the meeting to make a monetary donation to the parks department. This helps with the cost of the marking paint used to stripe the fields.

Jeff Jensen presented a check in the amount of \$500.00 on behalf of KM Youth Football. He expressed his appreciation to Unger and his staff for the wonderful job they do to take care of the organization's needs. The organization appreciates what the City and Park Board have done to help the youth program and they are glad to give something back.

**B. Emerald Ash Borer.** Unger distributed copies of the 2012 Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan, information from the MN Department of Agriculture and a sample of Rochester's Tree Work Permit Application.

On September 6<sup>th</sup> the MN Department of Agriculture sent out a news release indicating that Dodge County was placed under emergency quarantine after emerald ash borer was found in the city of Kasson. It was found in trees near the Catholic Church and K-M High School. Unger worked with Mark Gamm, Dodge County Environmental Services Director, to set up a public meeting for all Dodge County residents regarding the EAB and the quarantine. The meeting will be October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in the K-M Community Education Building multipurpose room. All cities and townships in the County will be notified of this meeting.

The City has 1800 boulevard trees and 600 trees on private property that could be affected by the EAB. If property owners plan to treat their trees, it is best to start before mid-October or to wait until spring. The treatments do not work as well when the trees are in a dormant state. Unger plans to take an inventory of boulevard ash trees that are in the worst condition. Those homeowners will have to decide if they want the trees removed or if they will pay to treat them. Unger estimates about 20 to 40 of the most critical trees will be removed yearly by City crews. When asked if there are any grants or funds available to help with the cost of tree program, Unger indicated that the problem is too large and there is no government funding available. Minnesota has the largest ash tree population in the country.

Unger asked the Park Board their thoughts on how to handle the City's ash trees. The Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan from 2012 states in Item 5 "Poor quality ash trees within the city parks will be removed and replaced with an appropriate tree representing a diversity of tree varieties." Item 6 states "The city will not treat any ash tree(s) with chemicals on any boulevard or public property." There are two in front of City Hall and around 30 behind the North 2 ballfield in Veterans Memorial Park. He would like to treat the two at City Hall and at least 10 in the park. New trees could then be planted in the vacated areas to fill in. The treatments have improved since 2012 when the plan was written. The chemical is now administered bi-annually and the success rate is around 98%. The Park Board debated whether the City's ash trees should be treated or removed. Since there are options for treatment, is it more cost effective to save a tree or cut it down and replace it? There was also some discussion about possible pushback from residents if the trees on public property are treated and the boulevard trees on private property are not treated. Meyers asked if a scientific treatment to wipe out the EAB would be developed in a few years since this will be a huge problem across the country. Then, treatment for a period of years would seem like a better option than destruction. It was suggested that a spreadsheet comparing the cost of treating a tree versus removing a tree be set up. Unger will try to put this together during the winter. Ultimately, the City Council will have to decide if funds will be budgeted for treatment or if the trees will all be destroyed. A permit form will also need to be developed so Unger has a record of residents that are treating their ash trees and those that are removing the trees on their property. A copy of Rochester's application was distributed for the Board to review.

Unger indicated other cities have designated certain areas where trees will be treated. Winona took a different stance once the EAB was found in their city. They are treating ash trees on their main thoroughfare rather than removing them.

Motion by Kuball and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to recommend saving as many ash trees as possible by treatment. This includes treating the two City Hall trees and as many of the 30 trees in Veterans Park as possible, as well as, ash trees along the main thoroughfares coming in to the City (especially Mantorville Avenue) as the budget allows. The Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan Item 6 will also be revised to reflect these changes. Councilperson Coleman will bring this to the City Council for discussion.

**C. 2017 Budget.** Unger distributed copies of the Parks, Aquatic Center, Forestry, Cemetery and Ice Arena budget sheets which shows the 2016 Budget and proposed 2017 budget items. He explained the proposed changes.

The total for capital improvement expenditures is \$55,000.00. The 2017 Capital Expenditures include:

1. Mower-year 3 of 3 - \$25,000.00
2. Veterans Park new memorial - \$7,500.00 – year one
3. Dethatcher & Bagger for Toro ZTR mower - \$4,500.00
4. Park Signage (Veterans Park & Blaine’s northeast park) - \$4,000.00  
All Board Members are asked to bring their ideas for park names to the October meeting. Unger needs names by year-end to order the signage. The Library should be contacted for possibly renaming West Park.
5. Ball park fencing repairs - \$6,000.00
6. Playground modular repair parts (West Park) - \$8,000.00 –to replace items that have been damaged by vandals in the past

The other requested priority expenditures for the general budget are: purchase of bleachers, weed control at Lions Park, trees for Lions Park and re-shingle cemetery vault building. These items total \$11,300.00.

Unger also presented a list of future capital expenditures which will be considered with future budgeting.

The City has received a bid of \$9,800.00 for the old fence at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Franke asked where the matching funds for the grant for arena improvements came from in 2016. If the city’s share of \$50,000.00 was not in the 2016 Budget, where did the funding come from to make the improvements?

**IV. Old Business:**

**A. Lions Park signage.** Unger has been working with Abel Signs to make the new signage for Lions Park. He hopes to have both signs installed by the end of October. The sign that McNeilus Steel made for the Lions Club is at Abel's for finishing touches. The City Electric Department will be running a 110 line so that the sign can be lit for visibility at night.

**B. Arena updates.** Meyers reported a refurbished electric Zamboni has been located for the arena; this will eliminate the carbon monoxide emissions. The diffuser for the dehumidification process has been installed - this helps the ice to set up and reduces moisture in the building. The work should result in better air quality and reduced heating and cooling costs. The leak in the ceiling has also been found and repaired by A.B. Systems.

Meyers asked if arena employees could be issued some type of uniform shirt so that the public can identify the workers in the building. He feels that arena workers should be recognizable. Unger indicated they have purchased shirts, sweatshirts and jackets in the past, but arena personnel have chosen not to wear them. Coleman will talk with Howarth to see how this can be resolved.

**C. Park projects update.** Due to time constraints, these are the projects Unger plans to work on this fall:

- City crews did the landscape work in West Park around the new Library.
- Clearwater Recreation will be reconstructing the modular in West Park later this week (weather permitting). Once the modular is set up, Unger will let Coleman know so that ADA sidewalks can be added.  
(Meyers told the Board that we have been invited to hold our next Park Board Meeting at the new Library.)
- Install modular in Kasson Meadows Subdivision park
- North 2 Ball field and West Park ballfield fencing
- The plumbing modification was done at the Aquatic Center which allows City staff to winterize the pools separate from the public restrooms
- Timers on the door locks to the public restrooms are now installed. They will now automatically open at 7:00 A.M. and lock at 11:00 P.M.
- 5 K.A.C. awnings will be sent to Waterloo Tent & Tarp for repairs
- Construct batting cage in Veterans Park – would like to have this done for spring baseball

**V. Correspondence:**

**A. Thank you form Kim Lewis family.** The Lewis family sent a thank you for the donation of pool passes for the silent auction.

**VI. Adjourn:**

Motion by Sinning and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acting Chairperson

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Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.  
You will be notified of the meeting location.  
Come with a list of names for the parks.