

## **KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

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

**THE FOLLOWING PARK BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:** Doug Buck, Jason Farnsworth, Terry Meyers, Janet Sinning, Greg Kuball, Roger Franke and Liza Larsen

**THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT:** None

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

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:59 P.M. by Chairperson Larsen.

**II. Approve minutes:** Motion by Farnsworth and second by Kuball, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the December 2016 Kasson Park Board Meeting.

**III. New Business:**

**A. Oath of Office-Larsen & Sinning.** Naig administered the oath of office for Larsen and Sinning. Both will serve a three year term on the Park Board ending in December 2019.

**B. Select Chairperson.** Larsen is willing to continue serving as the chairperson of the Board.

Motion by Kuball and second by Sinning, with all voting Aye, to have Larsen remain as chairperson for 2017.

**C. Set wages -2017 seasonal employees.** All Aquatic Center employees were given an hourly pay increase in August of 2016 due to the Federal minimum wage increase. The Board had already talked about leaving the 2017 wages at this increased rate.

Motion by Farnsworth and second by Kuball, with all voting Aye, to pay these hourly rates for the 2017 season: Aquatic Center Manager \$17.75; Shift Supervisors \$13.00; WSI's \$11.25; Lifeguards \$10.25 and admissions/concessions/crossing guards \$9.50.

Unger reported he is still looking for lifeguards. The inside worker/crossing guard positions have been filled.

**D. Hire K.A.C. manager/supervisors/head lifeguard.** Unger has spoken with the applicants and made his recommendations for hire. He is recommending two Head Lifeguards. They will not have a higher rate of pay, but will be given more hours.

Motion by Sinning and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to hire the following staff for the 2017 season: Josh Mitchell-Aquatic Center Manager; Brianna Knutson, Kailyn Wigham and Tanner Dufault-Shift Supervisors; Abigail Tjosaas and Benjamin Peters-Head Lifeguards.

**E. Boulevard Tree Program.** Unger has worked with The Treehouse to come up with a list of trees and prices for the 2017 Boulevard Tree Planting Program. This year a Kentucky Coffee Tree was added to the list. This variety and the Autumn Gold Ginkgo (which was added in 2016) are disease free and pest resistant-at this time. Unger is trying to diversify from maple trees since 36% of the trees in Kasson are a variety of maple tree. Buck asked why the tree program is offered in the spring because most trees do well when planted in the fall. Unger likes to have the full growing season to make sure they are established before the winter. Farnsworth asked if there are plans to plant any trees in East Diamond Park. Once Unger knows how many trees will be planted in residential boulevards, he will determine how many trees can be planted in the parks.

**F. Update on EAB trees & tree maintenance.** Unger has received calls from the cities of Lake City, Stewartville and Janesville about our tree maintenance programs and EAB management plan. There are 53 trees on the list for removal (including 26 ash trees). Twenty-eight trees have already been removed-14 were ash trees. By mid-March the tree work should be complete, weather permitting. Unger appreciates the help the Electric Department has given the tree removal program. Unger was asked what kind of response there has been for saving ash trees. He indicated 12 people have inquired about saving their trees. Most of the homeowners have talked to TruGreen or Jay Maier of Maier Tree Service for their estimates.

**G. 2017 Movies in the Park.** There is \$1,000.00 in the budget for Movies in the Park. Albrecht is willing to project the movies again this year. Board Members were asked to talk to businesses that would be willing to sponsor the movies this summer and to bring ideas in March for movies to show.

**H. Part-time parks worker.** In the past, the City hired part-time workers to mow the parks from April-October. They worked 40 hours per week for the six month period. Due to the Affordable Care Act and unemployment insurance claims the City Council did not feel this was the best financial situation for the City. For the past two years, high school and college students have been hired to do the mowing. This has not been offering

enough hours since the hires are only able to work two to three months maximum. Unger has budgeted for a part-time worker at 25 hours per week for 52 weeks at an hourly rate of \$13.40. Kuball indicated this may be a way to get a part-time worker that may become a full-time worker over time. Buck would like to see the mowers hired from April through October-not through the winter months; the hours may be split between two people. If someone other than a student is hired, the unemployment insurance comes into play. By limiting the number of hours, the ACA and PERA are not a factor. Unger will advertise to hire mower(s) based on the City Council's decision.

**IV. Old Business:**

**A. Ice Arena update.** The old Zamboni has been repaired. The natural gas pump is not working right. It was a pump that was originally provided through CenterPoint Energy (as a test project) that liquefies natural gas so that it can be used in the Zamboni. This pump cannot be refurbished. There was some question as to how much the old Zamboni will be used and if it is cost effective to spend the money to repair the pump.

Sweatshirts have been delivered to the arena and workers are wearing them.

The meeting with the representatives of the K-M School, booster clubs and D.C.Y.H.A. will not be scheduled until after the high school hockey season ends in March.

**V. Correspondence:** None

Sinning asked about setting a date for the "clean up Kasson" campaign. She was considering the last Saturday in April. Members were asked to look at possible dates before the next meeting in March.

**VI. Adjourn:**

Motion by Farnsworth and second by Sinning, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

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Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 P.M.