

KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES

October 17, 2017

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 October at 6:00 P.M.

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

THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT: Janet Sinning, Terry Meyers, Jason Farnsworth and Deputy Clerk Jan Naig

ALSO PRESENT: Parks & Rec Supervisor Ron Unger, Aquatic Center Manager Josh Mitchell, Elizabeth Armstrong and Heather Enloe

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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 2017 Kasson Park Board Meeting.

III. New Business:

A. Alaina Pappas & Josh Mitchel – lifejackets policy for K.A.C. Unger invited prior manager Pappas and current manager Mitchell to give their opinions and suggestions concerning the use of lifejackets at the Aquatic Center. Pappas was unable to attend. Unger made some phone calls to other area aquatic centers. Owatonna and Waseca do allow lifejackets in certain areas of their facilities with restrictions. Stewartville, Albert Lea and Dodge Center do not allow lifejackets.

Mitchell stated the Aquatic Center is not a daycare facility. He indicated that lifejackets are allowed in the Aquatic Center during the parent tot hour from 10:30 to 11:30 A.M. Monday through Friday. This is for children under the age of five. This is in the zero depth entry area only. They are also allowed on Friday night family night. A parent is expected to be in the water with their child during these times. At this time staff does not verify that the lifejackets are USCG approved.

The staff does not recommend use of lifejackets during open swim from noon until 5:00 P.M. Quite often the facility is near capacity and extra staff would be needed to monitor the pool if lifejackets were used during this time. There are concerns if the lifejackets are not worn correctly. Mitchell suggested adjusting the restriction during the 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. open swim time if there are a limited number of swimmers in the pool. The use of lifejackets gives lifeguards one more thing to monitor, allows parents to be “too comfortable” about monitoring their children and may require

additional staffing. The policy should establish the ages that would be allowed to use a lifejacket.

Armstrong is passionate about water safety, teaching children to swim and having a safe place for children to swim. If a child gets away from the parent, a lifejacket would provide an added protection. The CDC and American Red Cross have materials stating that lifejackets are not just for boats, but should be used by young or weak swimmers in or around water.

Armstrong asked about setting an age limit for allowing a child into the facility without a parent or supervisor. She also asked about having another level of lessons for those children who are too advanced for the Tiny Tots lessons, but cannot be enrolled in Red Cross lessons due to age or height restrictions.

It was decided to bring the lifejacket policy back before the Board in November so all members of the Board have an opportunity to address the issue. The Board will need to consider if “floaties” will also be allowed during the times when lifejackets and be used.

Unger also showed the Post Bulletin Readers Choice Award for the “Best Swimming Pool”. It will be placed in the entry area of the Aquatic Center.

B. Cemetery fence. Unger reported that nine trees have been taken down, stumps have been removed and cement pillars have been removed at the cemetery. Justin Deno Masonry has constructed the 4 new pillars. Midwest Fence will install the new high grade fence by the second week in November. The total project cost is between \$31,000.00 and \$32,000.00. Unger is also considering placing some maple trees around the perimeter of the cemetery to replace some of those that have been removed.

C. Disc Golf course. Unger found out that Jared Pittman is working at K-M Schools again. He helped with the original design of the disc golf course. They have talked about designing the new disc golf course in Lions Park. Pittman recommended a nine-hole course since it would fit best in the amount of land that is available for the course. Unger has printed GIS maps to help with design of the course. He has 16 trees to plant this fall. There are also 16 trees in the budget for 2018. Unger plans to set the pipes for the baskets before the frost sets this fall.

IV. Old Business:

A. Park projects/maintenance update. Unger reported on the projects left to work on this fall.

Lions Park-Set the disc golf baskets and plant trees

J. Hyde Kasson Park-Prepare the ball field (dig out infield, add aggregate lime, reshape infield, reset backstop)

Bring in fill for area where bleachers used to set

Veterans Memorial Park-Finish work on old concession stand/storage building

Construct batting cage behind north 1 ball field

Apply aggregate lime on both ball fields

Finish winterizing the Aquatic Center facility

East Diamond Park-Apply aggregate lime on the ball field

New signage has been ordered from Abel Signs for Veterans Memorial Park and East Diamond Park. The signs may be stored over the winter months and placed in the parks in the spring if they arrive too late to be installed this fall.

V. Correspondence: None.

VI. Adjourn: Motion by Franke and second by Kuball, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 P.M.

Chairperson

Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be on November 21st at 6:00 P.M.