

KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 draft

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Kasson Park Board was duly held at Kasson City Hall on the 19th day of September at 6:00 P.M.

THE FOLLOWING PARK BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Janet Sinning, Liza Larsen, Doug Buck, Roger Franke, Greg Kuball, Terry Meyers and Jason Farnsworth (arrived 6:19 P.M.)

THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: 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 Chairperson Larsen.

II. Approve minutes: Motion by Sinning and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the July 2017 Kasson Park Board Meeting.

III. New Business:

A. KM Youth Football. Unger reported the youth football league started playing on September 9th in Veterans Park. The season will go through October 14th. Teams will practice on the fields in Prairie View Park.

B. Lions Park projects – Terry Meyers. Meyers reported that members of the Lions Club have been contacting local businesses to see if they will donate funds to get a shelter constructed in Lions Park. They are also looking for “in kind” donations. If additional funds are collected, they may be used for the tennis courts. He wanted to make sure the Park Board was in agreement before proceeding with the fundraising effort. A bid of \$28,942.00 for the shelter building (without the cement pad) was received from Cleary Building Corporation. Meyers expressed his concerns about the Capital Budget for the park areas virtually staying the same even though the City has grown and park needs have increased. Unger indicated many of the less expensive capital improvements have been done that are in the \$55,000.00 range since that amount is usually designated for capital projects. The Board will need to decide which of the higher cost items should be done next. Funds will then be budgeted over two or three years for specific capital purchases. Meyers asked if an article could be submitted to the local paper to outline the park needs in hopes that it brings out any interest from the community. The Board thanked Meyers and the Lions Club for taking this initiative to help improve Lions Park.

Motion by Meyers and second by Sinning, with all voting Aye, to recommend the City Council explore increased capital funding for park projects.

Naig also reported that Barb Pike is organizing a walk-a-thon in October to raise funds for picnic tables and benches in Lions Park. Unger reported the cost of a sturdy table is now \$1,800.00 to \$2,000.00. Meyers suggested that Unger look at tables similar to those at the Arena since they seem to wear well.

C. Stump removals. Unger reported that his staff has been working on stump grinding. Over 70 stumps were ground out and the holes filled over a two week period. The equipment is working great. There is still work to be done in the cemetery in preparation for the new fencing. After seven trees are taken down, there will be 10 more stumps to grind. Unger will meet with the fencing company and mason to get bids for the new cemetery fence next week.

D. 2018 Budget items. Unger distributed a list of 2018 Capital Items. The list did not include a shelter for Lions Park since outside funds will be solicited. The list of Capital Items totals \$60,200.00. Included on the list are: phase 2 of modular in Meadowland Park; park signage for Meadowland and Prairie View Parks; new veterans' memorial in Veterans Park; fence repairs on No. 1 & No. 2 ball fields in Veterans Park; bleachers for Veterans Park; garbage can lids and lighting the ball field in East Diamond Park. He also distributed a list of future capital items.

E. Aquatic Center repairs. Unger reported that there will be additional expenditures at the Aquatic Center in 2018 since this was the fifth year of operation. The needed repairs include: replace four sand filters, replace the freezer in the concessions area, replace grates in the zero depth entry area, replace 18 drain covers, replace the mat for the baby slide, purchase two new backboards and head gear and clean the heaters. Seven umbrella covers have been returned for repairs.

F. Aquatic Center recognized – PB Reader's Choice Award. The Aquatic Center was voted the "best pool in southeastern Minnesota" by readers of the Post Bulletin. The Award will be presented at a banquet on September 28th. Members were told to watch for an advertisement in the September 30th Post Bulletin which will feature the Aquatic Center. This recognition should be used for advertising and marketing the facility in the spring.

IV. Old Business:

A. Festival in the Park update. Unger reported that everything went well during the weekend Festival in the Park. Josh Gilbertson and Jesse Eggert did a good job of keeping the trash picked up in the Park.

B. Arena update. Unger informed the Board that Public Works Director Bradford has taken on supervising the operations at the Arena. Meyers met with Bradford and will continue to stay in touch with him. The only item Meyers had to report is that when the ice was built up, players and officials were having difficulty seeing the lines because the ice was four to five inches thick. As the ice is being shaved down, the problem has lessened.

C. Other.

Unger told the Board that Alaina Pappas and Josh Mitchell, former and current manager, would like to attend the October meeting to give their input on the use of lifejackets at the Aquatic Center. They would like the Board to be aware of the added responsibility on the staff if a lifejacket policy is implemented.

Kuball asked about the swings on the modular in J. Hyde Kasson Park near the Library. A customer talked to him about the height of the swings being set too high. Unger stated the modular was set up to be ADA compliant. He will stop by to check on the swings.

V. Correspondence: None.

VI. Adjourn: Motion by Franke and second by Meyers, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 P.M.

Chairperson

Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be on October 17th at 6:00 P.M.