

KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES DECEMBER 17, 2019 DRAFT

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 December at 6:00 P.M.

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

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: Coleman had a question about the proposed budget increase in the line item for insurance at the Aquatic Center. He was directed to talk to Finance Director Zaworski for more details.

Motion by Kuball and second by Coleman, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the November 2019 meeting.

III. New Business:

- A. Tree City USA.** Unger is in the process of putting together the application for the Tree City USA designation. This will be the City's 40th year in the program. The application must be submitted by December 31st. Unger will bring the numbers for tree care costs to the January meeting.

Kuball stated the need for the City to have a separate Forestry Division.

- B. Kasson Aquatic Center employees - 2020.** Unger met with Josh Mitchell and Abbie Tjosaas to discuss the Aquatic Center personnel matters this afternoon. He has applications from 22 returning lifeguards and W.S.I.'s. Nine new lifeguards have applied and there are 23 applications for the concession stand workers. Mitchell will contact lifeguards and W.S.I.'s who worked at the facility in the past to see if they plan to return in 2020 since there are still available positions in these areas. The goal is to have a minimum of 60 on staff. Unger has set up interviews on December 23rd, 26th, 30th and 31st.
- C. 2020 Budget update.** Unger presented copies of the 2020 proposed budget worksheets. He pointed out the areas that had an increase. One of the areas of concern is the electric utility costs for the Aquatic Center. Since the meter was changed to a times 50 meter several years ago, the electric costs have been extremely high. He and Public Works Director Bradford were comparing the cost of the utilities at the Aquatic Center with the Wastewater Treatment Facility which also has pumps running. The Aquatic Center is considerably higher. Even in the months that the facility is not operation, the

billing has not dropped. He may request an energy audit to see if anything can be done to reduce the cost.

Some of the other budget changes include: new computer for Unger, a set of bleachers for the parks, removal of five Maple trees in the Cemetery, phase II of the modular in Meadowland Park, new memorial in Veterans Park, North 2 backstop and year one of two for a new utility tractor.

Unger expressed his appreciation to the Council for the generous support they have shown to the Parks Department in the budget process.

- D. 2020 Movies in the Park.** There was discussion about whether to continue with the Movies in the Park. The cost of the movie and projectionist is now running a minimum \$500.00. The attendance numbers have not grown over the years. Due to the hours of daylight it gets to be a very late start time which does not work for families with younger children.

Motion by Kuball and second by Farnsworth, with all voting Aye, to use Park Board funds to only sponsor one movie on the Friday night during the Festival in the Park in 2020.

- E. Terms that expire in 2020 - Larsen.** Larsen indicated that she will continue to serve in the Board for another three year term.

Larsen left the meeting at 6:39 P.M. Unger took over as Acting Chairperson.

IV. Old Business:

- A. Update on stone wall in Veterans Memorial Park.** At the December 11th City Council meeting the Council agreed to give the public a chance to come up with funds to restore the stone wall. The City Council does not have the funds available to save the wall. They set a deadline of April 1, 2020 for funds to be raised for this purpose. All money will be held at City Hall and will be returned if the necessary funding is not raised.

Unger reached out to Sinning to see if she would work with those trying to come up with funding. He has also spoken to Jerry Giese of KARE about the condition of the wall and to answer the questions KARE has about the restoration.

Eggler has spoken with the City Engineer about the project. He will bring it back to the City Council in January to find out how far they are willing to go with funding the cost of the engineering. If this needs to go out for open bids, the City will need to involve an engineer to make sure proper State guidelines are followed in the bid process.

Sinning has talked to KARE representatives about the Park Board and City Council's decisions. She is working to get the word out into the community so people are aware of the Council's decision. She is trying to find the right avenues for making the information available.

Kuball was asked by a KARE representative if it would be possible to save a portion of the wall if funds to do the whole project cannot be raised. There was also some discussion about using some of the materials from the old wall in the new veterans' memorial. These will be considered as the deadline nears. At this time the options are open.

- B. Christmas tree lighting – Veterans Memorial Park follow up.** Those members that were in attendance on November 29th felt the attendance was good considering the date and the weather. Sinning suggested that the date be moved to the week-end of Christmas in Kasson next year rather than on black Friday. There was some discussion about better ways to get the word out to the public.

V. Correspondence: Coleman commented that the dedication of the shelter in Lions Park went well. He thanked Unger for explaining to the Lions Club what the future plans are for the Park.

VI. Adjourn: Motion by Egler and second by Coleman, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 P.M.

Chairperson

Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be January 21st.