

KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES DECEMBER 15, 2020

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Kasson Park Board was duly held at Kasson City Hall on the 15th day of December 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

THE FOLLOWING PARK BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Janet Sinning, Dan Egger, Chuck Coleman and Greg Kuball

THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT: Roger Franke and Liza Larsen

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Timothy Ibisch, 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 Acting Chairperson Unger.

II. Approve minutes: Motion by Egger and second by Kuball, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the November Park Board Meeting.

III. New Business:

- A. Tree City USA.** Unger has completed the application for the City's 41st consecutive year as a Tree City USA. The City has spent \$100,189.39 on tree maintenance, planting and management, as well as EAB removals in 2020. This is well above the \$2.00/capita that is required to be in the program. This year an Arbor Day event was not required due to COVID 19, but the City did have a tree planting and Arbor Day observance.

Kuball brought up the need for the City to have a separate Forestry Department due to the amount of tree work that is done.

- B. K.A.C. applications and interviews.** Unger has received applications from 18 people (3 lifeguards and 15 concession workers) who have not previously worked at the Aquatic Center. He plans to schedule interviews the week of December 28-31. He has received 36 total applications to date-which is down considerably from the 60-72 that usually are hired for the summer.
- C. 2021 Budget update.** The City Council approved the 2021 Budget at their meeting on December 9th. These are the capital items in the Parks Budget: 2nd year toward a new utility tractor-\$30,000.00 additional, a basketball hoop for East Diamond Park, repair outfield fencing for North 1 ball field in Veterans Memorial Park, a new vehicle as part of the fleet program. Unger will have copies of the final budget for the January meeting.

Future budget considerations should include a shelter or playground modular for East Diamond Park. There should also be a playground modular in Prairie View Park in the future.

- D. Winter tree maintenance.** City crews have been working on the list of trees that are in need of trimming. The trimming should be done this week. When the ground has firmed up for the winter, they will begin work on the removal of ash trees and old maples. Door hangers have been placed at 15 residences for ash tree removals.

Unger is setting up a computer program to track tree removals, new tree plantings and tree trimming.

- E. 2021 K.A.C. discussion-programs and hours.** Unger presented possible ways to reduce expenses at the Aquatic Center. Changing the hours of open swim and reducing the wages paid out appear to be the two areas where the savings would have the biggest results. Plans are to have a membership pass in 2021 even if there is a COVID restriction. In 2020 COVID restrictions had a big impact on the revenue at the facility. This discussion will continue into 2021. More advertising will be done to bring in people-especially from the Rochester area.
- F. Park Board appointments.** Coleman will serve another three year term. The City Council has agreed to add an eighth member to the Board. Once the resolution is complete and the Mayor has made the appointments, Sarah Hirsch and Chris Petree will be contacted.

IV. Old Business:

- A. Update on stone wall donations.** Sinning indicated that a 501 (c)3 is required to apply for some of the grants. Due to the cost of filing the paperwork, it has been suggested that the Park Board enter into a legal agreement to work under another organization's 501 (c)3. Ibisch will follow up with Councilperson Burton to find out the status of the Kasson Area Foundation. They may be an entity that the Park Board and EDA can partner with for City projects using their 501 (c)3. Sinning was thanked for the work she has done to explore funding for the stone wall.
- B. Christmas tree lighting-Veterans Memorial Park update.** The tree lighting was held on November 20th. There was discussion on how this can become a bigger event with more community involvement in the future. Some ideas were to do it the same weekend as "Christmas in Kasson", to add more lights to the gazebo and in the Park, add a toy drive or food shelf donation to the event, possibly have the tree in the downtown rather than in the park.

- V. Correspondence:** Ibisch and Unger met with the City's Planner to discuss the need for the Park Board to review new subdivisions to plan for future parks in areas that are just being developed.

VI. Adjourn: Motion by Egger and second by Coleman, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 P.M.

Acting Chairperson

Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be January 19th.