

KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES

FEBRUARY 15, 2022 draft

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 February 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

THE FOLLOWING PARK BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Chuck Coleman, Janet Sinning, Chris Petree, Liza Larsen and Ryan Christensen

THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT: Roger Franke and Greg Kuball

ALSO PRESENT: Parks & Rec Supervisor Ron Unger, Deputy Clerk Jan Naig and Kody Mayer

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 P.M. by Chairperson Larsen.

II. Approve minutes: Motion by Christensen and second by Coleman, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the December 2021 Park Board Meeting. The additional documentation for the Aquatic Center will be forwarded to the Park Board Members.

Visitor: Kody Mayer was in attendance to get some information about the skate park. He would like to see some bigger ramps added. Due to liability issues, the City has stayed with the features that will not require a paid supervisor and fencing at the facility. He asked about adding more elements to those already in the Park. Unger asked him to draw up a design of what elements they would like to see added. Unger will get the name of the company from which the City originally purchased elements so that the Mayer can get an idea of the costs. The Board is willing to work with those that use the facility and they recommended that Mayer come up with some funding to help with the costs.

III. New Business:

A. Oath of Office-Franke & Kuball. Franke has indicated that he will not be able to continue to serve on the Board at this time. If there is an opening in the future and he feels he is able, he would consider serving again. The Board expressed their appreciation for his work as a Board Member. Kuball was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

B. Boulevard tree planting program. Unger has received the price list from The Treehouse for the boulevard trees. Most of the trees are about \$5.00 higher in price this year. The deadline for ordering is March 31st.

Unger indicated that the Hwy 57 construction project will eliminate all of the boulevard trees between the curb and sidewalk in the construction zone.

The City has been selected for the Tree City USA designation for the 42nd year.

C. Aquatic Center.

1. Employee update. Unger has interviewed prospective candidates for work at the Aquatic Center in 2022. There should be nine W.S.I.'s on

staff this year. At this time Unger anticipates 58 employees at the facility in 2022.

Motion by Coleman and second by Sinning, with all voting Aye, to recommend hiring Abbie Root as Manager and Melissa Seljan, Mitchell Nelson, Julia Christenson and Rachel Schultz as Assistant Managers for the 2022 Summer season.

The recommendation for W.S.I.'s, lifeguards and admission/concession workers will be made in March so letters can be sent to prospective employees in April.

2. MyRec Software. The new software program is nearly built. There will be three training sessions for City Hall staff. The goal is to have the site available around March 9th. Picture and new card issue dates will need to be scheduled. With the new software program, the goal is to go "cashless" at the facility.

Christensen asked if the Board would be open to discussion about food vendors in Veterans Memorial Park when there are evening swim lessons due to the changes in hours at the concession stand.

- D. Winter tree maintenance.** Unger reported 30 of the boulevard have been removed - there are only about 15 on the list that are left to remove. The trimming work is complete. There is much more evidence of the E.A.B. damage to the ash trees in town. There are about 40 boulevard ash trees left to remove. Unger is concerned about the 200-300 ash trees that are in residential yards. Ash trees are very brittle and dangerous to remove if they are not taken care of before they dry out. In the future, the City Forester may need to inspect those trees and declare if a tree is hazardous. If the homeowner does not take action to remove the hazardous tree, the City may need to contact someone to remove the tree and bill the homeowner for the removal cost.
- E. Movie in the Park.** Naig has been contacted by the Festival in the Park Committee about the possibility of having a movie in July. The movie they plan to show in August is a sequel and they would like to have the first movie shown a few weeks earlier. The Board was in agreement to host a movie night since there is some money available in the budget to do so.

IV. Old Business:

- A. Stone wall funding – Veterans Memorial Park.** Sinning was thanked for organizing the Save the Wall fundraiser. Their efforts raised \$37,660.70 towards the project. The City also received \$29,100.00 from the Legacy Grant. The total received was \$66,760.70. The total cost of the project is \$49,517.00 for Reticulated Stone-labor, \$3,589.70-lodging and \$16,755.50 for

Stone by Stone for the cement work for a total of \$69,862.20. The funding took care of most of the cost except John Dingley's (of Reticulated Stone) lodging.

Reticulated Stone will return in the spring to inspect their work and fix any issues that show up over the winter. Stone by Stone will finish the last part of the cement work in the spring. City crews will apply the sealer to the limestone.

Sinning has information about the historical signs in Harmony and Mantorville. She will try to get some cost estimates. No money has been budgeted for signage at this time.

V. Correspondence: Larsen asked what the City's plans are concerning the Parks and Recreation Supervisor position when Unger retires in November. Christensen will bring it up at the Council work session in March. Larsen has concerns about all of the things Unger coordinates (Parks, Cemetery, Aquatic Center, boulevard trees, softball, budgets and Park Board) and wonders how smoothly things will function without someone in the supervisor position.

VI. Adjourn: Motion by Christensen and second by Petree, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

Chairperson

Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be March 15th.