

KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES JULY 20, 2021

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Kasson Park Board was duly held at Kasson City Hall on the 20th day of July 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

THE FOLLOWING PARK BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Chuck Coleman, Chris Petree, Ryan Christensen and Greg Kuball

THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT: Sarah Hirsch, Janet Sinning, Roger Franke, Liza Larsen and Deputy Clerk Jan Naig

ALSO PRESENT: Brant Klebel and Parks & Rec Supervisor Ron Unger

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:09 P.M. by Unger.

II. Approve minutes: Motion by Christensen and second by Kuball, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the June 2021 Park Board Meeting.

III. New Business:

- A. Visitor-Brant Klebel – Tennis courts.** Klebel has been working with Jenny Carrier and Broc Threinen to see if the City and/or School District may be able to construct some new tennis courts. A tennis club has been organized at the school and there is discussion about adding tennis as a school activity. He presented information about the tennis courts in several area communities. Unger explained that the City's courts were constructed in 1967 and are no longer able to be repaired. Some of the site options that have been considered are the existing tennis court site in Veterans Memorial Park, J. Hyde Kasson Park near the Library or near the K-M Schools. The school district has some grants and funds available if the courts are constructed on school property. The cost to construct a court is \$80,000.00-\$85,000.00. Unger explained that the parks department budget does not allow for a project of this size. It would need to be budgeted over a 2 to 3 year timeframe. Unger suggested they talk to the School Board to consider all available options. Klebel appreciated the information and consideration that has been given to the project.
- B. Aquatic Center update.** Since school is starting in August and there is limited staffing, plans are to close the facility around August 22nd. Unger presented things that will need to be addressed after the Aquatic Center season ends:
- 1. Staffing.** More WSI's are needed to continue offering lessons. It has been a struggle to cover guarding shifts this summer because of second jobs.
 - 2. Wages.** WSI's have taken other jobs because retailers are paying an hourly wage of \$14.00 to \$16.00 per hour. The W.S.I. wage of \$11.83 will need to be increased to maintain the necessary staffing.
 - 3. Equipment.** Much of the kitchen equipment (slushie machines, microwave, popcorn maker, nacho warmer and pizza cookers) will need to be replaced.

4. Hours of operation. The Board may need to consider changing open swim hours, pool rentals and lesson times to cover staffing costs.
5. 2022 young staff. It is anticipated that most of the supervisors will not be returning next year. There will be a very young staff of returning lifeguards and a limited number of WSI's. Unger is trying to find W.S.I. training in the area.

Unger will try to put numbers together this fall to help the Board make these decisions.

- C. Lions Park Basketball/Pickle ball courts.** The K-M Lions Club made a generous donation of \$4,000.00 for the construction of the pickle ball courts. Joint Ventures has allocated \$19,000.00 for construction of the basketball court. The total cost of the basketball/pickle ball court is estimated to be \$31,441.71. The City's cost for the project will be \$8441.71. City crews have prepared the 70' X 100' pad for the blacktop.

There is a Joint Ventures meeting this week and there will be discussion about construction of a separate pickle ball court (just south of the basketball court) that would be fully funded by Joint Ventures. The cost of the pickle ball court is \$22,890.13 and to have the blacktop painted is an additional \$7,495.00.

- D. Park updates.** Unger listed some of the projects that City crews are working to complete:
- stump grinding. There are 12 stumps left to grind, 25 are already done
 - construction of the basketball/pickle ball courts
 - add dirt to planter in Veterans Memorial Park
 - paint swings in Veterans Memorial Park
 - playground modular in Meadowland Park-complete last phase
 - dirt work around parking lot in Meadowland Park
 - stain dugouts in East Diamond Park

IV. Old Business:

- A. Festival in the Park refuse collection.** Unger does not have workers lined up to do the trash collection over Festival weekend. He is talking to a few people that may take on the job. They will be paid \$15.00/hour.

V. Correspondence: Unger informed the Board that Childhood Cancer Community has rented the Aquatic Center and East Pavilion on July 24th. They will have food trucks in the park to cater their event.

Coleman asked if anything is being done to clean up the property on 7th Street NW near the Veterans Memorial Park prior to Festival in the Park.

Kuball told the Board that he was approached by a member KMYBA who wanted to thank the Park Department and Park Board for the work they do to keep the ballfields in such good condition for their youth programs.

VI. Adjourn: Motion by Christensen and second by Coleman, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 P.M.

Acting Chairperson

Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be August 17th.