

4/19/22 Park Board Minutes

In attendance:

Chair Cindy Feuredi, Dave Quickel, Peggy Schneider, Demetra Condos, Peg Esposito, Alderperson Mary Jo Fesenmaier, Mayor Charlene Klein

Absent: Brian Olsen, Barbara Phillips

Guests/online: Mike Coolidge, Jim Koutsky, Alderperson Joan Yunker, Susan Cardiff, Neal Waswo (joined late)

Meeting called to order 6:38

No comments from the public

YMCA Update

Mike Coolidge presented an update on Veteran's Park renovations

- The Tourism Council provided a grant for updating six fields at Vet's park
 - Grant allows for complete renovation at one time, not spread out over several seasons
 - Grant includes fencing for reducing size of fields for young players, making home runs more possible
- Mike presented the project outline from Kujawa Enterprises
 - Outline provides very specific details on field-by-field plans
 - Plan includes a timeline
 - Plans are to start next week (week of 4/25) and to complete by end of May
 - Each field should take 4-5 days to construct
- Reconstruction should attract more visitors and tournaments
- Only two fields have lights so night games are hard to play later in season
- There is no landscaping in plan
- Mike will keep Board updated on progress

Mike then presented a document of Veteran's Park rental schedule

- There are 10 tournaments scheduled so far for the 2022 season
- The renovations should bring more in the next years

YMCA's sports program

- Record numbers of people are signing up for team sports
 - 150 T-ball registrants
 - Teams start in May, first game 5/9
 - Dream Team has been formed again

Concessions

- The Y is running the concession stand again

Mayor Klein suggested that the Board attend a game

- Board agreed this would be a great idea; we'll keep an eye on the completion of the fields and make plans to attend
- We could make this a promotion for the renovated fields

Park Budget

Board requests a budget

- We request that we receive the money that the parks earn with rentals
- Mayor advised that park fees will need to go through Finance Committee and be approved by Council

- Karen Hall, City Comptroller, should be able to print a report with the detailed information
- We should invite Karen to a meeting to discuss how best to create and track a budget for the Parks

Board is requesting that we get a list of our assets

- What we have
- State of equipment
- Replacement costs
- Annual cost of upkeep
- Once we have a complete list of assets we can formulate a plan for renovation and upkeep
- We do have a partial list from Neil Waswo of when the equipment was installed
 - List does not include costs
 - Much of equipment is very old and in need of repair; from Neil Waswo
 - Tot Lots
 - Rushwood was built in 1998
 - Miller Court Tot Lot has 2 phases: Late 1970's and 1999
 - Parks
 - Vets Park built April of 1997, is a Burke System
 - Seminary Park built 1/19/1999, is a Miracle System
 - Rushwood Park is a Miracle System
 - Manning Way Park built 9/2017, is a Burke System
 - Maple Park and Eastview are maintained by schools
 - There should be lists of playground equipment along with buildings from our insurance company with valuation
 - The Department of Public Works should also have a record of the upkeep
 - Life expectancy of playground equipment is 17-24 years
 - Many of our parks do not meet current standards for ADA compliance or safety; we are grandfathered in by the conditions met at time of installation
 - Our parks have been well maintained and still serve our constituents well, considering the age of the equipment
- Board recommends that we analyze the demographics of neighborhoods before we replace equipment
 - New ideas for a more mixed audience may be best
 - Playground equipment has changed considerably since our most recent installations
 - New mix of elderly, families, teens should help us decide on equipment
 - New parks will need to meet current standards
 - We need to consider maintenance when developing new plans
- Board would like to get recommendations from Neal for which parks would be best to work on first
 - We request a list from DPW of their recommendations
- Companies that we hire can make suggestions of the best equipment and playground design
 - Neal currently works with two companies: Miracle and Golden Rec
 - There are many new ideas in park design
- Signage should be a part of our plans
- There is a possibility of a Stewardship Grant for Seminary Park

Corp Plan Update

- Plan has not yet been scheduled for approval by full Council
- Administrator has only recently received a copy

This discussion ended with no motion, but a commitment of the Board to continue the discussion, follow up on the research of the parks and suggestions from Public Works.

Ed Yaeger Memorial Bench

The Park Board has been given the funds not used for a tree and plaque in honor of Ed Yaeger with the understanding that we would purchase and install a bench as a memorial

- We have received about \$800 for this project
- This has been ongoing since 2019
- Neal said he would look at options that may fit within our budget, but our usual bench cost is close to \$3000

Discussion ended with no motion. Neal will provide recommendations for our next meeting.

Native Plantings

The Park Board is interested in installing native plantings in parks and city boulevards

- By installing plants that are not mowed weekly we could reduce costs
- Native plants could help with our erosion issues by lakes and rivers
- City staff members have been attending webinars
- Neal recommends that we create a plan
 - They are cutting back on mowing, trying to cut only one time and then allowing natural growth
 - This method does not discourage invasives and is uncontrolled
 - Public Works has not budget for seeding
 - Medians along S Lake Shore Drive to Hwy 120 will be allowed to go back to their natural state
 - DPW has been discussing natural planting with other communities
 - A natural garden along Wrigley Drive Terrace from the Riviera to the Beach House is being planned for fall
 - Northwinds has been used in other cities and local businesses to create landscaping that is easier to maintain. They may be a resource.
 - Dave was to research ordinances and rules for areas of high traffic

No motion was made on this discussion. The Park Board will continue to monitor progress and work with DPW to encourage more natural planting throughout the city in parks and along our paths.

Bocce Ball Court

Utility Commission is still considering how this property best be handled, perhaps transferred to the Park Board.

- Josh is working with City Attorney Draper on how to transfer this to the parks

No motion was made. We will continue to request information and perhaps transfer of property to the Park Board. We are not going to move forward on any plans until we know that we have permission or ownership of the lot.

Sign for Mary Koutsky Four Season Park

No formal proposal for signs yet provided.

- Neal provided samples to Chair Feuredi, not included in packet
- Budget will probably need to be around \$6,000.
- Mr. Koutsky reminded the Board of the ideas presented earlier, with wild flowers surrounding the text

Discussion was also held on the materials that the Koutsky family provided to the Board for scanning and historical reference.

- Many of the documents have been scanned for our records
- Some may need to be taken to an outside resource for careful preservation
- There is a brochure that the Koutskys developed for the park which we may want to update for the city's website and distribution at the park. Mary Jo will provide a scan/copy for us to review.
- The binder materials may also contain information on natural plantings, as Mary and Jim did much research on plants that are indigenous to the area.

No motion was made. We will continue to move ahead on the sign with ideas and pricing for this project, led by Dave Nord.

Miscellaneous

- Members request that Park Board Minutes be made available in printed form as well as via email

Next meeting

Meeting set for May 17, 2022, 6:30pm

Motion to adjourn

Made by Cindy Feuredi, seconded by Mayor Klein

Meeting ended at 7:48pm

Minutes prepared by Peg Esposito