

Minutes of the Tuesday, February 20th Park Board meeting

Called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Forster-Feuredi

Roll Call Chair Forster-Fueredi, David Quickel, Denise Wendell, Rachel Allen, Julie Mulligan, Peggy Schneider, Mayor Charlene Klein. Ann Esarco was absent but excused.

Public Comments: Peg Esposito read a letter from the Disc Golf group concerning removal of trees. Insert here) She also stated she has been receiving calls about trees being removed at Hillmoor and she is waiting for the park rules to be discussed.

“Hi Peggy thanks for giving me and my fellow disc golfers a chance to share our input. We are just very upset that we keep losing all the beautiful trees ok the course. The trees are what really makes disc golf a fun and challenging sport. When they are gone it makes it a less appealing landscape and a much more boring game. The course desperately needs bathrooms, more garbage cans, some type of benches/picnic tables, new tee signs, and alternate basket placements. I'm sorry I'm not available to attend this evening and I sincerely appreciate you giving me an opportunity to share some input with you. Thanks again Peggy Wishing you the best”

Betty Volquardsen - also spoke concerning the removal of trees at Hillmoor and suggested the larger trees be used for benches, etc. She would like the work at Hillmoor to stop until the Ad Hoc committee concludes its work.

Two new board members were introduced, Rachel Allen and Julie Mulligan.

Park Board minutes of November 28th were approved

The new Park Superintendent Samantha Ingo introduced herself and related her history of employment and experience at Gateway running the summer programs. She is very enthused about her position with the city and has some exciting ideas coming forth in the near future for expanding park programs. She is currently working with Public Works to facilitate the opening of the Hillmoor property and will be placing trail markers, park rules, etc. when the time comes in the spring.

Neil Waswo reported that the department has been busy doing leaf clean up, mowing around the ponds, removing Christmas lights and general maintenance including g mowing a three- foot edge along the cart paths at Hillmoor and other paths on the property. He also reported that the estimate to place a fence for a dog park at Four Seasons would be approximately 50 K. There was a robust discussion of whether or not to move the current dog park.

Mr. Paul Stormberg from the Gygax Memorial Foundation reported on the initiatives of that group (insert presentation). He also showed a video about Gary Gygax and the invention of Dungeons and Dragons. He presented the concept for a memorial statue and renaming of the parcel in Library Park. Comments and questions from the board members and Neil Waswo spoke positively about the group and their festival this past year. The group is also planning another festival for the end of September 2024, which will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the game. In that vein, their group is requesting to donate a statue of Gary Gygax at the west end of Library Park. Mayor Klein reminded them about the maintenance agreement pursuant to that donation to the city. Mr. Stormberg stated that such a fund would be developed with an initial sum of 25K.

Motion was made and seconded to send the initiative for the memorial statue to the Common Council for approval (March 11 if possible). Passed unanimously to include only the statue , not re-naming any portion of the parkland.

Mayor Klein presented an update to the board on the Hillmoor acquisition, the process, and the Ad Hoc Committee's progress for the benefit of the new members of the board.

Adjournment