

Parks Advisory Board Minutes
MAY 23, 2022

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Parks Advisory Board of the City of Buffalo, Minnesota, held a regular meeting at Buffalo City Center on the 23rd day of May, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Heather Johnson, Dan Ackmann, Ryan Gustafson, Emily Schroeder, Sarina Siljander, Joe Volk and Mitchell Peterson, Jameson Wakefield (Council liaison); Absent: Martyn Dibben

Staff members present: Parks and Recreation Director Lee Ryan

Chairperson Ackmann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 25, 2022, MEETING

Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Volk seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Ryan stated we will be cancelling agenda #8 due to the absence of Kellie McConville.

OPEN FORUM

Resident Eric Zitzloff was present to recap waterball project request. He stated he could not fund, but could help with all install and design. Johnson asked if there were any others like it, and Zitzloff replied this would be the first. Discussion about where additional help could be found, safeguards, and equipment specifics. Location is to be determined, but Ryan stated West Pulaski Park would be a possible location to consider if a splash pad is planned there. Some discussion regarding exact cost. Was also brief discussion of fees and staffing. Zitzloff noted it is not expected this year. Could be planned and budgeted for future, adding kids and teens need something to do. Discussion ended with Zitzloff to return with levels of interest and better cost estimates.

DISCOVER OF ZEBRA MUSSELS IN LAKE PULASKI

Ryan reported that the DNR has classified Lake Pulaski as infected with Zebra Mussels due to pictures from a resident and divers of a small amount of Zebra Mussels found while putting a dock in.

More conversations are being had regarding how this affects pumping into Buffalo Lake.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF UPDATED TRAIL PLAN AT SERENITY HILLS PARK

Ryan showed board updated plans from the Buffalo Trail Builders which took concerns

from the last meeting. The new plan showed one single trail loop around the edges of the park property, and a walking trail through the park. Ryan noted the group proposed trail signs at the intersection of the two trails. Ryan noted this will be more for advance riders due to some uphill sections that will not be as fun for casual, or very young riders. Ryan replied to Johnson that almost all concerns we heard from residents were taken into consideration with the updated plan. Johnson made a motion to accept the plan and approve allowing the group to move ahead with construction of the trail. Schroeder seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

CONCEPT REVIEW OF BJORKLUND PROPERTY PARK DEDICATION

Ryan reviewed park dedication process, and how it can be rushed with short notice before final plat meetings. He stated the presented development concept (at the SE corner of Hwy 55 and Settler's Parkway) was given to him early in the planning process, so he wanted to discuss the parks and trails planning and give feedback to the developer.

The proposed development had an apartment building, and 86 single family units. This would equate to park dedication requirement of about 5 acres or \$325,000.

The concept plan showed a park property on the south side of the wetland area, between the homes and the apartment building. The also included a trail that meandered from the apartments in the NW corner of the property, through the park property, to the SE corner of the property to Bradshaw Avenue.

Ryan stated the park and greenspace requirement came up in earlier meeting of the Planning Commission as important in this area.

Ryan wanted confirmation that we would want more green space in this area due to the numbers and area it would serve. He proposed 2 acres minimum on the NE side of the property that could be doubled in size with future development to the East. We could keep the existing proposed park space, but credit is not given for wetland. Ryan proposed a trail along the main road way down to Bradshaw Avenue, in lieu of sidewalk requirement, so no park dedication credit is given. He proposes we also have a street side trail along Harvest Trail to connect existing neighborhood to the new park property. He added we would eliminate the trail on the Eastern side of the development running North-South, and add a grade-separated trail along Bradshaw for future connection along that road.

All were generally in agreement with this plan. Ryan will pass this on to the planning staff for future meetings with the developer.

UPDATES

Ryan presented a 2022 Concert in the Park Budget.

OTHER BUSINESS

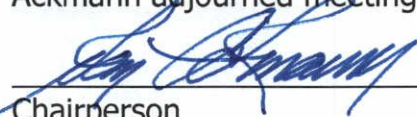
Johnson asked when community gardens will be tilled. Ryan was not sure.

Gustafson mentioned he just left Bentfield from a youth activity, and mentioned the parking was chaotic. Ryan mentioned work to be done on the lot, and dividers to be

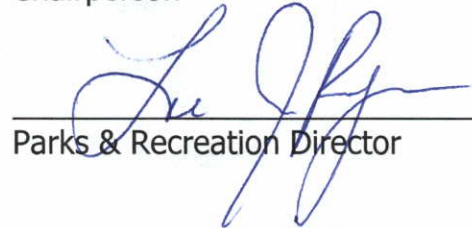
installed soon. Paving is on the wish list, but cost has been preventing it from getting done. We will keep this in our future plans.

ADJOURN

Ackmann adjourned meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.



Chairperson



Parks & Recreation Director