

Verges Park and Rec Board Minutes

July 22, 2021

3:30 pm at Verges Event Center

Members present: Sherri Hanson, Steph Hogan, Mike Dufrane, Paul Pinke

Members absent: Carol Albright, Julie Lammers, Maggie Puetz

Others present: Tony Sailer

Additions/corrections to agenda: Tree cutting at the park, Grills at Lions shelter, and Flag poles.

June minutes: There were no additions or corrections to June minutes. Sherri moved to approve minutes, Steph seconded and approved.

Budget: Julie Lammers had sent out a copy of the budget in the morning with an email stating where we were currently standing. She informed us that the Payroll is consistent with the budget. We have not used our engineering budget but with upcoming projects she sees a need for \$1000 to \$2000 being needing to be added to the budget. She sees that operating supplies will need to be increased to \$8000 in the future with the addition of Pickleball courts and park usage. Our telephone bill is a set amount at \$375 and the insurance dollars are as listed. We should be able to drop the license and permit costs to \$35. The costs of rubbish removal is increasing so budgeting will also need to be raised. It was suggested maybe we should look at different services. We were informed that Steve's does the garbage collection presently and works with the city. We also have to consider that we have between 20 and 30 porta pots at a cost of \$7000.

Because we have not had adequate time to study the budget it was proposed that we have a special one hour meeting on Wednesday, July 28th at 3:30. An invitation will be sent to Julie Lammers and Julie Bruan.

Wish list: Sherri asked about the water fountain at the park. The water fountain is currently not being used and has issues.

Bath house: There are numerous problems with the current bath house. To do the things that need to be done would cost about \$100,000. First of all there needs to be a new holding tank. Mike has checked several sources about putting in a lining in the current holding tank and was told that would not be possible. The current bath house was built in the 1960's. There are no flush toilets now and the toilets need what is call a muffin monster to take care of the stuff put down the toilet. Another option might be a stopper but Mike does not feel that would solve the problems. There are lights presently in the bath house. One idea is to cement over the holding tank and move the bath house to a new location. There is already a sewer line across the road from the park and it would seem that we could connect to that line. Mike says the Engineers ideas for the bath house unrealistic.

Needle disposal containers: Mike says that they are finding needles at the park which are not being disposed of correctly. They would like to see disposal containers available.

Swim beach: The buoys have arrived but they have not received the buoy rope. Mike would like to get 2 more buoys for next year. We now have a foundation for designated swimming area although getting it

done may not happen till next year. The ski show people want to be sure they could move the buoys for the show. No problem.

Weed removal: Mike is aware the poison used for weed removal is not working well this year. He tries to limit the poison use.

Drain at the Beach is working.

Baseball fields: Question raised as to who is in charge of the baseball fields. Mike said the city does the mowing and Jerry Johnson does the grooming. The baseball teams are in charge of the chalking. Julie B. is concerned with the condition of the field. The dugouts need repairs but this requires both time and money. The roof at the field will be reshingled this fall when the weather is cooler. They will retin over the dugout. Sherri suggested maybe the baseball team needs to do a fund raiser. Tony said that in Brainerd youth games are free but adult teams need to pay \$50 per game. Here the use of the field is free and comes with no responsibility. The baseball team is doing the bean bag tournament at Loony Days. Logan and Keith Bunkowski are associated with the team here. Sherri believes there should be a meeting with team members to encourage communication but also increase user responsibility.

Mike wanted us to know that watering the field will increase the water bill a lot. It used to be that they would use backwash water to water but they can no longer do that.

Loony Day volunteers: There was some back and forth discussion regarding a park board raffle. It is too late to pursue that idea this year. We will pass the hat between the water ski show and show on Friday night and before the water ski show on Saturday. Tony volunteered for both nights. Steph will not be here. Sherri will send an email requesting volunteers.

Flag poles at Cheryl's garden: The flag poles will be removed. There will be flag poles at the proposed Veterans Memorial Park. Glawe family gave the park to the city.

Strand tree will be planted this fall.

Isaac Ratz bid for planter was accepted and approved by the council. Isaac can start next week. Hopefully finished by Loony Days. The city guys will water.

Hours at Long Lake Park: Park will not close. Motion made by Mike and seconded by Sherri. There is a vehicle sound ordinance in town. If there is a problem call the sheriff. Verges has no law enforcement personnel.

Signage for the wheelers: There is need for signage reminding 4 wheelers to stay off yards etc.

Don Snyder had attended last month's meeting and he was unhappy to see he had not had the opportunity to address the board about his groups request to put rod holders on the pier for handicapped. He had not made a request to address the board and the board was not aware of his request. Mike said there are already rod holders on the pier. The pier is DNR pier which they gave the city but DNR works with city. The pier is Quickschriber pier. Sherri is going to email Mr Snyder and tell him to come up with a plan, get on the agenda and present it to the board.

New grills: Mike said the grill by the Lions shelter rusted and fell a part. Mike having trouble visualizing on line at cost of \$289 but it looked cheap and doesn't want to get a cheap one. Tony connected with

place he knew and they were under 200 with longer warranty. We will get two. One for shelter and one up by benches and picnic table on the trail.

Long Lake Lake Association request for removal of tree at Long Lake park: There is some hesitancy to remove the tree. There will be lack of shade and question of the bank. Lake Association would handle the removal. Paul made motion to remove tree and Sherri seconded. The request will be forwarded to council.

Meeting adjourned.

Special meeting Wednesday 7/28 at 3:30.

Regular meeting 8/22 at 3:30.