

4.27.2023 DRAFT Minutes Vergas Parks & Rec Advisory Board

1. **Members Present:** Carol Albright, Sherrie Hanson, Steph Hogan, Maggie Puetz, Julie Lammers, Tony Sailer, Julie Lammers, Dean Haarstick, Matt Engebretson.
2. **Others Present:** Janelle Lotzer and Mary Ditterich (Lions), Lin Peterson (North Star Ski Show Team), and Jillian Reiner (Widseth).
3. **Additions/Corrections to Agenda:** Lions Request added.
4. **March Minutes:** motion by Hogan, second by Sailer to approve March minutes; passed.
5. **Trail Fence:** no date set by Eastman Fence yet. **Sailer will line up volunteers to help City workers tear down fence.** City has chain saws and may use tractor, as well.
6. **Lions Request:** Lotzer and Ditterich asked to move their Little Free Library to Long Lake Park near the Lions shelter by the swingset. **Approved by consensus.**
They also want to purchase picnic tables (steel frame and composite material) to place in that shelter. The tables will be anchored with chains. They will let us know how many they plan to donate. **A motion by Sailer, second by Hogan to recommend the Lions donation of picnic tables be accepted. Hanson will take it to the Council.**
7. **Waterski Team clean-up of brush:** Peterson asked when can they clean the brush, small trees, and sumac at Long Lake Park. The view needs to be cleared on the lakeside of the first parking lot, so the Team has easy access to their dock and so people can watch the practices and shows. No trees greater than four inches in diameter will be cut down. No chemicals will be used. Peterson shared “before” and “after” photos of the site-line.
Engebretson will set up a trailer for workers to pile the brush on and haul it to the City Compost Pile. He will let Board members know the date and time for the clean-up. Motion by Hanson, second by Hogan to approve the brush clearing by the Ski Team. City Council approved the brush clearing at the February 15 meeting according to Lammers.
8. **Reiner from Widseth Engineering presented preliminary drawings of the Long Lake Park renovation.** Two concepts were discussed. The following comments were made:
Not in favor of parking on lake side of driveway.
Likes playground moved to beach area. Can it be moved according to grant that was used?
Can we add a “natural” playground?
Plant natural grasses/flowers to minimize mowing.
Can we improve/increase parking spaces at the entrance to Tin Can Alley?
Can we make the sand beach wheel chair accessible?
Is there really enough space for an amphitheater?
Reiner will send a summary of our discussion to Lammers. She will meet with OTC Engineer to ask about the possibility of one-way traffic at the park; then combine both concepts to discuss. Cost will likely be included with the next drawing.
9. **EOT SWCD Erosion Planting Project:** Lammers has contacted them but has no response yet. It appears no volunteers will be needed for planting because the seeds are in the mat.
However, City workers will need to water the plants weekly.
10. **Bathhouse at Long Lake Park:** Dennis Pausch volunteered to paint the interior and some exterior spots; plus clean it weekly. City workers will continue to inspect and clean as they have done in the past. He has electric hand dryers to donate but the voltage is not correct there. He will be considered an “independent contractor”. **A motion by Puetz, second by Hanson passed to recommend a written agreement be made with Pausch in which he cannot exceed \$300 for materials purchase.**
11. **WIC Apple Trees:** The trees donated by WIC will be planted in May by City workers. Trees are to be purchased at Crossroads Garden Center in Vergas and planted at Tin Can Alley.

Haarstick volunteered to help.

12. Matt's Update:

Motion by Hanson, second by Hogan passed to recommend Lammers and Kyle Thiesen work with the veterans to install a new flag system at the loon. Boardwalk barriers will be removed when road restrictions are lifted.

Boardwalk has several loose boards to secure.

Resolution to accept the donation of a new basketball hoop with a motion by Hanson, second by Puetz. The base needs to be filled with concrete, then the hoop can be placed opposite the old hoop.

Spring Park Clean-Up: Lammers will let Engebretson know when FHS students will arrive in Vergas on May 3 to do volunteer clean-up. One job for them is to rake the beach area at Long Lake Park.

13. Heartland Trail Plans: update from Hogan. The Trail will connect Frazee and Vergas via Wymer Lake, the bird sanctuary, Hobart Town Hall, and Highway #60 to Tin Can Alley, where there will be a trail head established at the Boardwalk. Eventually, all state parks in Minnesota will be connected by the same trail system. A public information meeting will be held on May 18 at the Event Center.

14. A Vergas Loons Baseball Schedule 2023 was secured from Ryan Aarhus by Albright. Lammers posted it on the City website. **Albright will send Aarhus' contact information to Lammers so she can make an agreement with the Vergas Loons similar to the one with FHS baseball teams.**

15. Budget: consensus reached to add memorial gifts to the general park budget then to the Park's money market if unused at the end of the year.

16. Swimming Lessons will be July 10-22; and are free again this year. Register with Frazee Community Education.

17. Puetz agreed to ask Engebretson to provide an ash bucket near the new grill at Long Lake Park. People have been leaving ashes on the grass or in the lake.

18. 3-D Loons Fundraiser was briefly discussed then tabled until the May meeting. We will bring ideas to the next meeting. People could buy a ticket then buy a blank loon to paint at the event or bid silently on loons that are already painted. More ideas to follow.

19. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Vergas Event Center.

Items to be approved by the City Council:

- 1. Agreement with Pausch to not exceed \$300 in supplies for the bath house painting project.**
- 2. Recommendation to accept the Lions' donation of picnic tables for Long Lake Park.**
- 3. Resolution for basketball hoops.**
- 4. Replace flag and pole in the park.**
- 5.**

Follow-Up

Action:

- 1. Sailer will get volunteers to help City workers tear down Trail fence.**
- 2. Lions need to let Parks Board how many picnic tables they are donating.**
- 3. Engebretson will set up a trailer for brush when the Ski Team clears the site-line to the lake. He will haul away the brush.**
- 4. Engebretson will let Parks Board members know what date the brush clearing will take place.**
- 5. Reiner will send a summary of our discussion to Lammers who will share it with the Parks Board.**
- 6. Mike DuFrane and Matt Engebretson will need to water the erosion control plants**

- at Tin Can on a weekly basis.
7. City workers and Dean Haarstick will plant the WIC apple trees.
 8. Lammers and Thiesen will coordinate the installation of a new flag system at the loon statue.
 9. Lammers will let Engebretson know what time FHS students will be in Vergas for the Spring Clean-Up at the beach.
 10. Boardwalk Barriers need to be removed.
 11. Loose boards on the Boardwalk need to be nailed down.
 12. City workers need to install the new basketball hoop.
 13. Albright should send Aarhus' contact information to Lammers.
 14. Lammers should secure an agreement with the Vergas Loons baseball team.
 15. Puetz will ask Engebretson to place a bucket for ashes next to the new grill at Long Lake Park.
 16. Everyone will think about ideas for the Parks Fundraiser w/Loons!

Minutes prepared by Carol Albright