

Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom by Village Trustee and Chair Carolyn Clow. Roll call: Clow, Clair Utter, John Feldner, Sarah Kuba, David Wilson, Chuck Rolfsmeyer, Darrell Waldera, Katharine Pease, Andy Jakubowski. Absent: Rick Ruecking, Dan Kolk.

Staff present: Jim Hessling, Public Works Director; Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent; and Phil McDade, Public Works staff.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES. None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

a. Discussion and action regarding the minutes from the meeting held on May 28, 2020. Clow motioned, Jakubowski seconded, to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2020 meeting. Motion passed 9-0-0.

4. BUSINESS

a. Discussion and recommendation to the Village Board on a site plan application by the McFarland Soccer Club for the addition of a fundraising brick patio around the existing outdoor patio at the soccer building located at William McFarland Park. Larson discussed with the committee a proposal by the McFarland Soccer Club to build a 10-foot-by-13-foot patio adjacent to the shelter at William McFarland Park to help raise money for the club through the sale of patio bricks. Larson said the club has agreed to oversee maintenance of the patio. Pease moved, Kuba seconded, to recommend to the Village Board approval of the site plan application by the McFarland Soccer Club for the addition of a fundraising brick patio around the existing outdoor patio at the soccer building located at William McFarland Park including Larson's conditions. Motion passed 9-0-0.

b. Update and discussion regarding Parks Master Planning at William McFarland Park and the future Community Park. Blake Theisen of Parkitecture + Planning reviewed with the committee initial planning assessments of William McFarland Park and a future Community Park at 3234 County Highway AB, which was recently annexed into the village. William McFarland Park is home to two ice arenas, several soccer fields, a baseball diamond, a skate-park, and bocce ball courts, making it one of the most diversely used parks in the village, Theisen said. Both indoor ice rink buildings – the McFarland Ice Arena and the Madison Curling Club – want to expand their facilities, he said. The proposed Community Park includes 26 acres of land (compared to 20 acres for William McFarland Park), and includes a stand of oak trees in the southwestern corner of the lot. The proposed Community Park provides regional access via County Highway AB, but it lacks municipal utility infrastructure such as water and sewer systems, Theisen said. The committee did not take action on the agenda item.

c. Update and discussion regarding the planning project to develop a special needs park. Hessling discussed preliminary planning for a special needs park with the committee. Possible sites for the park could be: Cedar Ridge Park; Highland Oaks Park; and the new Community Park at 3234 County Highway AB. Committee members discussed their desire to see parks in the village have areas and equipment

accessible to those with special needs. The PRNR committee was in agreement that a mixture of a traditional style and a nature based style playground set up would be the best option. Village staff have also been working with core group regarding special needs populations and their recreational needs. The committee did not take action on the agenda item.

d. Discussion and update regarding the bid openings for the construction of park facilities at the Dog Park (new shelter) and McDaniel Park (concession addition/bathroom renovation, open air shelter).

Clow gave an update to the committee on the bid deadline extension. Several contractors asked that we extend the timeline for which bids are due. The bid deadline was extended to June 26 as to give contractors more time to bid the job. The previous timeline was tight and by extending the deadline it is our hope to get more bids and increased competition.

e. Discussion and action to set the final schedule for bid opening and award of contract for park facility projects. Clow said she asked that this item come before the committee, as bid openings for the Dog Park shelter and McDaniel Park additions and renovations were extended to June 26, and thus will occur after the June committee meeting but prior to the committee's July meeting. Clow said she was seeking direction from the committee on whether it wanted to review the bids prior to its July meeting. Jakubowski and Waldera said they did not have objections to the bids being opened without review from the committee. Clow motioned, Feldner seconded, to waive committee review of the bid openings for construction of park facilities at the Dog Park (new shelter) and McDaniel Park (concession addition/bathroom renovation, open air shelter) on the condition the bids were within budget and in accordance with the bid specifications, otherwise they would come back to committee for discussion and direction. Motion passed 9-0-0.

f. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the creation of a Vegetation Management Use Policy as Chapter 3 of the Park System Policy Manual. Larson discussed changes in the vegetation management use policy with the committee, and said he had changed terminology in the policy from weed pressure to density. The policy defines areas of public village land that would be subject to pesticide applications and/or fertilizer use. Utter asked that wording pertaining to public works be changed to village in certain areas of the document. Committee was agreeable to this. Clow motioned, Utter seconded, to recommend to the Village Board creation of a Vegetation Management Use Policy as Chapter 3 of the Park System Policy Manual with language changes submitted by Utter. Motion passed 9-0-0.

g.. Presentation of the Parks Superintendent monthly report. Larson presented information regarding preparations by Public Works staff to re-open village playgrounds, plans for re-opening the village park reservation system, and the McFarland Black Lives Matter gathering at Arnold Larson Park.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT Utter moved, Jakubowski seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 9-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.