

Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL. Meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. in the Community Room of the McFarland Municipal Center by Village Trustee and Vice Chair Clair Utter. Roll call: Utter, Chuck Rolfsmeyer, Katharine Pease, David Wilson, Andy Jakubowski, Dan Kolk (6:42 p.m.), Darrell Waldera (6:59 p.m.).

Members absent: John Feldner, Sarah Kuba, Rick Ruecking.

Staff present: Jim Hessling, Director of Public Works; Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator; Andrew Bremer, Community Development Director; Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent; 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 October 17, 2019.

Rolfsmeyer motioned, Pease seconded, to approve the minutes of the Oct. 17, 2019 meeting. Motion passed 6-0-0.

4. BUSINESS

a. Discussion and action regarding the draft Park Impact Fee Study. Bremer reviewed the proposed fees with the committee. The village collects the park impact fees at the time it issues building permits; the fees have remained the same since 2004. The village uses the fees for park improvements. Jakubowski questioned a proposed reduction in the Fees in Lieu of Land Dedication, and after discussion, Kolk said the consensus of the committee was to leave the Fees in Lieu of Land Dedication the same and not reduced. Kolk asked that the committee postpone its final recommendation on the fee study until its January meeting.

e. Discussion and action regarding request from the softball association on possible Village financial assistance in the replacement of scoreboards at Brandt Park. Eric Snyder of the McFarland Softball Association said his group and other associated softball groups would be willing to pay half of the proposed cost of the scoreboard and related equipment replacement. That contribution would be \$4,850, with the total estimated cost of the project being \$9,700. Kolk motioned, Rolfsmeyer seconded, to accept the MSA contribution of \$4,850 for its share of the scoreboard replacement cost. Motion passed 7-0-0.

b. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding a proposal for woodland clearing at Urso/Schuetz Park. The committee discussed three bids for clearing, with the lowest proposal coming from Moll Construction at \$38,240. Two other proposals were \$88,050 (Barnes) and \$93,500 (MZ Construction). Moll had done previous clearing work for the village at Urso/Schuetz Park. Kolk motioned, Utter seconded, to accept the proposal of \$38,240 for woodland clearing from Moll Construction. Motion passed 7-0-0.

c. Discussion and action to authorize a question on Polco to get feedback on playground equipment development/replacement in 2020. The committee discussed authorizing a Polco question for playground equipment replacement at four parks: Cedar Ridge, Highland Oaks, Ridgeview Totlot, and Woodland Estates. After committee discussion, Schuenke said village staff could assess and inventory the park equipment and come back with a recommendation regarding the highest needs for the parks.

d. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the recreation of a Parks and Recreation Facility Use Policy as Chapter 2 of the Park System Policy Manual. Schuenke said he shared a draft policy regarding park reservations and utilization with major user groups, including softball, school district and soccer groups. Schuenke said significant feedback from the McFarland Soccer Club prompted him to ask the committee to hold off on making a recommendation on the policy until the village had more time for in-depth discussions of the policy changes.

e. Discussion regarding continued planning as recommended with the Aquatics Feasability Study. The committee continued its discussions of the aquatics study, focusing on a consultant's study that outlined several options: a splash pad of some kind, enhanced beach areas at McDaniel Park, and a neighborhood pool. Committee discussion suggested eliminating from consideration a hybrid model, based on a facility at Blue Mound State Park, that included a small splash pad and pool of under 2,000 square feet that does not require lifeguard staffing. The committee discussed improvements of the McDaniel Park beach, and the merits of a splash pad vs. a neighborhood pool, as well as structural and operational costs of each option. Kolk urged the committee to be prepared to make a recommendation to the Village Board, perhaps as early as its January 2020 meeting.

g. Presentation of the Public Works Monthly Report from the Director. Hessling provided an update on public works activities in the village for the months of October, November and December, 2019. Larson provided an update on park-related activities during the fall months of 2019.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE

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

6. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Utter, seconded by Rolfsmeyer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 7-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.