

**MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Archer, Kennedy, Lombardi, Nasvik, Peterson, Swisher; Town Board Liaison: Ruzek; Public Works Director: Reed; Planner: Riedesel; Township Day Coordinator: Deb Stender.

Absent: Lee with notice.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions / Deletions): Nasvik moved approval of the agenda as submitted. Kennedy seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2015 MINUTES: Swisher moved approval of the November 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Nasvik seconded. Ayes all.

EAGLE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING – RECEIVE COMMENTS: The Planner reported that improvements to Eagle Park are budgeted at \$85,000. Eagle Park has several amenities including a small playground, two tennis courts, a picnic shelter, and a skating rink. Planned improvements include replacing the roof of the picnic shelter and resurfacing of the tennis courts. The tennis courts were last resurfaced in 2010. Substantial improvements to the shelter have not been made since its original construction. The Eagle Park playground was improved with some new equipment approximately 20 years ago. The existing playground equipment should be replaced. Staff estimates that the refurbishing of the tennis courts will cost approximately \$10,000. Replacement of the shelter roof which would include removal of the asphalt shingles and replacement with a steel roof is estimated to cost \$5,000. This price includes adding bracing to the structure. Those cost estimates are based on tennis court repairs and a shelter re-roof completed in 2015. It is recommended that the playground be removed and replaced with new equipment, new surfacing (wood fiber), concrete borders and a handicapped accessible sidewalk to the park amenities. The existing playground could be refurbished, but it is not recommended by staff. Concrete curb around the perimeter of the playground has been the Town standard for several years. The existing playground is approximately 4,600 square feet in area and would have approximately 300 lineal feet of 6/12 curbing estimated to cost \$7,500. Approximately 300 lineal feet of sidewalk (5' wide) would be needed to connect the street to the playground, tennis courts and picnic shelter. The estimated cost of the sidewalk is approximately \$8,400. If these

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improvements are planned the remaining budget is approximately \$54,000. This dollar amount could be used for replacement of the playground, and should include the equipment, removal of the existing equipment, installation of the new equipment, and wood fiber surfacing.

Eric, Irene and Julia Bakke, 1309 Stuart Avenue, stated that they would like to see a climbing rock with soft bedding. The Planner stated that the Town uses woodchip surfacing. Mr. Bakke stated that there are no restrooms in the parks. The Planner reported that porta-potties are placed in parks where there are ballfields or other programmed facilities. Nasvik asked if any of the equipment could be rehabbed. The Planner stated that the equipment supplier offers refurbishment of the steel poles but not the other equipment. Ruzek asked if the fountains are used. Irene and Julia Bakke stated that they are. The Planner reported that the Town has been removing the fountains in the parks and not replacing them as they wear out. It was noted that most people bring their own bottled water.

Irene Bakke, 8 years old, stated that they would like the tennis courts to remain. She asked if they could spray for weeds. The Planner reported that spraying for weeds is limited to athletic fields. However, the Town will deal with noxious weeds like thistles. Irene Bakke reported that the benches are bent. The Planner reported that they will be replaced. Irene Bakke asked if there could be step-up stools. Irene Bakke stated that they would like to have a jungle gym and a trail for riding bikes. She asked if the playground could be expanded.

Julia Bakke, 8 years old, stated that she would like to see the tennis courts remain and the water fountain improved. She asked if they could expand the playground into the back area, add climbing areas, have one or two climbing walls. Eric Bakke stated that they prefer not to have a basketball hoop as has been requested by a resident. He stated that people play plat at night. He stated that he agrees with his daughters, Julia and Irene, that the benches need to be fixed, add the play equipment that the kids refer to as step up stools, and to keep the tennis courts. The Planner provided playground equipment catalogues to Eric Bakke and his daughters to take home and review with the neighbors to identify what kind of playground equipment they would like to have in Eagle Park. They will provide their information to the Planner.

It was noted that a basketball hoop was located in the tennis court area at one time but was removed at the request of several neighbors.

TOWNSHIP DAY: **Bands:** Deb Stender reviewed a list of bands from which to select two bands for Township Day. It was the consensus to have an opening band and a headliner band. After review and discussion it was the consensus that Deb Stender contact the following bands to see if they would be available: Headliner: 2 Girls and A Boyd (includes Mary Jane Alm); Opening Band: Doug Collins and the Receptionists. **Intermission:** White Bear Dance, Tamarack, Lakeshore Players, White Bear Drum Line, High School Jazz Group, Karate Demo, Bear Power. **Sound:** It was the consensus that Metropolitan Entertainment be hired again for sound. **Tents:** Deb Stender has contacted a few places. It was the consensus that the tents provided last year worked well. Deb

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will follow up. She will also follow up on tent walls. **Service Members:** There was discussion regarding recognizing service members. This needs to be promoted. **Bleachers:** These worked out well and will be provided again this year.

Ruzek reported that the EDAB discussed the Township Day event. He noted that they have provided funding for the event for the past eight years and had questions: 1) if it was serving a benefit for economic development of the community, and 2) why do we want to have the event. It was the consensus that the Park Board work with the EDAB on sponsorships for various features of the event, such as the fireworks, etc. The EDAB would be the proper conduit to do this. Nasvik noted that the goal is to have the event self-funded. He stated that working with the EDAB on sponsorships would anchor the project.

Nasvik moved to recommend to the Town Board that a bi-annual joint meeting with the EDAB and Park Board be established, the first being no later than April to focus on Township Day, Polar Lakes Park, and the Town Hall regarding sponsorships and program possibilities. Peterson seconded. Ayes all.

2016 PARK/TRAIL PROJECTS PLANNED: The Planner reported that the 2016 budget has been approved. He reviewed the list of planned park/trail projects planned for 2016 as follows:

- Longville Park tennis court reconstruction
- Glider/Deer Meadow Parks: Portland Avenue crosswalk (Ramsey County)
- Handicapped accessibility improvements to Eagle, Walhof, and Four Seasons Parks;
- Eagle Park rejuvenation
- Refuse & recycling container replacement
- Replacement of several park signs.
- Northeast area trail (Stoddard property)

Polar Lakes Park:

- Town Hall. (The WBA Historical Society has received \$30,000 in contributions and sponsorships for the Town Hall.)
- Ballfields #2 and #4 renovations
- Concrete area in front of the stage (will need engineering help) and improvement to the round-about. (It was noted that local Garden Clubs may be interested in helping. Public Works will also assist. It was suggested that the Eagle Scouts be contacted to see if they could make a project for fixing up the flag pole area.
- Other projects as recommended and approved.

BUDGET: The Planner reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan 2016 through 2020 which identifies projects, priority rating and funding required for those projects.

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PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Director reviewed the November and December Public Works Department activity. Park Projects include: **Glider and Deer Meadows Parks:** Turf restoration work is completed. **Polar Lakes Park:** Baseball field improvements include: 1) sod has been replaced; pitching mounds have been rebuilt; and the raised edge between the outfield grass and the agrime infield has been removed. The fields are now ready for the spring of 2016 season. **Other:** removed tennis court nets; installed park signs at Four Seasons Park, Walhof Park, Meadowlands Park, and Longville Park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan J. Clemens
Recording Secretary