

**MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2016**

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

Present: Archer, Kennedy, Lee, Lombardi, Nasvik, Peterson, Swisher; Town Board Liaison: Ruzek; Public Works Director: Reed; Planner: Riedesel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions / Deletions): Peterson moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 21, 2016 MINUTES: Lee moved approval of the January 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Peterson seconded. Ayes all.

EAGLE PARK UPGRADE- REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: The Planner reviewed the Invitation to Bid for upgrades to Eagle Park. The project being considered by the Park Board includes:

- Removing existing borders, sand, and wood fiber in a 5,000 square foot area.
- Removing the following existing play structures: one spring rider, backhoe, merry-go-round, swing set, multi-use structure and bench.
- Disposal of existing sand, borders, fiber and playground equipment
- Install concrete curbing 8" x 12" stand up around the perimeter of the new playground – define quantity and price per foot
- Provide and install 200 cubic yards engineered wood fiber
- Provide and install playground equipment
 - ✓ All playground structures must fit within an area 45' x 120'
 - ✓ Benches will be installed outside the playground area
 - ✓ The following playground equipment has been identified by the neighborhood as a preference:

GameTime Company:

- Fieldstone multi-use structure
- Watersport multi-use structure
- Elkmont multi structure

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- Discovery Path multi-use structure
- Pinewood multi-use structure
- Scotsridge multi-use structure
- Windward multi-use structure
- Climbers Challenge multi-use structure
- Antero multi-use structure

Freestanding Pieces

- Seesaw
 - Skyrunner
 - Miniature Whirl
 - Toadstool Seat
 - Rocketship
 - Large Tree – tree climber and other pieces from page 137 of the GameTime catalog.
- ✓ Climbing Structures
- ✓ Landscape Structures Company
- Swayfund Glider
 - Rolling Slide
 - Hang Glider
 - Firepole
 - Long Slide
 - Chimney Climb Across
 - Circular Horizontal Ladder
 - Wavenet
 - Ring Pull
 - Swingout
 - Triple Ring Fling
 - Spring Across Bridges
 - Talktubes
 - Logroll
- ✓ Freestanding Pieces; Rollertable
- ✓ Little Tikes Commercial Company
- Nu-Edge XTower Plus additional multi-use structure components

Provide 5' wide, 4" thick, concrete sidewalk between Township Drive, the playground, tennis courts and picnic shelter. Approximately 500 lineal feet of sidewalk. Describe quantity of concrete and cost per square foot.

Provide and install two surface mount benches on 4' x 6' x 4" concrete slabs – slabs must be provided.

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The bidder may use any or all of the three equipment suppliers listed or other commercial grade equipment using pieces similar to those listed above.

The playground equipment proposal shall not exceed a cost of \$50,000.00 (this amount may change).

The Planner reported that \$5,000 - \$10,000 could be added. It was the consensus to stay with a budget of \$50,000 for now, but to add three adult pieces to the list. Ruzek asked Nasvik if the adult equipment at Deer Meadow Park is used. Nasvik stated that it is used. The weight related pieces for arm and leg workout are the most popular. It was noted that when parents take their kids to the park they can use the adult equipment while waiting.

There was also discussion regarding the use of themed playground equipment. There appears to be a large enough budget. The Park Board would like to use themed playground proposals as an encouraged bid option.

The Planner will come back with a modified bid proposal for review at the March meeting.

COLUMBIA PARK – WATER PROJECT: The Planner reported that VLAWMO is proposing to place a wetland treatment system in Columbia Park at the far south end west of Whitaker Pond on the upland portion of the park where a picnic shelter once stood. This area is isolated and no structures are planned in this portion of the park. The Town does currently mow the area. Nasvik asked if there would be any health hazard.

Stephanie McNamara, Administrator, and Brian Corcoran, Project Manager, VLAWMO, attended the meeting to review the pilot bacteria treatment system for urban impaired waters. Brian Corcoran reported that over 500 water bodies in Minnesota are impaired due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. The proposed project focuses on an urban creek and its subwatershed that drains into Vadnais Lake, the drinking water reservoir for the St. Paul Regional Water Service for over 400,000 consumers. VLAWMO has a strong partnership with the St. Paul Regional Water Service as well as local municipalities. The Surface Water Bacterial Treatment System Pilot Project proposed a simple but innovative approach to reducing bacteria levels in both urban and rural settings. DNA source monitoring of bacteria is in its second year. Brian Corcoran described how the system works. Using a solar pump, water would be conveyed from Whitaker Pond which frequently exceeds State standards for bacteria to 3 different experimental wetland cells for treatment. Nutrient and bacteria laden water would enter the lined bottom of the subsurface constructed wetland, filling gravel and sand layers and then entering a layer of sorptive materials that have been shown to reduce bacteria. A top layer of planting medium and deep rooted native plants would help draw the water through the system. Water is designed to move upward in the wetland as processed.

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Different combinations of sorptive materials as well as targeted wetland plant species in the three wetland cells will be monitored for effectiveness in removing bacteria and nutrients, both entering and leaving the treatment cells. A report will be made available for review. The project will be done through grant funding and VLAWMO is only obligated to 2020. Both DNR and U of M research will tell how effective the project is. Nasvik asked if they need a permit from the Township. Only a grading permit would be necessary. No Township funds are being asked for. It was the consensus that the project seems worthwhile. It was noted that approval should be conditioned upon the Township having no maintenance responsibility.

Nasvik asked if there would be any health hazard. It was reported that no chemicals are used and it is only water that is pushed through it.

Nasvik moved to recommend to the Town Board that the Columbia Park Water Project be approved subject to the Township having no responsibility for maintenance of the system. Swisher seconded. Ayes all.

TOWNSHIP DAY – ON-GOING DISCUSSIONS: The Planner reported that the Town Board approved the Park Board’s recommendations for the two bands and the sound and lights by Metropaulitan. Doug Collins and the Receptionists at a cost of \$700.00; 2 Girls and a Boyd at \$800.00; and the sounds and lights by Metropaulitan at \$1,000.00. Total cost for entertainment is \$2,500.

The Planner reviewed the proposals for tents for Township Day as provided by the Township Day Coordinator. The proposal from Ultimate Events, Complete Tent and Party Rentals provided a proposal for \$1,252.66 for a stage tent with no sidewalls and a proposal for \$1,408.59 with sidewalls. Ultimate Events will set up earlier and take down later. Midwest Party Rentals provided a proposal for \$900.00 for a tent with no sides and \$1,044 for a tent with sides. It was the consensus to go with Midwest Party Rentals for a tent with sides.

Peterson moved to recommend to the Town Board to authorize rental of tent structure with sides from Midwest Party Rentals at a cost of \$1,044. Nasvik seconded. Ayes all.

It was noted that there will be a joint EDAB and Park Board meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 to discuss Township Day and the Town Hall.

BELLAIRE BEACH – LIFEGUARD CONTRACT: The Planner reviewed the two year contract submitted by the YMCA for lifeguard services at a cost of \$18,000.00 which is a 2% increase. He reviewed primary changes to the contract as follows:

1. Schedule: Weekends seem staggered a bit funny this year. They are proposing waiting a little longer than usual to open so that the water is warm enough, and then staying open a little longer than usual in August.

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2. Increases to the minimum wage and other factors have driven up costs for the Y. In 2015, the Town paid about \$16,500. They are proposing a fee of \$18,000 for this summer.

The Y will provide lifeguarding services from Memorial Day weekend, May 28, 2016 to Labor Day, September 5, 2016. Lifeguards will be provided on weekends only from May 28, including Monday, May 30, until June 19. Lifeguards will be provided seven days per week from June 20 through August 21. Lifeguards will be provided weekends only from August 22 through Labor Day, including Monday, September 5, 2016.

A question was asked if the City should be asked for involvement since the Ramsey County beach is closed. The Public Works Director will contact the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department regarding funding assistance for lifeguard services at Bellaire Beach.

Lombard moved to recommend to the Town Board to approve the Bellaire Beach lifeguard contract for two years as outlined in Shane Hofer email dated January 28, 2016. Swisher seconded. Ayes all.

POLAR LAKES PARK – MISSION STATEMENT: The Park Board Mission statement was reviewed. The Mission Statement, adopted on May 20, 1996 is as follows: “To advise the Town Board on acquisition, development and re-development of existing and future park properties and trail corridors within the Town of White Bear according to the policies, plans and guidelines established by the Comprehensive Plan. The Planner will review the Mission Statement and come back with any changes.

Loucks Proposal: The professional services for the flagpole planting plan from Loucks was reviewed. The scope of services includes a Planting Design (Prepare a planting plan and specifications for the raised flagpole planting bed at Polar Lakes Park.) Additional services can be provided for the Township including attending meetings, on-site planting or layout coordination or any other additional services that are needed. The services may be provided at standard hourly rates or on an agreed upon lump sum fee. Compensation would be at an average rate of \$120 hour, not to exceed 8 hours.

Peterson moved to recommend to the Town Board to approve the Proposal from Loucks for flagpole planting plan for Polar Lakes Park, including the planter area by the flagpole. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF POLAR LAKES PARK: Staff was asked to rate recommended priorities to save as much as possible for larger future projects and to continue to invest in maintenance of this 15 year old park. Those parts of the park which are used the heaviest and most regularly should also be given priority. Staff would prioritize the list as follows:

1. Refurbish planter
2. Refurbish and modify ballfields 2 & 4

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3. Fix ballfield / parking lot roundabout	\$ 4,000
4. Stage area drainage improvements	\$ 7,000
5. Parking lot expansion	\$ 95,000 (\$18,000 curb only)
6. Restrooms – review options & select locations	
7. Landscaping – trees	
a. Amphitheatre	\$ 19,000
b. Miscellaneous	\$ 5,000
8. Additional playground structure	\$ 25,000
9. Replace playground equipment	\$250,000
10. Scoreboard for Ballfield #3	\$ 15,000
11. Town Hall upgrades	

The following items would be a lower priority but would rate higher on the list as the use or requested use becomes greater. They include:

- Restroom additions onto soccer/ballfield shelters (if a central park location is not selected)
- Bandshell construction
- Perimeter trail
- Plaza construction (ballfields)
- Protection netting

Additional projects would be rated lower or non-rated on the staff list:

- Additional ballfield lighting
- Grandstand
- Ballfield modifications (to convert field #2 to a “full-sized” baseball field)
- Additional bleachers
- Additional Grandstands
- Additional security cameras

The Planner reviewed information regarding White Bear Area Baseball fields. Fields #2 and #4 have 75’ and 90’ base paths and 54’ and 60’6” pitching distances. Options for these ballfields include:

Option 1. Convert Township fields #2 & #4 to intermediate (75’) fields. This option would serve teams in the 13U and 12U divisions. Together with the two intermediate 75’ Babe Ruth fields, there would be a total of four intermediate 75’ fields serving a five year average of 6.6 teams in the 13U and 12U divisions or eight teams.

Option 2. Convert Field #4 to an intermediate 75’ field. This option would serve teams in the 13U and 12U divisions. Together with the 2 intermediate 75’ Babe Ruth fields,

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there would be a total of 3 intermediate 75' fields serving a five year average of 6.6 teams in the 13U and 12U divisions or eight teams.

Option 2B. Convert field #2 to a regulation 90' field. This option would serve all teams from divisions 14U through 17U-19U as well as Town Ball teams. The North Campus field serves a five year average of 10.8 teams or eleven teams. The Township #1 and Township #3 serve a five year average of 9.8 teams or 10 teams in 2015. In addition there are 2 other regulation fields. The Kohler Meadows Field is partially programmed at 57% and the regulation Babe Ruth Field. These 2 fields have served a five year average of 7.8 teams in the 14U through 17-19 divisions of 8 teams in 2015.

Proposed Improvements to Township Field #4 include:

Home Plate

- Shift home plate
- Current dimension from backstop is 47'
- Proposed dimension from backstop is 35'

Pitcher's Mound

- Build a pitcher's mound / pitching rubber at 54'

Infield

- Grass infield /base paths – 75'
- Install irrigation and drainage

Outfield

- Shift foul poles to 11.67' feet from side fences

	LF	CF	RF
Current dimensions	300'	300'	300'
Proposed dimensions	308	312'	308'
Gopher State standards	275'	300'	275'

Proposed improvements for field #2:

Home Plate

- Shift home place
- Current dimensions from backstop 30'
- Proposed dimensions from backstop 35'
- Recommended dimensions from backstop 60'

Pitcher's Mound

- Build pitcher's mound / pitching rubber 60'6"

Infield

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- Grass infield / base paths 90'
- Install irrigation and drainage

Outfield

- Shift foul poles to 11.67' from side fences
- Install tall left field fence over 130' from foul pole toward center field
- Install tall right field fence over 130' from foul pole toward center field
- Correct drainage outside of right field fence
- Extend center field fence out up to 63' creating an incline in center field
 (Note: historically, inclines were created out of necessity. The Crosley Incline at Crosley Field in Cincinnati was a natural incline of 15 degrees in left field. Tal's Hill at Minute Maid Park in Houston is an artificial incline of 30 degrees in center field.

	<u>LF</u>	<u>CF</u>	<u>RF</u>
Current dimensions	315'	317'	315
Proposed dimensions	308'	380'	308'

The Public Works Director reported that he will come back with recommendations for the ballfields.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Director provided Public Works Department Activity for January 2016. **Town Hall:** The lock on the door at the south west corner was stolen. There has been vandalism with stripping copper and broken window. The building has been secured. It was the consensus that as the building is improved consideration needs to be given regarding theft. It was suggested to have trail cameras installed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan J. Clemens
 Recording Secretary