

**MINUTES  
PARK BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2016**

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

Present: Archer, Kennedy, Lee, Lombardi, Nasvik, Peterson; Public Works Director: Reed; Planner: Riedesel.

Absent: Supervisor Ruzek and Swisher with notice.

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

**APPROVAL OF MAY 19, 2016 MINUTES:** Nasvik moved approval of the May 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Kennedy seconded. Ayes all.

**TOWNSHIP DAY: Human “Hamster Balls” – Totally Knockered Demonstration:** The vendor for the human “Hamster Balls” provided an outdoor demonstration of the balls. Deb Stender, Township Day Coordinator, Planner, and Scott Lombardi provided a demo showing the ease of use. The balls are very heavy duty plastic, with an interior shoulder harness and handles to hold onto the ball. The “Hamster Balls” would be placed in the back soccer area which will provide for a lot of room. The vendor will do a “split” with the Township of the receipts he receives. They will provide 15 knocker balls and can organize a soccer game. It was the consensus that the balls appear to be very safe and will provide a lot of fun for Township Day participants. The vendor provides insurance for participants and requires users to sign a waiver.

**Sponsorships/Silent Auction:** Cub will provide a certificate; Brevena will provide a gift box and Culvers will sponsor the Petting Zoo and Universal Forest Products has provided a \$250 sponsorship. **Special Features Contacted and Confirmed:** All-around Fun Inflatables, Petting Zoo, Public Safety, Archery, Tamarack, Fireworks. **Others:** Human Hamster Balls – Totally Knockered; Shooting Gallery (Deb Stender saw a trial last week and it was great); Military/Reserves for an honor guard (need to contact). It was suggested that after the last band that the honor guard present followed by the National Anthem. **Signage:** The billboard draft was reviewed. It was the consensus that it was great. One suggestion was that the words “Polar Lakes Park” be placed above the date for the event. **Yard Signs:** It was the consensus to use what is on hand and if it is determined that more is needed they will be obtained. There should

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be more yard signs and a sign that shows Polar Lakes Park – Hammond Road. **Vendors** (As of May): Mister Lemonade; Thelma's Minnesota (Cookie Ice Cream Treats); KP Concessions (Chicken fries; cheese curds; mini-donuts, corn dogs, pop, water); Sister Treats (mini-donuts, Hawaiian shaved ice); Platense (peanuts, walnuts, almonds, cashews); Habenario Tacos (Tacos, burritos, quesadillas, corn on the cob, beverages – need application); Brand Farms (apple cider, donuts, apples, eggs, caramel apples, honey, jams, apple chips, apple butter); GRLK (garlic sauce); Tupperware; Twin Cities Party Princess; It Works!; Renewal by Anderson; The Urgency Room; Mounds Park Academy; Vertical Endeavors. Deb Stender is working on the WB Lions Club. There was discussion regarding the National Anthem. Pete Nasvik was asked if his singing group could perform the anthem. It was the consensus that Nasvik's group be "option A" for the singing, if his group is available. If not, another performer will be selected.

**MOVIE IN THE PARK – REVIEW:** The first Movie in the Park was a success. There were between 135 – 200 people who attended. It was suggested that a movie be considered once each month for the summer months. Archer suggested having the movie at the same time each month, such as, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday for June July and August. This date would coincide with the Township Day event which is held the second Saturday of September. With an established date people can place it on their calendars. However, there will be more costs associated with future movies since the first event was used as training for the company. At the Movie in the Park people were asked to bring an item for the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf. The Township received a letter from the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf expressing their appreciation for the Town's donation. Fifty six pounds of food was received as well as \$68.00 monetary contribution. The Food Shelf provides clients access to meat, milk, eggs, butter, fresh produce, bakery items as well as non-perishable items such as pasta, cereal and rice. It was the consensus that this was a good idea and one that could be continued at Township Day. Movies in the Park also provides recognition of the park. It was suggested that local companies could be contacted to see if they want to participate. It would provide good advertising and promotion for their company.

**POLAR LAKES PARK – BALLFIELD MODIFICATIONS:** At last month's meeting, the Park Board was presented with rehabilitation options for the ballfields at Polar Lakes Park. The baseball fields have had drainage issues since its construction over 10 years ago. Work has been completed to address both the grass infields and outfields of fields #1 and #3 and the drain tile installation in both of the grass areas has greatly improved playability. Staff has been looking at options for the ag lime portion of the infields. The existing ag lime that was installed in all four fields provides for substandard playing conditions after a moderate rain fall. That combined with poor drainage subsoils under the 6"-7" of ag lime has deterred baseball associations from committing to scheduling tournaments at the Town's complex on a regular schedule since the fields do not recover quickly from a moderate rain fall prior to a scheduled game. The Public Works Director has consulted with John Hopko of Professional Turf and Restoration regarding options for each of the fields. He provided a couple of options for fields #2 and #4. Both

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options include grass baselines between home plate and 1<sup>st</sup> base and 3<sup>rd</sup> and home plate. Option 1 would have ag lime between 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases and around home plate. Option #2 would have ag lime surrounding home plate, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases with no ag lime between them. The Public Works Director talked with Jon Anderson, White Bear Lake School District Recreation and Facility Coordinator regarding the baseball fields' rehabilitation. He suggested doing fields #1 and #3 first to see how they hold up after a rain. Dick Sand reported that the Baseball Association has not scheduled the fields for a few years. He feels that it would be cheaper for the baselines and infields but it would require a grounds keeper. He suggested that after a game the home team could rake the fields. It would require very little maintenance. That has not always proved to be successful unless the coach takes care of having the team do it. The Public Works Director reported that the drain tile in the infield and outfield has worked fine. Sand stated that he would like to have something in fields #1 and #3 this year. The Public Works Director reported that it is estimated to cost \$30,000 for two fields for seed, irrigation and mounds noting that this estimate is for fields #2 and #4. The purpose would be to construct two 75 foot fields. He will come back with prices.

No work is planned on fields #1 and #3 at this time, but it was requested to get cost estimates to grass ag lime in foul territory and extend irrigation. Reed noted he would obtain cost estimates to add seed and irrigation to fields #1 and #3.

Kennedy moved to carry over the matter of Polar Lakes Park Ballfield Modification until the next meeting when the Public Works Director will have estimates available for review. Nasvik seconded. Ayes all.

**EAGLE PARK TENNIS COURTS:** The Public Works Director reported that quotes have been solicited from three tennis court repair contractors to resurface the Eagle Park tennis courts. \$85,000 was budgeted this year to repair the courts, upgrade the playground, and improve the picnic shelter. The shelter has been upgraded now. All three of the tennis court professionals did not provide quotes to resurface the courts as they all feel that the courts are beyond resurfacing but rather must be reconstructed. Because reconstruction is substantially costlier than just resurfacing, it is recommended that reconstruction of the courts be added to a future CIP. Based on current reconstruction at Columbia and Longville Parks, it is estimated that the cost to reconstruct the courts will be approximately \$50,000. This amount can be recommended to be placed in the budget for next year. It was suggested to do only one of the tennis courts – do the one closest to Township Drive and to shrink the north/south side.

Kennedy moved to carry over the matter of Eagle Park tennis courts until the costs for reconstruction of one court and the cost for both courts and to consider removal one of the courts. Nasvik seconded. Ayes all.

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**PARK TOUR:** The Planner reviewed the following improvements to parks and trails which are listed in the Parks 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Program for improvements in 2016:

Appletree Park – refurbish	\$ 50,000
Bellaire Beach Improvements	60,000
Deer Meadow shelter repairs (this could be extended out since it is in good condition)	4,500
Fox Meadow shelter repair/reconstruct	20,000
Columbia Park playground improvement	80,000
Polar Lakes Park – dugout roof replacement	16,000
Bald Eagle trail	80,000
County Road H-2 trail	52,000
County Road J trail	52,000
White Bear Parkway trail	1,000

The Town’s CIP is a 5-year plan for improvements to public facilities including replacement and purchase of new equipment

Historically the Park Board has toured parks that are planned for work in the following year. Based on the CIP, staff recommends the following parks for the annual park tour:

- Appletree Park
- Columbia Park
- Bellaire Beach

Also, the following parks could be included:

- Summit Lane property
- Glider / Deer Meadow Parks
- Eagle Park
- Polar Lakes Park

The Planner will come up with an order for the parks. The tour will be scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, 2016. The members will meet at the Town’s office at 5:30 p.m. to carpool.

**VENTO TRAIL VS. BICYCLE ROUTE #41:** The Planner reviewed the trail plan maps showing trail corridors proposed by Ramsey County. The County is proposing a trail from Buerkle Road to County 96. The County is anticipating receiving grant funding for the extension. They will be doing work in and out of the rail right-of-way. They also identify a trail from County 96 to the East and West Bald Eagle Avenue intersection. This route is not currently on the Town’s trail corridor map. They are requesting input from the communities on the trail location. It was the consensus that the trail on Bald Eagle Avenue be added to the Township trail’s plan map.

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The Vento Trail – North Extension will be from Buerkle Drive to County Road E; County Road E to Cedar Avenue; Cedar Avenue to Scheuneman Road; Scheuneman North to Highway 96. In White Bear Lake the North extension of the Vento Trail will have a County Road E underpass and a Highway 61 underpass.

The State of Minnesota is also proposing a State trail from St. Paul to the Canadian Border. They plan to utilize existing trails and road corridors, and designate them as a State trail. No construction of trails is planned, just signage. The State trail route would run along the current Gateway Trail to Margaret Street in North St. Paul, then east to Helen Street north/Bellaire Avenue to County Road D to McKnight, north to South Shore Boulevard to Old White Bear Avenue, to the Lake Avenue trail to Highway 96, Northwest Avenue to Buffalo Street to Hugo Road, northbound to Hugo.

The Planner suggested that the route intersect to a Vento Trail in Maplewood and rather than continuing to the route described above, it could use the Vento rail corridor to Highway 96 where it could intersect the Lake Avenue Trail.

Kennedy moved to recommend to the Town Board that the trail proposed by Ramsey County from County Highway 96 to East and West Bald Eagle be added to the Township trail map and to look at the Vento trail options instead of having new trails vs. Bicycle Route #41. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

**SUMMIT LANE:** The Planner reported that staff has received calls regarding returning the dock to the Summit Lane park property. He reported that on May 17, 2016 the elevation of White Bear Lake was 922.06' and the distance from the pavement to the water is 70'. The ordinary high water elevation of the lake is 924.89'. The highest level recorded for the lake was 926.7 (1943) and the low level was 918.84' in 2013. He reported that the DNR is putting a protected elevation at 923.5'. It was the consensus that the dock not be re-installed at the Summit Lane park property until the water level meets the DNR protected elevation of 923.5'.

Nasvik moved to recommend to the Town Board that the Town adopt the DNR critical protected water elevation of White Bear Lake at 923.5' as the point in which the dock will be returned to the Summit Lane property. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

**EDAB UPDATE:** This is a work in progress.

**OTHER:** Nasvik suggested that annually, or each two years, that the Town's Park Board meet with the City of White Bear Lake Park Board since both municipalities have a lot in common. He suggested that an invitation be put out and see what the response is.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT:** The Public Works Director noted that much of park related information has already been discussed under other agenda topics. He

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reported that the Town Board approved T.A.Schifsky's proposal for the existing tennis court demo and replacement at Longville Park. Handicap access improvements are being done at various parks. Signs have been installed at Four Seasons and Walhof Parks. Polar Lakes Park baseball fields #1 and #3 have had ag lime replacement. Quotes are being received to seed in the base lines and backstop area at either field #2 and #4 to see how a grass infield will be established before actually placing grass infield on #1 and/or #3. A pitcher's mound will also have to be added to the field that is chosen.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan J. Clemens  
Recording Secretary