

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Supervisor Ruzek and Swisher with notice.

Park Tour: The following attended the park tour: Public Works Director: Reed; Planner: Riedesel; Lombardi, Nasvik, and Peterson. The following parks were toured:

Polar Lakes Park: It was the consensus that the park looked very good. Following are comments and information:

- A survey will be done on the Town Hall site next week. No work on the building will be done before the Township Day event.
- The shrubs and flowers around in the flag pole area will be removed and replaced.
- The cement around the flag pole area could be power washed. The colored cement could be brightened, recoated and sealed.

Apple Tree Park: Apple Tree Park is on the list to be done next year. \$70,000 has been budgeted for the upgrade. Following are comments and information:

- Older playground equipment. Old swing and older basketball hoop. Old timbers borders will be replaced.
- Bench needs to be replaced. Benches will be placed on concrete slabs.
- Several box elder trees in the park and marginal maple trees.

Bellaire Beach: The water has risen significantly. Following are comments and information:

- Roof on lifeguard building needs to be fixed.
- Bathroom doors, fixtures and plumbing need upgrading.
- The beach area is smaller since the water is coming up.
- There is erosion where the asphalt connects to the beach area.

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- Upgrade of the beach will be done next year or the year after. Need to consult with the engineer.
- The swimming area is expanded since the water has risen.
- Four new benches have been installed. They look great.
- Old lifeguard stand has been removed.

Deer Meadow Park: The Park looks well managed. Following are comments and information:

- Homeowners want to replace the “trike” with another piece of senior exercise equipment.
- The senior exercise equipment looks good. It is used not only by seniors but by all ages.
- The trail to the north is planned for the future. Once the Stoddard property has been developed the trail connection will be made.

West Avenue Property: This property is a Town park but not on the park inventory list. The Town mows the grass and empties the trash container. Other than that there is no park activity other than passive use. A local resident and member of the Bald Eagle Homeowners Association has a proposed project for a two-part rain garden to filter water before it goes into Bald Eagle Lake, he is working with the RCWD staff. They also propose a shoreline restoration with a shoreline buffer along with a handicap accessible ramp. If the proposed rain gardens and shoreline buffer are installed the cost to the Town would be approximately \$15,000. The Rice Creek Watershed District would also participate in funding the project. The Utility Commission reviewed the proposal and while they thought it was a good idea they have recommended that it be put on a future CIP list. They noted that since there is not sufficient money in the stormwater project fund this project would not happen in the near future.

Eagle Park: The play area is torn up getting ready for installation of new playground equipment. There was a couple using the tennis courts. They were asked how they would feel if one of the courts were removed. The players stated that they would prefer two courts to accommodate the people who want to play and because they sometimes bring their family and utilize both courts. They state that they use the tennis courts often. It was noted that the courts are not in bad shape. The color is still good and there is no evidence of the “bird holing” on the courts. It was suggested that rehabilitation of the courts be put off for a year or longer.

TOWNSHIP DAY: Vendors: All vendors have received set-up information. They will set up at 11:30 a.m. **Publication:** Context and pictures have been provided to the White Bear Press for the special tab to be included in the newspaper. Check the Township’s email page on the website for event information. **Demos:** Hope to get a mail truck for the “touch a truck” display. It was reported that at a Maplewood event they had a mobile sand box on a flatbed trailer. May be something to consider in the future. **Band:** Waiting to hear from the bands if they have a keyboard. **Publicity:** TV

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Channel 19 will be on site live. **MN United Soccer Assn.:** Cannot do anything on the field but will have a booth. **T-Shirts:** Have been ordered. **Raffle:** Tickets will be 6 tickets for \$5; 1 ticket for \$1; 12 tickets for \$10.

POLAR LAKES PARK - BALLFIELD MODIFICATIONS: Ballfields #2 and #4 are not set up for specific use. On February 17th a meeting was held with the School and Baseball Association. Public Works Director, Dale Reed; Planner, Tom Riedesel; and Dick Sand attended the meeting. Ages who use 75' fields are 12/13 year olds. There are two 75' fields in White Bear Lake. Teams in the 12/13-year-old range from Shoreview used field #4 at Polar Lakes Park. The other field was used for practice. It was noted that it may be worth looking at reconstructing field #4 to a 75' field. This field is used the most. Field #2 could be considered in the future. The drainage issue on fields #1 and #3 have been addressed by installing drain tile. The same could be done for fields #2 and #4. Thirteen teams used fields #1 and #3 this year. In 2015 12 teams used the fields; in 2014 12 teams used the fields; in 2012 10 teams used the fields. The American Legion and VFW used the school district fields.

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. The existing ag lime that was installed in all four fields provide substandard playing conditions after a moderate rain fall. That combined with poor draining subsoils under the 6-7" of ag lime has deterred baseball associations from committing to playing on a regular schedule since the fields do not recover quickly from a moderate rainfall prior to a scheduled game. Options include grass baselines between home plate and 1st base and 3rd and home plate. One option would have ag lime between 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases and around home plate. Another option would have ag lime surrounding home plate, 1st, 2nd and 3rd bases with no ag lime between them. The estimate to add irrigation, prepare the ag lime and seed the grass infields would be \$10,000 per field. The grass infields would have turf similar to the warning tracks at fields #1 and #3. Both fields, if converted to 75' fields would need to have pitching mounds constructed at an estimated cost of \$5000 per mound. The seeding of the warning tracks is estimated at \$500 per field. The estimated total expenditure per field is \$15,500 which includes irrigation. The Public Works Director reported that the work would have to be contracted out since they have the specialized equipment necessary to do the work. In response to a question how badly more ballfields are needed, it was noted that field #2 could go to a 90' field. However, it would be best to focus on one field. It was the consensus to do field #4 with the full treatment and to extend irrigation to fields #1 and #3 with full construction not to exceed \$75,000.

Nasvik moved to recommend to the Town Board to authorize the expenditure not to exceed \$75,000 for reconstruction of field #4 and to extend seeding and irrigation to fields #1 and #3 with funding from the Polar Lakes Park Fund. Kennedy seconded. Ayes all.

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EAGLE PARK TENNIS COURTS: This item was included in the report of the tour of Eagle Park. It was the consensus to postpone Eagle Park tennis court reconstruction until next year.

Lee moved to postpone Eagle Park tennis court reconstruction until next year. Kennedy seconded. Ayes all.

JOINT MEETING WITH CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE PARK BOARD (OCTOBER) A) SOUTH SHORE BOULEVARD TRAIL; B) TENNIS COURTS; C) OTHER?: The Park Board will meet with the City of White Bear Lake Park Board in October. It was suggested to add baseball fields and amphitheater to the list of suggested meeting agenda items.

EVENTS & COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR PROPOSAL: The Planner reported that Deb Stender, Township Day Coordinator has prepared a position proposal to include other assistance to the Park Board, such as Movies in the Park and as a communications director to work with the Economic Development Advisory Board on fundraising, noting that the Park Board members cannot be directly involved in fundraising. Deb would also be involved in preparing grant applications. The proposal for her services for a one-year term is \$10,000. It was the consensus to carry over the matter to next month's meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Eagle Park Improvements: Playground equipment project has been awarded to St. Croix Recreation and demolishing of existing equipment has been done. **Longville Tennis Court Rehabilitation:** Fencing will be installed in August. Color coating will follow. **Handicap Improvements:** Handicap access improvements are being done at various parks.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan J. Clemens
Recording Secretary