

MINUTES
JOINT WHITE BEAR TOWNSHIP / WHITE BEAR LAKE
PARK BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: White Bear Township Park Board Members: Archer, Lee, Lombardi, Nasvik, Peterson, Swisher; Town Board Liaison: Ruzek; Town Planner: Riedesel; White Bear Lake Park Commission Members: Bill Ganzlin, Dan Louismet, Mike Shepard, Joann Toth; City Engineer: Mark Burch; City Public Works Employee: Mike Natterstad

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made.

City Projects: Mark Burch reviewed the WBL Park Commission 2016 park improvements in eleven of their 19 parks. Improvements include replacing roof and siding on concession stand at Lakewood Hills; historical plaque replacement and shoreline restoration maintenance at Lions Park; gazebo roof replacement, tree plaque, mooring, buoy replacement at Matoska Park; paint decorative railing at Memorial Beach Park; painting columns, sealing ceiling and roof repair at Podvin Park; tree trimming, gazebo gutter replacement and fountain repairs at Railroad Park; seal log structures, restroom painting and trail paving at Rotary Park; pier repairs, shoreline restoration maintenance, benches and dock repairs at Veterans Memorial Park; new play equipment, tree trimmings, benches at West Park; and trail paving (bituminous) at Yost Park. The cost for the proposed improvements is estimated to be \$284,878. There are also water front projects to be done. This summer they had a meeting in different parks to view the equipment and use. Letters were sent to the neighboring residents to invite them to walk through the parks with the Park Commission and to get their ideas. The Lacrosse Association has approached the City regarding use of parks. It is a growing sport but the City does not have a lot of space for Lacrosse. The Town Planner reported that the Township has not been approached by the Lacrosse Association but they have talked with the WBL School District Community Services Department.

Mark Burch reported that the Sports Center is evolving. He noted that they are seeing a decrease in softball and they need to determine if there is a need. It was noted that the Town's Polar Lakes Park does not have softball fields. However, the fields at Otter Lake Elementary School do have fast pitch. These fields are heavily used. An article which

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appeared in the Star Tribune today regarding parks in the City of Eagan was reviewed. The City of Eagan has 55 parks most of which were built amid a residential housing boom in the 1980's. Now those parks are showing their age. They plan to boost community involvement in future park projects, starting with a skate park. Attendees will be able to design the skate park of their dreams, using a list of possible features and a strict budget.

Mark Burch reported that the City is interested in a dog park, particularly where dogs can go into the water. The Town Park Board members informed the City of the dog park at Otter Lake Road near Meadowview Drive. It is operated by Ramsey County and is next to Ramsey County open space. The Town Park Board provided information regarding the location, use, hours, etc. of the dog park. The City Park Commission will check it out tomorrow. They were excited that a dog park already exists in the area.

Township Projects: Current Park projects include: Eagle Park – the adult fitness equipment has had a delivery delay from the manufacturer to St. Croix Recreation. St. Croix will install the equipment as soon as they receive it. The shelter has been reroofed with a steel roof and work is being done on handicap accessibility; Polar Lakes Park Field #4 – the drain tile has been installed in the field. The pitching mound was constructed on Friday, October 14th. The irrigation and seeding will be completed by next spring (weather permitting), although the irrigation may still be installed in the next few weeks; Polar Lakes Park Field #1 – the irrigation and seeding has been completed and the grass is filling in very well and will be ready for play in 2017; Longville Park tennis courts – the tennis nets had to be ordered and will be here soon, unfortunately too late for the 2016 season. The court looks great; Polar Lakes Park Fields – staff is seeking quotes to install double access gates for the existing batting cages located on fields #1 and #3. This will provide staff easier access to control vegetation and add ag lime to the areas.

There was discussion regarding tennis courts. The Town previously had 14 tennis courts but has removed and reconverted the space in several of the courts. All rehabilitation of tennis courts now is also striped for pickle ball.

The Town has started to add adult fitness equipment in the parks. The equipment is used by all ages and has been very popular. The Town Hall has been moved from its location on Hoffman Road to Polar Lakes Park. Building improvements are being done at this time.

There was discussion regarding weed treatment. The City sprays their parks. Not all parks are done every year.

There was discussion regarding shared use of Polar Lakes Park for community events. It was noted that the City and Town could work on identified shared projects.

It was the consensus that the joint meeting of the Town Park Board and the City's Park Commission was a good idea and that there be joint meetings regularly in the future to keep the momentum going. Future agenda items to include things that the Park Commission and Park Board can do together.

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The Park Board meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m.

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

APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2016: Peterson moved to approve the Minutes of September 15, 2016. Nasvik seconded. Ayes all.

WEST AVENUE PROPERTY: The Planner noted that the Park Board reviewed a previous proposal for a rain garden and infiltration basin at the West Avenue boat launch. The Rice Creek Watershed District is proposing, along with the Township, a project opportunity at the west end of West Avenue off Bald Eagle Blvd. The existing runoff from West Avenue and Bald Eagle Blvd goes directly into Bald Eagle Lake, untreated. The revised project would include a fore bay pre-treatment and two rain gardens. The previous proposal also included a shoreline buffer, rock and beach which is not part of the revised plan. The Planner noted that this is also a piece of park property but does not have active use but is a nice scenic overlook. Park access would be up to the Park Board. The Utility Commission reviewed the proposal and have moved it up on the list of storm water projects. Cost to the Town for the Rice Creek Watershed District proposal would be approximately \$5,000. Staff will have to research ADA requirements and the cost. It was the consensus to go forward with "A" and "B", eliminating "C" until answers are received regarding ADA requirements for "C".

Lombardi moved to table the matter of West Avenue property until answers are received for "C". Lee seconded. Ayes all.

POLAR AKES PARK LANDSCAPING PROPOSAL: The Planner reported that as part of the Town Hall relocation project to Polar Lakes Park, the Park Board recommended redoing the flagpole planting area. Loucks, Inc. was contracted to redesign the plantings and estimate a cost to provide shrubs, perennials and mulch. The new design was advertised as an alternate bid along with the bids being solicited to add sidewalk and plantings to the Town Hall. The Loucks estimate to complete the planting was \$4,540.00. The low bidder, Pember Construction, provide a quote of \$5,539.80 to redo the flagpole area. One of the contractors which bid provided a lower cost for the flagpole at \$4,414.000, but their overall bid was higher than the Pember proposal. Since this was a project which required a sealed bid, the Town must approve the lowest proposal. At this time the Town Board has awarded a contract to Pember Construction to complete the project with the exception of the flagpole plantings. A suggestion had been made previously to have a Master Gardener at Ramsey County be contacted to see if they are interested. It was the consensus to table the matter until the January or February meeting since the plantings would not be done until the spring.

Lee moved to table the matter of Polar Lakes Park Landscaping proposal until the January or February meeting. Peterson seconded. Ayes all.

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PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Department Activity report for of the month of September was provided in the packet for review. Park projects included: **Eagle Park:** The playground work has been completed including restoration; **Longville Park:** The tennis court coating has been completed and new tennis nets have been ordered; **Handicap Access:** Handicap access improvements at various parks are being done; **Polar Lakes Park:** Baseball field1 has had irrigation added and infield area along the 1 and 3 baselines and behind the backstop seeded. Grass is sprouting and coming along well. The drain tile has been installed in field 4 with the irrigation and seeding to be completed soon.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan J. Clemens
Recording Secretary