

**MINUTES  
PARK BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 16, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Present: Koster, Lee, Reeves, Sinclair; Town Board Supervisor: Ruzek; Public Works Director: Reed; Planner: Riedesel

Absent: Akenson, Josephson, Lombardi, with notice

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2019:** Sinclair moved the approval of the minutes of December 19, 2019. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

**TOWNSHIP DAY / MOVIE IN THE PARK:** Lisa Beecroft was present to discuss the updates that had been made since the last meeting. There was discussion about the movies in the park. It was noted that the movie on July 11 would be the contest day because it appeals to the young adults. Beecroft noted that she will be in contact with the band and orchestra earlier and ask if they can bring in some movie suggestions. The “save the dates” for the Movies in the Park are almost completed.

The advertisement for *Midwest Art Fair* has been completed. There was much discussion over musical groups. It was noted that the Gear Daddies, Martin Zellar, and the Hardways came in higher priced than the budget will allow, and the Board seemed comfortable with going with a lower priced band. It was the consensus that The Good, The Bad, The Funky band would be a good one to check out. Beecroft noted that she may be able to bring their price down to \$3,000. There was discussion over 2019’s Township Day bands and plans to incorporate different ideas. Beecroft noted that 60 bands applied for Marketfest, so there are options.

When it comes to vendors, vendor prices were discussed, and it was noted that some of the booth prices could be raised. Beecroft will bring a pricing sheet in February. There was discussion over Saint Paul Area Water Works’, Lake Links, Pollinator Friendly Alliance, RCWD or VLAWMO to attend Township Day, maybe create a section of booths with a positive environmental health focus. It was noted that the Pollinator Friendly Alliance would like to do something, as would many of the groups listed.

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There was some minor discussion on safety, vendors' liability, and permits. The Board will think these options over and there will be more discussion at the February meeting. There was discussion of sponsorships and how Beecroft wants to raise the sponsorships for 2020. She wants to look for 5- \$1,000 sponsorships for the fireworks. There was some discussion over Viking's sponsorship and there will be more discussion once Beecroft reaches out to vendor with the suggestion of breaking the Bean Bag and Car Show sponsorship into pieces totaling \$750 or more. There was discussion of bringing in companies in the community like Nextern, HPM, Schwing for sponsorships or for "touch a truck" type options. Beecroft wants to obtain \$500 or \$1,000 for the kids' stage, and she will be reaching out for \$100 and \$200 sponsorships.

**POLAR LAKES PARK – CENTRAL SOCCER FIELD EXPANTION / RESTROOM**

**LOCATION:** The Town Planner recapped the December meeting with Magnus Hellmark and Todd Heckman from the Soccer Association. He went over their preferences in restroom location. There was some minor discussion in placement. It was noted that the baseball field restroom should be finished first with the playground restroom finished in 2021 when the playground will be upgraded. There was some discussion on size and it was noted that staff will get proposals from contractors for a 3-stall and 5-stall restroom by February. There was some discussion on visibility, security, construction, accessibility, and maintenance. There was some discussion on changing location, but it was the consensus to stick with the restrooms near where the fireworks are lit off.

Sinclair made the motion to stick with the original restrooms plan near the fireworks spot. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

**BELLAIRE BEACH – UPDATE:** The Town Planner reported that the Utility Commission did not meet in January but will meet in February. Riedesel will attend and would like to extend an invite to a Park Board member. He will email the Board a reminder email closer to the meeting date.

Staff is working on finalizing the contract with Saputo for the construction of the shelter in September. The Town Attorney is ensuring everything is good. There was some discussion of what the Town is contributing (concrete slab).

Finally, in the Columbia Park parking lot redo, would Park Board prefer the island remain or be removed? The consensus was that it should be removed as maintenance would be easier, as well as the trees will be needing to come down eventually.

**ORGANICS DROP-OFF:** The Town Planner reported that he spoke with Ramsey County Parks Planners regarding an organics drop off site. They did not appear excited about it. There was some discussion of other options. Polar Lakes Park was discussed highly, as it is right next to the administration building. There will be more discussion at the February meeting.

**STABLE PROPERTY:** The Town Planner reported that the formal plat is now being reviewed. The layout is similar to plans previously reviewed. The Town plans to retain

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18 acres of wetland and upland for a trail. Staff shifted the trail a bit, and is planned to be paved up to the Deer Meadow Park trail. Staff is looking for a Park Board recommendation on whether or not to accept land as laid out in the plat or in the alternative, take cash to satisfy park dedication requirements.

Reeves made the motion to accept the land. Sinclair seconded. Ayes all.

**VENTO TRAIL:** The Town Planner reported that this trail has been discussed extensively with the original plan to place the trail on the railroad right-of-way. But due to it being active, that is no longer an option at this time. The County is working with municipalities and has come up with some alternate routes for consideration. The preferred routes for consideration are Bald Eagle Avenue and Long Avenue. There was discussion regarding USB 41 route, which was the previous Park Board recommendation, which could potentially incorporate the Lake Links trail. The preference is to keep the trail on the west side of Highway 61.

There was some discussion over the size of the roads when it comes to street improvement plans and how that could come into play here, though the Vento Trail is an off-road trail. It was the consensus that the Board wants to stick with the original recommendation of the USB 41 route, even though it would prefer along the rail corridor.

**2020 PROJECT TIMELINE:** The Town Planner put together a 2020 Project Timeline for the Park Board to better know what is on the radar for the year. It is laid out on pages 29 and 30 of the packet. It was noted that so far staff has only received one proposal from TKDA on the Columbia Park parking lot redo, but will hopefully have a second one in the following month. There was some minor discussion over the planned park projects for 2020.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT:** The Public Works Director was present to discuss the Public Works Director Report in regards to Parks Projects and to answer any questions. He noted that staff spends time **flooding rinks**. Staff will plan to spend quite some time **plowing** during the rest of January, as needed of course. Reed noted the **tree trimming** in Polar Lakes Park including **Ash tree removal** has started. It was noted that staff have been going over the street improvement sites for 2020 with the Town Engineer and trimming trees there, preparing for those improvements and the wider streets. Three **watermains** have broken this season already, but staff has fixed them promptly. Finally, staff is in communication with **Tree Trust** already planning for the spring season of plantings.

**ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** There were no added agenda items.

Lee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Sinclair seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Megan R. Cavanaugh  
Recording Secretary