

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

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

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

Absent: Reeves with notice

Present at the Town Offices were the Town Planner and Lee, all other members and guests were present via Zoom.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2020: Sinclair moved the approval of the minutes of June 18, 2020. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

TOWNSHIP DAY / MOVIE IN THE PARK: Lisa Beecroft was present to report on Movie in the Park and Township Day updates.

Movie In The Park: Beecroft reported that the Movies in the Park turnout for the July 11th movie was good. About 125 people came to the event, which is good for a normal Movie in the Park. The limit, of course, did not exceed 250 people, so Beecroft is comfortable continuing these events. She had spray painted hearts on the grass spread out over the area to guide social distancing. She noted that 60-70% had masks. For future movies she will spread them out a bit further, just to ease comfort. Many also sat at their own distance in the back.

The Children's Performing Arts performed *Frozen* songs for 45 minutes prior to the movie. They also hosted concessions with prepackage food and drinks. There was consensus among the Park Board that the Movies in the Park should continue.

July 25th will be *Mary Poppins*, hosted by White Bear Lake Area High School/League of Women Voters MN, Suffragette Traveling Exhibit. August 8th will be *Dora the Explorer*,

MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
JULY 16, 2020

hosted by ASFA/Stephanie Forliti. August 22nd will be *Little Giants*, hosted by Youth Football/Mike Mason.

Township Day: Beecroft reported on her smaller, condensed version of Township Day to the Park Board. Viking Auto wants the car show to happen, and it was noted that he could still host it separately should the Board cancel Township Day. The concerns are around the amount of people would/could show up: there is no staff to police social distancing or ensure only 250 people. This could create a liability for the Township. The Fire Department and Sheriff's Department aren't thrilled about the event. If the event happens people could bring their own beer, as there would be no beer garden.

There was discussion on the shortened Township Day. It was noted that the Town will be responsible for 10% of the fireworks show per cost. The Park Board doesn't want the Town to get a bad rap for hosting it amid pandemic. There was consensus on canceling the event. Beecroft offered to do other promotional things for the Township in place of what she would do for Township Day.

Lombardi made the motion to cancel White Bear Township Day for 2020. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

The Town Board will vote on this on Monday, July 20th, and then Beecroft will send out a press release.

POLAR LAKES PARK – REVIEW OF THEMESCAPES PLAYGROUND – OTHER OPTIONS: The Town Planner reported that the Park Board went through the proposal last month. The three options from Themed Concepts are in the packet. The touch up existing playground option will cost \$70,795.00. The trees and bears option will cost \$197,109.14. The fallen tree option will cost \$201,001.64. The MN/WIS proposal which includes more refurbishing, some removal, some expansion, and new swings for sure, will cost \$92,951.00.

There was discussion over these costs. It was noted that another option is to go out for bid for conventional equipment to replace the existing. Another option would be to hold off for another year. The Park Board could decide to do a mix of the 3 options. The Planner noted that there is between \$200,000 and \$250,000 allotted in the Polar Lakes Fund for this park improvement. The Park Board noted that they liked the look of Themed Concept stuff, but the equipment is not as full/interactive as what the park currently has.

It was decided that staff will get a price on just the bear head and get proposals for new pieces. Staff will also see what other companies offer for a set amount of \$150,000. There will be more discussion at the August Park Board meeting. The goal is to order the pieces/project in January of 2021 and install that spring.

MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
JULY 16, 2020

BELLAIRE BEACH – FINAL PLAN – KAYAK RACKS: The Town Planner reported on the Bellaire Beach project at the current stage in the Master Plan, as shown in the packet on page 19. This is the most current of all the projects on the Master Plan. The parking lot could be kept as is or the island could be removed. The pond size will be increased. There was some discussion on the kayak racks: should they stay where they are at in public view or be closer to the water. It was decided that it should stay in public view. There was some discussion of the parking lot, and the Public Works Director noted that plowing is easier without the island, but it's not a huge deal. The striping can be done in the same pattern and hold the same number of cars with or without the island. There was some discussion of the Lake Links trail and the one-way road. The Town staff are waiting for details to be ironed out and the route is set for the trail. Portions of the trail outside of the Township have been constructed.

COLUMBIA PARK PARKING LOT: The Town Planner explained that staff have been working on rebuilding/expanding this parking lot to try to accommodate for 2 sports at once. The Public Works Director, Town Engineer, and Town Planner met and reviewed the design. It will hold 60 vehicles, including 3 handicapped stalls. It was noted that there is minimal work that needs to be done on the park itself. Staff may come up with a recommendation list for ballfield improvements prior to spring baseball. The association will want to see the plans prior to approval.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Director reported on the Public Works Department Activity of June 2020. He noted mowing has been busy, and staff is working with seasonal hired help. He noted that the Town is now maintaining the ballfields for games, including dredging and lining the fields. The remaining **trails** along White Bear Parkway, Centerville Road, Otter Lake Road, Polar Lakes Park, and Columbia Park will be sealcoated this year. The project included the well and lift station parking lots. **Athletic fields** are beginning to see some use. Some games have been held on the fields. There was some discussion of the **projects along Deer Meadow** and staff is in communication with the residents and the association. The neighborhood is in majority of supporting the project. Staff are working with the Lake Links organization on plans for Bellaire Beach, that was previously discussed. There was some discussion of the County's street project for West Bald Eagle Boulevard from County H-2 south to Bald Eagle Avenue and East Bald Eagle Boulevard from Bald Eagle Avenue to Buffalo Street. The proposed trail will narrow drive lanes and expand shoulders as part of the improvement.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS: There were no added agenda items.

Lombardi moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Cavanaugh

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

Recording Secretary