

City of Scandia Parks and Recreation Committee
Monday, April 2, 2018

Members Present: Terry Gorham (Chair), Dustin Hegland (Vice Chair), Carol Schwinghammer, Dan Lee, Cami Van Abel, and Jim Schneider

Members Absent: Adam Hawkinson (Public Works Director)

Staff Present: Neil Soltis (City Administrator) and Judi Negus (Office Assistant)

Chair Gorham called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no comments.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Lee, seconded by Hegland, to approve the agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Lee, seconded by Schwinghammer, to approve the March 13, 2018 minutes. The motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

Chair Report

Chair Gorham attended the March 20, 2018 City Council meeting. Gorham reported the City Council approved seeking proposals for several configuration options that were proposed to provide for both tennis and pickleball for the tennis court reconstruction project scheduled for this spring/summer. Gorham indicated although the Scandia Marine Lions have a cap on funding, they might be open to consideration of a donation for this project.

City Administrator Report

Administrator Soltis provided an update to Wind in the Pines preserve. Scandia resident John Haus attended the March 20 City Council meeting and shared concern regarding trespassing on his property adjacent to Wind in the Pines. Haus requested the access and parking lot be closed. The City has vigorously discouraged use of the private property with signs and blocking off trails without success. Soltis informed Public Works Director Adam Hawkinson will address this issue at the April 4 City Council Work Session. Soltis provided Committee members with Hawkinson's report to provide a plan for closing the parking lot access.

Soltis informed the City Council approved the Friends of Scandia Parks and Trails' proposal for prairie planting on a .25-acre area on Olinda Trail. The Friends will be relocating the pollinator plantings currently at Lilleskogen to this new location.

Soltis advised City Council directed staff to draft a Right of First Option agreement. This agreement would allow adjacent property owners of City-owned property on Goose Lake to have the option to purchase the property at the appraised value. If the City property is not purchased by the adjacent property owners, the property would be offered to the public through an on-line auction.

Soltis reviewed the financial reports he provided with Committee members and addressed any questions. Once the Goose Lake property sells, it will be determined where those funds will be placed. Soltis shared the Wayne Erickson playground will need to be updated in the future and funding might be needed for electrical updates as well.

Public Works Director Report

Committee members were provided with the Public Works March 2018 activity report. Soltis highlighted the Sentence to Service buckthorn removal at Lilleskogen and maintenance of the fence lines around various parks.

Soltis informed the Planning Commission is reviewing wetland setbacks at its April 3 meeting that could impact the current required setbacks at Lilleskogen. The wetland setbacks could be based on the quality of the wetland.

OLD BUSINESS

Hockey Rink Signage

Van Abel reported she has not received a response from Jeni O'Brien. Committee members agreed to place this topic on the May meeting agenda.

Operating Calendar

Committee members will be discussing a potential Vinterfest Committee and preliminary planning for the Taco Daze Pickleball Tournament at its May 7 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Capital Improvement Plan

Gorham provided Committee members with a handout, "Park Capital Planning: For Discussion, April 2, 2018." Committee members agreed on a park tour to take place on Saturday, May 19, at 9 a.m. Committee members will tour: Big Lake, Bone Lake, Wojtowicz Skate Park, Hay Lake, Lighted Ball Field, Community Center, Swedish Monument, and City properties on Orwell Avenue and Orwell Court. Soltis suggested using the 2006 park plan to re-evaluate each park. Gorham agreed to incorporate the potential opportunities recommended at the Committee's February 28, 2018 meeting into the spreadsheet Schwinghammer created summarizing the 2006 park plan.

Gorham suggested Committee members prioritize criteria for the parks (i.e., community interest, community benefit, support for other community groups, value, and maintenance efforts.) Gorham offered to update the parks spreadsheet to add columns for prioritization. Gorham will provide the updated spreadsheet to Committee members in the near future to review and comment prior to the Committee's May meeting. Schwinghammer suggested the priorities should be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Gorham shared an email sent by Mayor Maefsky suggesting the idea of a potential Splash Pad when planning for capital expenditures. Soltis identified some difficulties with the project to include cost, water pressure, housing of equipment and maintenance, as well as disposal of chlorinated water potentially overwhelming the City's sewer system.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The proposed agenda for the Monday, May 7, 2018 meeting:

1. Vinterfest Committee
2. Taco Daze Pickleball Tournament
3. Review Criteria Priorities Spreadsheet
4. Hockey Rink Signage

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hegland, seconded by Lee, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Negus
Office Assistant