

PARK BOARD MINUTES
Foster Community Center
July 14, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Zoe Ahlstrom, Erika Poland; Kimberly Whitfield; Mike Dombrowski; Brian Daniels; Nate Scramlin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rick Kibbey

OTHERS PRESENT: Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary; Kelly Wagner and Rob Wagner; 3 additional attendees for Moores Park memorial

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: Kaschinske added Legacy Grant; Dombroski added Hunter Pool and Pattengill School. Items were added under new business.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Whitefield moved to accept the May minutes as submitted; seconded by Dombrowski. 6 yeas; 0 nay

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Moores Park Memorial

Kaschinske stated a request has been received from Kelly Wagner to place a memorial at Moores Park.

Kelly Wagner stated her stepdaughter recently passed away at Moores Park and they would like to place a tree and bench at the park in her memory.

Kaschinske inquired about the type of tree and location. Wagner indicated they would like a Red Bud, but are open to suggestions and the location would be near the kayak launch; Kaschinske stated the Red Bud is native, however the area does flood and he would to verify the tree is suitable for the conditions.

Kaschinske stated the department orders benches through Victor Stanley; benches are metal powder coated and for maintenance purposes, a concrete pad is poured under the bench. There is currently a request for another bench in the area and he would need to review the location to ensure space for two.

Wagner stated the budget they proposed is flexible. Kaschinske inquired about the location of the plaque and what they would have engraved on it; DJ stated it would have Claire's name, date of birth and death and a quote "Until we meet again", however, everything is negotiable.

Ahlstrom inquired who would order the bench and plaque. Kaschinske stated the department would order the bench and the family would take care of the plaque. The plaque needs to be flush with the bench, which is comfortable when sitting back.

Ahlstrom asked for a motion; Daniels moved to approve the request for the memorial; Poland seconded. 6 yeas; 0 nay

Motion carried.

Kaschinske stated the request will be forwarded to the Mayor.

Fitness Park – Maguire

Kaschinske stated the department received the National Fitness Campaign grant for a fitness park at Maguire Park. He is in the process of making contact with sponsors for advertising on the walls and currently have received sponsorship from Mr. and Mrs. Joe Maguire. Letters have gone to McLaren, Dean Transportation, Tecomet, LorAnn Oils, Pratt & Whitney and TriStar.

Kaschinske reviewed the process and requirements of the grant. Installation of a concrete pad is required to start, however, when the bid packet was sent out there were no responses. Contact was made with the companies to submit bids.

Mayor Task Force

Kaschinske stated gun violence has increased and Mayor has created a task force with cabinet members and hosted community feedback sessions. Kaschinske stated his role is prevention through programming and what can be done to reduce the number of guns on the street.

Programming entails looking at what we have had success with in the past, however staffing is an issue for the department so we are working with outside organizations, such as Turning Point and Petals and Pine Cones, both are mentoring programs, as well as programs for younger kids.

Kaschinske mentioned the two recent shootings that took place at Rotary and Oak Parks.

Ahlstrom inquired if the Board needs to do anything. Kaschinske stated if members know of any groups that could assist.

Kaschinske further discussed challenges the department has with meeting the higher wages and lack of staff.

Ahlstrom inquired about any of the federal funds or grants that may be available and asked for regular updates.

Legacy Grant

Kaschinske stated applying for a grant and provided a handout of the proposal from 2019 for the development and improvements at the Brenke Fish Ladder to create a performance area using the current space and amenities as a performance space. The space would include a stage, lighting effects, seating, power supplies, controls and possible art features.

The area has a natural amphitheater area and currently used for special events and music festivals, such as this weekend with Dam Jam, a three-day music event with special lighting, stages, food, drinks and vendors.

This project is another aspect of the downtown development by Our Community Foundation to utilize the river trail, parks and waterfront for development from 496 to Old Town.

Hunter Pool

Dombrowski stated there is not much seating available and you cannot bring your own chairs and you cannot bring food or drinks, except water. Wondered if the rule could be changed.

Kaschinske stated he would check with the YMCA because they are the contractor for staffing the pool. He believes it may be to do with liability and their insurance and the food may be due with health codes.

Dombrowski inquired if the old Pattengill area is entirely school district property.

Kaschinske stated yes and inquired if he was referring to the old 119th Park near the armory, which is school district property. Kaschinske stated he met with the school district regarding signs about the dog use and the pathway is in cooperation with the city and district.

Dombrowski stated a neighbor saw a police car speeding down the eastside connector south of Lansing Catholic Center. Other board members mentioned they have witnessed police cars using the paths with excessive speed.

Kaschinske stated he would speak with Chief.

Poland stated at Forestview Park there is no pathway to the pavilion and her congregation using the park, are willing to assist with the cost of a pathway, and asked for an estimate.

OLD BUSINESS

Moore's Pool

Kaschinske state the committee wants to raise \$2,000,000 dollars for repairs; however, the consultants estimate was \$4-\$6 million. We were able to pull some items from the plan but not all that they suggested.

Ahlstrom inquired about the downtown playground. Kaschinske stated he received an invitation to present at the MNRTF Board meeting in August and will answer any questions they have.

Poland inquired if the location of the playground is planned for the same area. Kaschinske stated yes, but the public issues were addressed.

Discussion took place on the fact there are no permanent restrooms planned for the destination and how can porta units be fully accessible to all.

PARK UPDATES

Concerts in the Park stated on Wednesday evenings.

Applying for Ingham County grants for various projects.

Bids have gone out for crack sealing and repairs in parks.

Rivertrail updates are sent via email. Some projects are complete and the trail is open, other projects will be starting with trail closures.

Community Centers are open; Letts Center now houses the Department of Neighborhood and Citizen Engagement and will not have Park staff there except for programming.

Tennis courts are being sealed at Letts

Turner Mini Park paver replacement project is finishing and park will be open at end of the month.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Kellie Brown, Park Board Secretary

Approved September 8, 2021