



## Watertown Park Commission Meeting

DeAnna Clemens  
Terry Gallagher  
Danette Painschab  
Joel Skoog  
Brad Kipp  
Brian Lonquist  
Jack Lynch  
Adam Pawelk

8/17/2022 - Minutes

### 1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Park Commission Chair Danette Painschab called the Watertown Park Commission meeting to order at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 in the City Council Chambers at Watertown City Hall.

Park Commission Members Present: Danette Painschab, Deanna Clemens, Terry Gallagher, Joel Skoog, Brad Kipp, Brian Lonquist, and Jack Lynch. City Council Liaison, Adam Pawelk was present.

Staff Members Present: City Administrator, Jake Foster and Administrative Services Director, Margaret Reisdorf.

Park Commission Members Absent: None.

**CLEMENS MOVED TO ADOPT THE ADENDA AS PRESENTED. KIPP SECONDED. MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Joel Skoog absent for vote).**

### 2. New Business

#### 2.A. 2A - Minutes - 6-25-22

**GALLAGHER MOVED TO ADOPT THE JUNE 15, 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. LONQUIST SECONDED. MOTION PASSED 6-0. (Joel Skoog absent for vote).**

#### 2.B. 2B - Highland Park Master Plan

City Administrator, Foster, introduced this item to the Park Commission. He mentioned that this item was being brought back for additional discussion and was originally brought to the Park Commission at the April 2022 meeting.

Foster informed that the development of a master plan for Highland Park was initiated by members of the Watertown-Mayer school district and the Red Devils Town Baseball Club. These stakeholders/users are looking to establish a "higher end" park that would be attractive for tournaments.

Foster explained that some of the current park amenities have been aging and do need to be prioritized for updates.

#### **SKOOG ENTERED THE MEETING AT 6:35 PM.**

Foster said that since the last meeting, staff held additional meetings with the stakeholders and the city's engineering firm to establish a "needs and wants" list. Based on that established list, the city engineer created a visual map that shows the location of the amenities. The City Engineer also provided cost estimates for updates/improvements.

Foster stated that staff is currently looking to the Park Commission to prioritize the items on the list and provide feedback. He said that staff is looking to establish a "working document" that creates a 10-year plan for these items that can be incorporated into the city's larger Capital Improvement Plan.

Foster explained that the estimates in the packet are very conservative and is a way to help the Park Commission visualize potential costs even though some could come in higher and/or lower than the estimate.

The Park Commission agreed that some items made sense to "clump" together and do at the same time.

Foster informed that some of the items have potential for grant or sponsorship partnerships that would allow for collaborative funding opportunities.

Foster said that the Red Devils are looking at the updates to attract tournaments and bring in outside opportunities. He explained when people come in and visit from out of the city, it provides an additional positive economic impact.

There was much discussion by the Park Commission on the different amenities and when and how they should be updated. After much discussion, the amenities were tentatively prioritized in the following way:

#### 1-2 YEARS

#4 – Upgrading the rope fence to a decorative fence.

Discussion on this item centered on increased safety of those using the playground area and limiting children entering the street; especially when baseballs fly into the street.

There was also discussion on adding a gate opening along the fence somewhere.

#7 – Upgrading existing bathrooms, gut and refinish, power/remote controlled door locks.

Park Commission agreed that this building is aged and needs updates.

#9 - New PA system

Park Commission discussed how the current system is in poor condition. There was consensus on making this a priority, but exploring a lower cost option.

#12 – Upgrade press boxes: finish interior, sheetrock, false ceiling, internet, no heating or cooling required.

#16 – Fencing upgrade and screening above for foul balls.

#20 – Batters Eye Screen

Park Commission discussed making this a priority, but looking at ways to lower the cost (going off the estimate).

3 – 5 YEARS

#2 – New Trail Connection to TH 25 (Concrete).

#6 – Fencing with ticket gates/controlled access.

Park Commission discussed waiting on the fencing and continuing to use temporary fencing at this time. There was discussion on adding a ticket booth within 1-2 years.

5-7 YEARS

#1 - Redo Lions picnic garage: Demo and Rebuild.

#19 – New Scoreboard

Foster explained that this item does not need to be replaced too soon. But cautioned that some parts related to the ability for the scoreboard to remain functional could become obsolete and hard to find replacement parts for at some point.

8-10 YEARS

#5 – Add roof top fan deck with storage on the ground level.

#18 – Upgrade existing lighting to LED.

TABLED - ITEMS THAT NEED ADDITIONAL CLATIFICATION

#10 – Whiffle ball field – ADA accessible turf field

More discussion is needed on if this is the right location for the amenity.

#17 – Outfield Drainage Issues (Level Field and Drain tile)

#3 – Irrigation

#11 – Irrigation

#15 – Irrigation

#13 – Resurface Existing Park Lot (Mill and Overlay)

Research into whether this can be put in with a street improvement project.

#14 – Upgrade Lions shelter; add electricity, sheetrock and lighting

Do minor improvements over time that do not need to be included in on the Master Plan.

### 3. Updates From Staff

Foster explained that the General Election in November will include the municipal election for vacant city council seats. He explained that the city had one person file for the mayor seat and three file for the two city council seats.

The Park Commission discussed where information could be found on the candidates. The following platforms were discussed: newspaper, campaign material, Chamber of Commerce Open House, social media and websites.

Kipp asked if the Park Commission could discuss Pickleball courts at a future meeting.

There was discussion on delays related to the hockey rink upgrades.

Clemens asked if staff could investigate the wetland trail condition. She stated that it is a new trail and that there are many emerging cracks and potholes that are starting to cause safety issues.

### 4. Adjournment

**SKOOG MOVED TO ADJORN THE MEETING AT 8:11 PM. CLEMENS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

DRAFT