



Watertown Park Commission Meeting

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

11/16/2022 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Park Commission Chair Danette Painschab called the Watertown Park Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 16, 2022 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Park Commission members present: Danette Painschab, DeAnna Clemens, Brad Kipp, Terry Gallagher, Joel Skoog, and Jack Lynch.

Staff members present: City Administrator Jake Foster and Administrative Assistant/Permit Technician Kimberly Block

Park Commission Member Absent: Brian Lonquist

GALLAGHER MOVED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. LYNCH SECONDED. MOTION PASSED 6-0 (JOEL SKOOG ABSENT FOR VOTE).

2. New Business

2.A. 2A - September 21, 2022 - Minutes

LONGQUIST MOVED TO ADOPT THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. LYNCH SECONDED. MOTION PASSED 6-0. (Joel Skoog absent for vote).

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

Administrator Foster presented the Highland Park Master Plan for the commission to review and provide feedback. Foster did highlight a couple items for either additional discussion or subject to change depending on the committees recommendation. The first item up for further discussion was permanent fencing with ticket gates/controlled access. Chairperson Painschab stated in previous discussion it was decided there was no need for the permanent fencing if the use of temporary fencing is acceptable

when needed. All members agreed on the removal of this item at this time. The second item up for discussion was the addition of adding line E under Section 3 for the decorative fencing along High Street, it is #4 on the map provided. Foster noted the drainage ditch has been removed because the commission had agreed their was enough help between the staff and Red Devil volunteers to complete this project. The whiffle ball field is included with the ADA Accessible ballfield item, which would be funded through the Miracle Field grant funding.

Administrator Foster presented the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2023 and beyond. Foster went over the park and recreation item on the CIP. Foster stated the Grove Street Rink project that was approved for 2022 but has been delayed for a variety of reasons will be completed in 2023. The first item on the list for 2023 is Sugarbush Park Phase 2 for \$65,000 the date for this has not been scheduled yet. The turf for the Soccer Goals will be repaired/replaced for \$20,000. Highland Park Batter's Eye for \$30,000 is scheduled for 2023. The upgrading of the Highland Park Bathrooms, which is basically cosmetic, it has been determined the structure, plumbing, and electrical of the bathroom are still in acceptable working order. The press box upgrading will take place in 2023 also and the quote for the new PA system has come in considerably lowered then expected around \$30,000 instead of the original \$150,000 estimation. The items for 2024 include \$29,000 for the Forrest Hills 9th Park Improvement. The lights and poles at the hockey rink for \$50,000, along with \$15,000 for basketball hoops at the Hockey Rink. Chairperson Painschab gave a brief history on why these basketball hoops were removed in the past. Gallagher asked if the pickleball court is still planned to go at the rink location as originally planned. Foster stated this is the location of the pickleball courts and the city has everything for this but because of a variety of delays with the rink staff has not been able to finish the pickleball courts. The main hold up is the acrylic coating that is needed at the rink site. Gallagher stated there maybe problems if the pickleball players are trying to use this space at the same time as the basketball users are there. This item will need to be readdressed a year from now, prior to the finalization of the 2024 CIP. The school has begun working a consultant regarding the way-finding signs and the city will partner with them to work together on this project. The boardwalk boards need to be replaced for around \$75,000. Skoog would like to see the replacement being with something that does not present such slip hazard as the current ones do when they get wet or snow on them. The South Lewis pedestrian connection is on the 2025 schedule at a cost estimation of \$123,200. The final project scheduled for 2026 is the park shelter -Community park for a estimation cost of \$327,818.

Clemens stated she would like to see the word 'underutilization' in the first sentence of the Background and Purpose portion of the Master Plan to be more robust and suggested changing it to "future utilization". Everyone agreed and Foster will make this change prior to submitting the plan to the city council for final approval. Gallagher would like to see the final estimation cost of the plan, he is concerned the council will be concerned with the cost of the everything to the current economical situation. Foster stated he will reach out to to the consulting firm for a new estimation total. Chairperson Painschab was glad the cost of the bathroom remodeling should not be as expensive as originally estimated.

CLEMENS MOVED TO SUBMIT THE HIGHLAND PARK MASTER PLAN WITH THE CORRECTIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR FINAL APPROVAL. GALLAGHER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Updates From Staff

Administrator Foster informed the committee staff has been busy work with the city council on the CIP to get it finished up for the year. Councilman Pawelk reminded everyone the December meeting is currently scheduled for December 21st and asked if the committee would like to cancel the meeting due to the holidays. Everyone agreed to cancel the December meeting. Foster updated the committee on the purchase of the Mullen Nature Trail status. The City should be closing on this property in December. This area will include a natural fishing pier, mowed grass trails that will be able to be used for mountain biking and cross country skiing. This area will need to be restored to native plants. The entrance to this property will be off of Steven and Grove.

There was some discussion about the need for improvement to Highway 10 due to safety concerns because of the lack of trail, the width of the road, and the variations of speed limits of this area. There is a safety

need for either a trail or a safer/alternative option for children attending school at this location.

4. Adjournment

SKOOG MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL JANUARY. GALLAGHER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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