



Watertown Park Commission Meeting

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

3/17/2021 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Park Commission Chair Danette Painschab called the Watertown Park Commission meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, 2021 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Park Commission members present: Painschab, Terry Gallagher, Brian Lonquist, and Brad Kipp.

Council liaison: Mike Walters.

Those who signed in: Donna Kipp and Amy Mandt.

Staff members present: City Administrator Shane Fineran and Administrative Services Director Lynn Tschudi.

KIPP PROPOSED TO ADD A DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NESVOLD PROPERTY AS AGENDA ITEM 2D.

GALLAGHER MOVED, LONGQUIST SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE AMENDED AGENDA AS PRESENTED. ALL PRESENTED VOTED AYE, MOTION CARRIED.

2. New Business

2.A. Approve February 17th Meeting Minutes

KIPP MOVED, GALLAGHER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 17, 2021. ALL PRESENT VOTED AYE, MOTION CARRIED.

2.B. Kings Meadows Park Restoration

City Administrator Fineran informed the Commission that the City owns about 8 acres of open field near the Kings Meadows development. This is open turf with the City staff maintaining the mowing. Fineran stated this area is greatly impacted by the Crow River flood plain. He said the Carver County Water Management Organization (CCWMO) has received a grant that would allow them to create a natural restoration area on the open turf area in Kings Meadows. Fineran said the watershed would also maintain the area for three years but the City would be responsible for the maintenance of the native

vegetation after 2023. He showed the Commission the area on a map along with the floodplain.

Commission Member Gallagher likes the idea and would be open to getting feedback from the residents in the Kings Meadows neighborhood. Kipp asked about adding an established trail in the area to create a walking loop. Park Chair Painscab clarified that there would be no cost to the City until they take over the maintenance. Fineran said yes. Park Commission agreed that the best next step is to hold a community engagement session.

GALLAGHER MOVED, KIPP SECONDED A MOTION TO PROCEED WITH THE PROCESS AND HOLD A PUBLIC INPUT SESSION. ALL PRESENT VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

2.C. Park Space Security Surveillance

City Administrator Fineran said the Grove Street Rink had multiple instances of vandalism during the 2021 skating season. Staff attempted to prevent the vandalism in the warming house by posting signs, however there continued to be vandalism causing the warming house to close early. Fineran said the warming house is no longer staffed during the open period. He is looking for direction on if the warming house should be equipped with a surveillance camera.

Commission Member Kipp said he is disappointed in the vandalism and he asked if there have been any police reports filed. Fineran said the City files a report with each incident but he is not aware if further investigation has been completed. Gallagher asked if the City has surveillance anywhere else in the City. Fineran said no. Lonquist suggested installing dummy cameras. Painscab said something should be done and asked about the data privacy laws. Fineran explained that the video becomes government data, and the City would need to develop a policy. Kipp suggested researching the type of camera and technology before deciding. Commissioners are curious to see the effectiveness of a real camera versus a dummy camera.

2.D. Discussion Regarding Nesvold Property

Kipp informed the Park Commission that there is a proposed development near Tuscany Village and the Wetlands of Watertown. Kipp voiced his concerns about the possible removal of trees in the development as well as the small lots. Painscab asked if the developer will complete the "sidewalk to no where" along County Road 10. Fineran said that was discussed at the March 9 council meeting so it could be a negotiation. Gallagher asked if the developer will pay park dedication funds. Fineran said yes.

Commission discussed the safety concerns along County Road 10. Fineran reminded Commissioners that the sketch plan is just a review until a preliminary plat is submitted at which that time a formal review is completed.

3. Updates From Staff

Fineran updated that the City will open bids for the 2021 Mill & Overlay which includes the Sugarbush trail. Fineran said the disc golf course is ready to go with baskets installed.

4. Adjournment

GALLAGHER MOVED, LONQUIST SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:35 P.M. ALL PRESENT VOTED AYE, MOTION CARRIED.