



Watertown Park Commission Meeting

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

7/19/2023 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Park Commission President DeAnna Clemens called the Watertown Park Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday July 19, 2023 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Park Commission Members Present: DeAnna Clemens, Terry Gallagher, Wesley Christ, Brad Kipp, Brian Lonquist, Adam Pawelk and Jack Lynch

Park Commission Member Absent: Joel Skoog

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

2. New Business

2.A. 2A - Minutes From April 19, 2023

KIPP MOVED TO ADOPT THE MARCH 15, 2023 MEETING AS PRESENTED. LONQUIST SECONDED. MOTION PASSED 5-0

2.B. 2B - Highland Park Bathrooms And Press Boxes Project

Foster gave a brief background on the Highland Park Bathrooms and Press Boxes Project. At the April 19, 2023, Park Commission Meeting, staff and commissioners discussed the trouble staff was having with obtaining quotes/scope documents from potential contractors for upgrading the Highland Park bathrooms and press boxes project. This project is part of the 2023 CIP. The City currently has \$75,000 budgeted in the CIP for the project.

At this meeting, the Parks Commission concluded that a scope of work document should be created to help guide the bidding process. That document was created by the City's engineering firm Bolton and

Menk and it was distributed to several additional potential contractors. Staff received a response from Kevin Danielson Construction and Grindstone Construction Services. Both firms did a site visit to evaluate the project, but Kevin Danielson Construction ultimately did not submit a bid.

Staff also received one bid from Rice Companies Inc. prior to the creation of the scope of work document. Both the Grindstone Construction and Rice Companies bids are attached.

Rice Companies provided a bid amount of \$52,672.71. However, staff has deemed this to be a significantly incomplete bid as it does not include any costs for plumbing, HVAC, concrete floor or wall patching, plumbing fixtures, permitting, or rear wall modifications needed in the bathrooms.

Grindstone Construction submitted a bid totaling \$102,155, but also provided six bid alternates. The six bid alternates total an additional \$17,500. If all alternates would be included and accepted in the scope of work, the total bid price would be \$119,655. Staff would recommend including the stainless steel restroom partitions (instead of painted metal) and the grind and polish existing concrete floors alternates at a minimum.

Staff is looking for direction on what to recommend to Council in terms of moving forward with the project. Staff feels very confident in Grindstone Construction as a contractor. They were extremely responsive and thorough, and provided the bid within two weeks of the City first contacting them. Staff would not recommend moving forward with Rice Companies' bid, as it is very incomplete, and it took months before it was submitted. They were also much less responsive. With that all being said, staff has identified a few alternatives for the recommendation to the City Council.

Foster stated the timeline of the project if approved. Grindstone Construction would be able to do it this fall after the Red Devil session is done. Lonquist stated Grindstone Construction's bid pricing seems to be a reasonable price for the scope of work.

GALLAGHER MOVED TO APPROVE THE GRINDSTONE CONSTRUCTION BID WITH ALTERNATIONS 2. STAINLESS STEEL RESTROOM PARTITIONS INSTEAD OF PAINTED METAL AND 4. GRIND AND POLISH EXISTING CONCRETE, IN FILL CMU AREAS FOR REPAIR TO MATCH EXISTING AS BEST AS POSSIBLE A 400 SFT (INSTALL VINYL WALL BASE). LONQUIST SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2.C. 2C - Mullen Property Park Naming

Foster presented a brief history of the project and some possible names for starting points. At the April 19, 2023, Park Commission Meeting, staff and commissioners discussed the request for naming newly acquired parkland from the previous landowners. Staff noted that it has been the City's general approach not to name parks after people. However, this land was sold to the City by previous owners and the request was received from said owners. Due to these circumstances, staff thought the proposal warranted discussion with the Park Commission.

Commissioners had concerns that the Oak Grove Community Park was donated (and not sold) by the previous landowners, and they were not able to name the park. With that consideration, and that of the traditional park naming precedence, staff is recommending that the Park Commission recommend a new park name to the City Council for approval.

As additional reference, when new housing developments are approved, the developer is often allowed to name the streets and any neighborhood parks. However, this is certainly a different situation where that process could not be followed.

Suggestions for the park name can be provided by commissioners, but the following have been provided by staff for consideration: • The Stevens Street Trails or Stevens Street Park • Prairie Meadow Park (or variation Prairie/Meadow Park/Trails) • Crow River Trails or Crow River Park

There was some discussion regarding possible name combinations, the placement of the trail will not be along the river due to flooding areas. It was suggested to not calling it a park since that would give the impression to families there may be a playground in the area which there will not be any playground equipment installed. There was a consensus to name the area Prairie Meadow Trails as it sounds the most aesthetically pleasing.

Kipp did state he was at the area recently and the flowers and grasses are coming up very nicely and it is look so nice as a prairie area.

GALLAGHER MOVED TO NAME MULLEN PROPERTY RESTORATION AREA TO PRAIRIE MEADOW TRAIL LONQUIST SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2.D. 2D - Pollinator Garden Request

Foster present the background for the pollinator garden request from Ali Parsons-Towle, who is on the planning commission board.

Ali Parson-Towle, has submitted a request to staff explore the idea of planting a pollinator garden along the trail connecting Southview St. and Quail Ct. Ms. Parsons-Towle has been mowing the strip of land to the west of the trail for the last 6 years and is no longer able to do so. Public services superintendent, Mike Dressel, has been informed, and the City will take over the mowing.

However, given the additional swath of land to the west of the trail, Ms. Parsons thought this would be a good opportunity to plant a pollinator garden, and a nice amenity for the City.

Staff would like direction from the Parks Commission prior to spending any significant staff time on the project. Ms. Parsons-Towle has also volunteered her time as a professional grant-writer to help find funding for the project.

Foster shared the photos of the area Kipp had sent to him earlier of the area proposed for the pollinator garden area. Kipp questioned if the neighbors had been notified regarding the request and if they had been able to weigh in on the option. Foster stated the city currently works with Prairie Restoration for several project and they would be the ones to help with this project or the City staff would be able to take care of the prepping, plants, and maintenance of this project. Foster stated the MN DNR has guidelines on this scope of project and also may have grant opportunities for the type of project. Ms. Parsons-Towle is a grant writer as her profession and has offered her assistance to the city in locating and writing grants for this project. Clemans stated with area already having the lilac bushes and other vegetation a pollinator garden would blend into the area nicely. Several members stated they would favor the request be tabled until more information on the cost, vegetation options, cost comparison, and grant options can be presented.

LONQUIST MOVED TO PROCEED WITH GETTING MORE INFORMATION ON THE COST OF THIS PROJECT, VETGETATION OPTIONS, AND GRANT OPTIONS. GALLEGHER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Updates From Staff

Foster presented the following updates:

Nicholas Hoese has been in contact with several staff and council members regarding the cleanliness of the Mini Biffs in the various parks around the city. In particular the biffs located in Highland Parks and Rick Johnson Park as these ones are used with the most frequency. Hoese would like the cleaning of these be changed from once a week to twice a week.

The Sugarbush project is to start either today or tomorrow.

The pickleball courts are in the process of being completed, Staff has been struggling to get the contractor here to complete this project. The contractor did clean the area last weekend and should be back later this week (Friday or Saturday) to finish the project, weather promoting.

The last Planning Commission needed to be cancelled due to our consultant having a family death. The next meeting will be in August but the date has not been confirmed as of yet.

Lynch asked if the City does any testing of the water in the Riverpointe pond. Foster stated the City does not do any water testing on the pond and for this reason the city does not promote it as a swimming area.

Gallagher commented the new trail on Arnica looks very nice with the trail being widened and redone

4. Adjournment

LONQUIST MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING GALLAGHER SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.