

PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

May 21, 2024

MINUTES

The May 21, 2024, meeting of the Parks and Natural Resources Committee was called to order in city hall at 6:33 p.m.

Attendees: Council Members Justin McCarthy and Kathy Weier, Committee Members Zachary Michalk, Jennifer Arsenault, and Mary Sue Simmons.

Others: Barton Winter

Agenda. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

Public Forum.

Winter said that he wants the field at Tighe-Schmitz left as grass. He is also concerned that the drain near the warming hut might be plugged causing the parking lot to flood. He would like to step in to maintain rink in the winter. McCarthy asked Winter if he could look into some type of epoxy to put on surface of rink.

Minutes. The draft Minutes for the April meeting were unanimously approved.

Tighe-Schmitz Public Forum Follow-up. The committee discussed the results from the forum. The consensus from those present at the forum was to leave an open field but improve drainage and include a walking path with exercise stations around the perimeter. Those present at the forum were also concerned about the maintenance of the parks. The committee discussed swapping the picnic table at Dellwood Beach for one at Tighe-Schmitz and hiring a seasonal maintenance person. The committee decided that the next step should be preparing a potential master plan for the park that would include costs and a timeline for project completion. Because this plan is something either Rice Creek or Washington County Conservation District could do, Simmons offered to be a liaison between the two entities to help develop this plan.

Updates on the Elm Beach Easement Maintenance Work. Simmons and Molly from Rice Creek will tour Elm Beach.

Movement of Ash Path. Jim will take care of downed trees and rearrange path. Ron and Jim will fix steps on Ash.

Updates of the New Beach and Park Signs. Beach signs are all posted. Bloomquist and Tighe-Schmitz signs will go up when Jim receives direction on where to put them.

Rice Creek Watershed District Grant Opportunities. Weier suggested that grant applications be put on hold until the committee can determine start and finish dates for projects since this is a requirement for application. McCarthy mentioned a Land and Legacy Grant offered by Washington County.

Conservation Initiatives. The April clean-up day accomplished many tasks and had a good turn-out. Simmons has conservation ideas which will be included in the Village newsletter.

General Maintenance. The committee will pass along the recommendation that the city hires a seasonal employee to help with park maintenance.

Next Meeting. June 18, 2024 at 6:30

Adjourn. 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Arsenault