

August 13th, 2024

Staff in Attendance: Karl, Jonn, Bob, Nicole, and Eli

Parks Commission in Attendance: Brad, JoAnn, Alex, Chris and Sarah

6pm Call to order

August minutes passed unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments:

Sally Turner was in attendance to speak about the Ace of Hearts Dog Park. She was inquiring about the possibility of another park in the west end of town. Linda Zelinski was in attendance to also speak about the dog park. Discussion was had about irrigation and grass seed and fencing off a section as a trial patch.

The discussion ended with staff letting the Board and guests know that the west end property and port property do not belong to the City, so the plan is unknown at this time.

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the most current information is in the report. Jonn was in attendance at the FAB meeting and gave a budget update.

2025 Budget Discussion: Jonn gave an overview of the 2025 budget for the Parks & Recreation department. Costs are going up and revenue is going down so the City has asked for a reduction in the 2025 budget. Staff is looking into how they can hold the line or ways to cut costs. Parks will be going into reserves for the third year in a row to prevent staffing cuts. The process will continue with the Mayor and council in October through December.

Department Reports:

Eli shared that the Haunted Forest is on October 26th and we are always looking for volunteers. Soccer is getting ready to launch in September with teams forming. And summer camps have been a huge success. He is looking to do a basketball camp partnered with the school district and also getting toddler programs back up and running with Messy Me and Tots in the Park.

Nicole announced that we will be losing seasonals starting this week. She is meeting some volleyball enthusiasts at Storvik Park on August 23rd to chat about the sand volleyball court. She will meet with Burlington Parks and Rec about their courts and maintenance required. The noise complaints at Clearridge Pickleball courts continue. Nicole has researched sound dampeners, the cost is about \$27,000 for just two sides of the courts. Staff is looking to do indoor gym time downstairs at city hall during the week days to give another option. Jonn is also in talks with the school district about redesigning and fixing the tennis courts to allow for pickle ball there.

Bob shared that there are beavers back at Whistle lake. This is a great indication of how healthy our forest lands are and how well habitat and resources are being protected. There has been more vandalism in the ACFL, the latest being a fire nearby. It was quickly contained by AFD and DNR.

Karl shared that the Center was involved with Kids are Best Fest in July and that was followed by a Family Music Jubilee at the Center. Council has approved the HVAC and AC upgrades to the

Center. It is shaping up to be a busy fall at the Center with new programs and another round of Aging Mastery Class. They held a talk about Social Isolation and had 31 people in attendance, showing this is a predominant issue in the community. The Picnic at Washington Park will be on August 29th and all are invited.

Other Business:

Brad asked about the Heart Lake Master Plan, Jonn shared that staff is going out for a grant from the State with a presentation on the 28th. However, even if we are at the top of the ranking, it still has to go through the legislative process and then have a match of City funds.

Questions were asked about the Cap Sante Rotary park project. It is currently in process and close to sending out for bids.

Adjourned at 6:59pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan