

September 10, 2024

Staff in Attendance: Karl, Bob, Jonn, Braydn and Darby

Parks Commission in Attendance: Brad, Joann, Sarah & Chris

6pm Call to order

August minutes passed unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence/ Communication:

Jonn shared that he had met with the Parks Foundation and they spoke about the Mt Erie PSE lease. This is with PSE and there is some pressure to get a response as no sub-leases can be renewed until the lease is signed.

Conversation was had about the support for pickleball sound dampening, research is being done on the options for this. Sand volleyball is the popular vote at Storvik park and City staff will be meeting with neighbors about this option. The Foundation is in support of this project as well.

JoAnn spoke about the Forest Board, sharing that the written reports are most up to date with information. Bob shared at the meeting that there are 2 dams at Whistle Lake, one man made and one that the beavers have recently created. Staff have gotten the permits to remove the beaver dam as it is blocking the spillway and putting more pressure on the dam. The human dam study permit is in process.

A question was asked about the shoreline damage, this is an open case with the APD.

Department Reports:

Jonn reported that the Heart Lake master plan grant was presented to the state. Staff is waiting to hear about the ranking and then it will go through the legislative process and hopefully be funded.

A question was asked about the R Avenue landscaping. Grass is about to be put down and get growing as we are approaching the rainy season. This is a Public Works job that Parks staff have been asked to help with.

Jonn gave an update on the Tommy Thompson Parkway restroom. There has been an agreement between the City and MJB to rebuild the restroom and demolish the old one. As this was an RCO project, there will need to be approval from the public and state. The Board will advocate for the funds from this deal to come to the Parks department.

Jonn and Nicole met with sand volleyball users at Storvik. Staff was advocating for one court in the space but the users are requesting two courts. Staff is preparing a letter to go out to neighbors for public comment on this process. This is also double the cost, so community fundraising will be necessary.

The pickleball conversation and issues are heating up with the neighbors. The biggest issues are parking, noise and hours. Staff has already reduced the hours from 8am to 8pm. However, neighbors are requesting and 8am to 6pm during the week, and 10am to 8pm on the weekends. The November meeting will be a pickleball focused meeting with an invite out to neighbors and players.

Braydn shared all of the things that the trim crew does in their job, listing the dozens of places that are mowed or trimmed each week. They also help with sanitation and irrigation, and any needs that the crew has. He was born and raised here, so takes pride in keeping town looking its best.

Karl shared that the ASAC has been in front of Council for the past two weeks. The first was for approval of the funding for the AC unit, the second for approval of the funding for the community assessment done by a consulting company. The assessment will guide the Center in providing for the needs of the community and their involvement in the Comprehensive plan.

The Center is finishing out summer programs and headed for fall. They just hosted their volunteer thank you with an ice cream social. The annual Washington Park picnic was held last month with lunch and music.

A new program that was started recently was the Veteran's Hangout. Typically the Veteran's resources are done as a one to one meeting with the County VA rep. But this new program brought in a great turn out. Another new program was the Estate and Retirement planning seminar and brought in 44 people, a huge success.

Bob spoke about the Whistle Lake dam, the consultants will be meeting with staff tomorrow on site to kick off the grant evaluation process. Then the studies will be done and sent to DOE. This will be a significant project no matter what comes of the studies.

Other Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan