

October 8th, 2024

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

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

6pm Call to order

September minutes passed unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the most current information is in the report. Asa and Steve were in attendance to give the report on the Ebike study. The conclusion is that there was no difference made to the trails by allowing class 1 (pedal assist) bikes on the bicycle trails. The Board recommended that the current policy of class 1 (pedal assist) ebikes be classified as bicycles on the allowed trails and class 2 & 3 (throttle) ebikes be classified as motor vehicles and only allowed during the open season on motor bike trails. This follows the guidelines of other local municipalities as well as state and federal guidelines. There will be a section in the updated Forest Plan to reflect this policy.

There will be work starting on the Whistle Lake dam, beginning with survey work regarding the structural integrity of the dam.

Bob reported that he had received communication from a citizen concerned about the speed of scooters and dog waste on various trails throughout town.

Discussion was had about putting up signs on the TTP about speed limit and motorized vehicles. Staff reported that there was a trespass of a citizen at the dog park. The citizen was repeatedly entering a closed construction area and misrepresenting himself as a person of authority.

Jonn reported that the Parks Foundation did not meet.

Fall Projects Update:

Staff reported on the following projects-

Storvik Park: A letter was sent to all neighbors within 300 feet from the park regarding the possibility of sand volleyball courts being installed in the northwest corner. There was a small response with some neighbors for and against this project. The quote for three poles and sand is \$53,000-\$63,000. Staff will demo the concrete this fall in preparation for this project.

Altair Americus Park: Trees have been planted in this area, pavers will be placed next week. Staff will be switching out some tables and adding grass.

Depot Landscaping: Staff will be sprucing up the Depot landscaping this fall.

Rotary/Cap Sante: Strandburg construction is leading this project and construction will be starting soon with a construction window of 90 days.

Depot Plaza: Work is being started to design the Depot/Maritime plaza area. City staff will work with the Port to create a nice connection to the future event center.

Department Reports:

Dustin shared that soccer season is winding down. The weather has held and been rain free for all games. A huge thank you to all the volunteer coaches. This was the first big league for Eli and it went great. Boys basketball is next and then girls. He shared that the Parks Foundation donated funds to purchase height adjusters for the high school which will be installed soon and open up the high school gym for youth basketball. Upcoming events include the Mt Erie run on October 19th, the Haunted Forest on October 26th and the Wonderland Walk on December 13 and 14.

Karl announced that October has been busy with programs and the consultants have been on site. They met with various groups to come up with a plan and the steps to continue the process. Amanda has completed training to teach the Powerful Tools for Caregivers class, she will be teaching next week. The Mayor was onsite to deliver and Agism Proclamation as tomorrow is Agism Awareness Day. Staff is in talks with the Foundation about the budget with their year end appeal being donations for facility moves.

Nicole spoke about the upgrades to the Ace of Hearts dog park. Staff has fenced off a portion and is trying to grow grass. The Port took down some trees and brought the wood chips to the dog park for staff use.

Nicole shared that she and John Pope had met regarding pickleball noise and solutions. Staff is looking at sound dampening curtains and exploring the Parks Foundation to cover part of the cost.

Staff have received many requests as the days get shorter for teams to use the lighted turf fields. Future plans hope to have Volunteer field turfed with the help and support of Rick Harvey.

Bob shared that there will be a staff and Friends of the Forest work party on November 2nd with the location to be determined. At the council meeting on Monday, a lifetime achievement award will be given to Bruce Rustad for all of his years of service in the forest lands.

Bob gave an update that the new restroom for the skate park should start construction in early spring pending RCO approval and public comment.

Staff was on site as 14 hazard trees were removed today on the east side of the cemetery and Whistle Lake road.

The team has lost Myles Farrel to the facilities team, a huge loss for the Parks team, but thankful he is still with the City team. The job will be posted near the end of October and hope to have someone on board in January.

Jonn announced the November 14th meeting for the Board, a shift of a couple of days from the regular meeting due to the Council schedule. This meeting will focus on pickleball, inviting both neighbors and players to come and speak.

He shared that the budget process is moving forward with the Parks department dipping into reserves in order to retain staffing levels.

Jonn shared about the Heart Lake grant. This will most likely be funded through the legislature based on the rank and scoring. It will require a match that will come from the CEP and Parks Foundation.

Other Business:

None

Adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan