



Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Attendees: Acting Chair Merrily Babcock, Sarah Randolph, Bianca Jensen, Jon Erickson, and Council Member Molly McDonald

Staff: Parks Planner, Nick Kieser

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** Minor edits and additions were offered by Babcock and executed by staff. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Acting Chair Babcock, seconded by Randolph. Approved 4-0.
- 3. Public Comments:** No public comments.
- 4. Old Business.**

- a. Klapprich Park Design Development Discussion** – Staff reviewed the scope of WSB design services, timeline and the concept plan in the Parks and Trails Master Plan. Staff noted that the discussion between the Board and WSB at the meeting should provide high-level input on the future improvements to Klapprich Park so WSB can start putting together concept level plans based on the comments received.

Architect Tim McIlwain from Hagen, Christensen & McIlwain led a discussion of issues, potential changes and enhancements to the existing warming house. Size and crowding were discussed which led to the idea of enclosing the current roof area which could double the indoor space. The main goals of the warming house improvements were to increase the indoor seating areas, increase storage space, create space for rental equipment, and ensure the space is ADA accessible. Members expressed a preference to preserve and improve the existing building. Architect McIlwain noted that he will look at the current building plans to determine possibilities for improvement and cost implications to a renovation of the existing building versus creating a new building.

Landscape Architect Bob Slipka from WSB led a discussion of the overall park design. The overall layout was discussed, with a focus on enhancing summer and winter use of the Park. The limited

use of the ball field was discussed and the Board noted that additional amenities or opportunities to increase usage of the field is desired.

The location of existing playground area and future playground areas relative to the shelter building were discussed. Slipka noted that there could be increased use of the ball field, warming house, and other amenities if these were concentrated more closely in a specific area. For example, if the playground was located closer to the warming house then that would provide additional amenities for the playground users which could increase usage. The Board noted the need to preserve all of the trees in the Park, no matter what the overall improvements are. The playground equipment should be nature themed and/or be created with natural play elements. The Board noted that they will send along pictures or examples of desirable playground equipment to staff.

An idea of incorporating an underground ice rink cooling system was also discussed in length. The main benefit of this type of system would be to increase the time the ice rink could be used. The concerns and constraints of this type of system would be the significant cost, need for pavement over the cooling system, and area needed for the cooling equipment. The Board noted this system was not as desirable after the discussion based on the concerns and constraints stated.

The Board, WSB, and staff discussed the next steps regarding public engagement and noted that preliminary plans will be reviewed at the next P&T Board meeting. WSB will take any comments received at that meeting to make changes to the plans to be reviewed at the June P&T Board meeting. Community engagement should be planned after the June meeting to elicit feedback on the concept plans.

- b. Bell Courts** - Staff presented the two options for Bell Courts. The difference between the two options is the location of the pickleball courts on either the east side or west side of the courts. Landscape Architect Slipka led a discussion around the two options and the pros and cons of both. The main benefit for locating the pickleball courts on the west side is that the pickleball users can utilize and gather around the existing building. This would benefit the communal play atmosphere of the pickleball courts. The main benefit of placing pickleball on the east side of the courts is noise could be reduced to the properties on the west. After discussion, a motion was made to endorse locating the Pickleball courts on the west side was made by Randolph, seconded by Jensen. Approved 4-0.
- c. Earth Day** - Babcock verbally presented the activities and schedule and details for the Earth Day event. The event is scheduled for April 22 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. There will be potted tree drawing, tree seedling giveaway, native tree order pick-up, local bookstore sale, and children readings.

d. Tree Tapping – Babcock provided a summary of the recently completed tree tapping activity. Participation and production of sap have both increased from previous years. Council Member Jeff Parkhill was recognized for his participation and support.

5. Other Business. Babcock noted the age and condition of Tulips at the Post Office park and the need to plant new bulbs. Collaboration between the Board and staff will occur to address this idea.

6. Staff Updates. Discussed current inventory of Adirondack chairs and ordering more. The Board noted that additional Adirondack chairs are desired so staff will put in an order for additional chairs.

Staff also displayed a “pop” tennis racket, that was provided by a community member near Bell Courts. The resident wanted the Board to know about this sport and the ability to play the game on existing tennis courts.

7. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM