

September 13, 2016 Park Commission Minutes

Present: Alexander Hintz,(Vice-President), Elizabeth Kocjan, Melody Schmitz, Craig Mc Ateer
Randall Solberg (Supervisor).

Also present:

Patrick Flynn – 5K events – Kayak and Canoe Launch

Nick Wirsching – Waterboarding at Gorney Park

Mark Felding – Journal Times

Mark Schuit – Nicholson Wildlife Refuge

- 1) Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.
- 2) Public Comments – No public comments.
- 3) Approval of Minutes – Melody made a motion to approve the minutes for July.
Seconded by Craig. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Linwood Canoe Launch – 5K events sponsors a kayak and canoe trip down the Root River every year. Currently there is a sign at Linwood Park for a canoe launch, and they would like to make the river more accessible to the public. Patrick Flynn asked for permission to proceed with the fundraiser to have Katt Construction build a canoe dock in Linwood Park for boat launching. Melody made a motion for 5K Events to proceed with their fundraiser and return with a proposal. Seconded by Elizabeth. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5) Gorney Park Watersports Proposal –Nick Wirsching did a presentation on the effects of the waterboard rides, how it would be constructed, and would like to form a partnership with the Village of Caledonia to implement Waterboarding at Gorney Park. The Commission informed Mr. Wirsching about conservancy of the park and advised him to work with the Village of Caledonia regarding any partnership. Alex made a motion to take the proposal under advisement pending research by the village regarding liability, consultation with the DNR, and approval by the Village Board. Melody seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6) Presidents Report – None
- 7) Budget Report –Receipts from Dicks Sporting for the softballs.
- 8) 2017 Budget – There was discussion regarding the supervisor position in the budget.
- 9) Supervisor/Maintenance Update –
 - a. Supervisor’s Report – Randall asked the Commission to put a wish list together for the parks. Wish list may include: Crawford Park - black top courts, 2 full courts, multi

- striped painting. Gorney Park – add another shelter. Chapla Park – Outdoor fitness park and extra certification for it. * See attachment for a complete list.*
- b. 2016 Events – None
 - c. Nicholson Update –The boardwalk has been constructed and the grant received for it is in the process of completion. The lawn mower that was stored in the Gorney Park garage has been restored and will be used to maintain the grass next to the boardwalk.
 - d. League Update – More teams are coming in and teams are returning. We will move the teams season startup date to May 10 to finish earlier and as to not interfere with the starting of the Fall Leagues.
 - e. Project Approval – Randall would like to construct 4 dugouts (30 foot ea.) –at \$325 per dugout using green treated wood at Crawford Park.
- 10) Parks Plan Discussion – 5 1/2 Mile Road –Due the presence of wetlands there is a question as to how much of the parkland can be utilized. Craig made a motion to further examine the property for park development. Melody seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- 11) New Business – No new business.
- 12) Communications and Announcements – None
- 13) Adjourn - Elizabeth made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Craig. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M..

Respectfully Submitted by Elizabeth Kocjan

Nicholson Wildlife Refuge

The boardwalk is now completed. I think we have 95 sections which equals 760 foot of boardwalk.

The lawn mower that was stored in the Gorney Park garage has been clean up and will be needed to maintain the grass growing next to the boardwalk. This will need to become a weekly activity to maintain a clean look. The grassy walk area along the eastside of the boardwalk is now wider to help dry up the area along with giving us a more open look.



We discuss adding a view deck overlooking the pond area. I also think we should consider adding a resting spot along the walk path. These are project that can be built in the winter season in the garage and delivered to the site when the area is dry. The view deck could be built in sections and final assembly done at the park.

Expanding the parking lot for more vehicles and clearing the tree line along 5 Mile Road.

Would we consider adding a Shelter for rentals? If so, we need to consider that the west end of the front grass area is often wet. If we add a shelter to the front end should we consider naming it after someone?

There was also discussion of adding a nice sign on the gate letting the community know this is the entrance to the wildlife refuge and additional signage regarding the different plant and animals within the area.

There was talk about a bike path to this area.