

**CITY OF WACONIA  
MINUTES OF SCHEDULED MEETING  
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Regular Meeting of the Waconia Parks & Recreation Board was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Wessale.

**Park Board Members Present:** Matt Wessale, Adam Hegeholz, Andrew Anauo, Thomas Adamini

**Park Board Members Absent:** Lacey Shaw

**Council Liaison:** Pete Leo

**Staff Present:** Jackie Schulze, Craig Eldred

**Adopt Agenda**

Adamini made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Anauo. All in favor.

**Appointment of Chair/Vice Chair**

Wessale made a motion to table the chair/vice chair discussion to the February meeting when all members could be in attendance. Adamini seconded. All in favor.

**Approve November 19, 2020 Minutes**

Anauo made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2020 meeting. Hegeholz seconded. All in favor.

**Inclusive Playground**

Eldred provided an update on the inclusive playground and updated on the current fundraised amounts. He stated that we continue to work on taking those donations. The City is working on linking our City Engineer and Landscape Structures architects together, specifically regarding the landform elements. He highlighted the landform elements in the design images. He reminded the Park Board that the entire surface is the fully accessible flooring.

Wessale reminded the Board that there was a separate task force to do the design work of the playground and confirmed with Eldred that this is the final design. Eldred mentioned that some of the fundraised money is money that is dedicated towards fundraising portions of the park (for example, spinners, various pieces of equipment). He directed people to the City's inclusive playground fundraising website to see more details. Wessale also asked about the current timing of the project. Eldred stated that we are working on getting our engineer and landscape structures put together so we can get a full site plan put together to go out and obtain grant funds. Eldred hopes to have grants ready to go in this spring, since the playground is in our capital plan for 2022.

Adamini asked if the short-term fundraising goal was to get to \$250,000 and Eldred confirmed that.

## **Sudheimer Park**

Eldred presented on the Sudheimer park project and recalled that Shaw and Wessale were the only two members involved in the project previously. Eldred stated this is a capital project for us and made up of about 26 acres. There were a lot of previous discussions about what to do with this, especially in terms of dealing with wetlands. The challenge for this is an access point. The City did move the funding element out for this from 2022 to 2025.

Eldred did visit some other similar sites and the biggest concern with dog parks is that people do not always clean up after their dogs.

Based on what was drawn up its between \$800-\$900,000 in site improvements. It is a long-term goal to have the entire site improved.

Eldred would like to get this on the park board's radar for this year.

Adamini stated he loves the layout and the concept. He asked if Eldred foresees any managed turf. Eldred stated that the only place looked at was around the parking lot because he would like to keep it as natural as possible.

Wessale wanted to shed some light on past discussions. He said when the board was discussing, there was consensus of the value of the trails there. He recalls mixed reviews surrounding the dog park. Wessale asked if it could be done more cost effectively if it were more of a trail system vs. a dog park (which would need a parking lot). Hegeholz said they should look at Birch Island Woods park.

Wessale said if just the trail was done, he sees it like the Interlaken trail system.

Adamini states that he would like to see one other item if the board elects not to have a dog park but does believe a parking lot would be necessary. He thinks people will want to drive there to get on the trails. Eldred stated that something to potentially look at is a turf parking lot.

Hegeholz inquired how close the corner of the lot is to the Mackenthun's parking lot. Eldred stated that it is about 100 feet. Hegeholz asked about outreach for a dog park. Eldred stated that there isn't a lot, we see a lot of people using the trail system more than anything. Eldred stated that when he started in 2010, the City had a lot of issues with dog waste being in the parks and in 2012 the City started providing the bags and dispensers, and that has helped a lot. Hegeholz also asked if there was parking on industrial and Eldred responded that it is signed "no parking." Eldred said there used to be a lot more truck traffic on that but there have been several changes due to an Elkay land swap.

## **Rietz Lake Fishing Pier**

Eldred talked about the Rietz Lake Fishing Pier and stated he looked back in notes and had staff do some depth checks on the lake conditions. Eldred stated that the biggest issue is that the water can get pretty high, so the water bounce is a concern. It can be about a four-foot bounce. The wave armor dock approach has been recommended on Rietz Lake, which is a poly-dock system, and it allows to float up and down with the water better. Eldred was going to get some numbers.

This project is scheduled for 2022 and he is going to get some of the numbers together for more details.

Wessale confirmed that we would not be able to do anything permanent here due to maintenance costs, etc. Eldred said they will look at several options.

## **Park Updates**

**Brook Peterson Park:** working on final items, working with engineer on ramp for skate park. The skate park was part of the Lion's Field improvement several years ago, and we are required to make an ADA access.

**Waterford Park:** hopes to have more info next month. Developer did dedicate four residential lots for additional green space. Basketball court and relocation of community gardens. However, there are a still things to work through.

**Oak Point Play Equipment:** Site improvements approved by City Council and equipment has been ordered. Equipment should be here by April, and the shelter has been ordered as well. Project should hopefully be fully completed by the end of June, with the only outstanding item being trail sealing, since we are oftentimes the last entity who gets this done. Tennis court and basketball court resurfacing will happen, too.

**City Square Park ADA:** The City Council approved the plan as presented and the project should be fully completed by June of 2022.

**Design Manual:** Staff have been working with our engineer on completing a City Design Manual for Developments and Improvements. Working with CD Projects on some park signage, specially related to wayfinding. Would like the Park Board to be updated on this in Q1 yet.

**Trail Sealing:** We just received a request for this – the goals are to get through Interlaken, Main Street, Parkway North, and Highway 5.

**Holiday Lighting:** In December, the Fire Relief and the Lions donated funds to buy 18 snowflake LED fixtures for City Square Park. It did bring a challenge because new electrical outlets had to be installed in the parks. Wessale said the lights really did add a nice touch to the holiday décor. Eldred stated it was a significant improvement, but a huge asset.

Eldred said next month he'll provide some additional project updates including reconstruction projects, and then we can dig into some CIP items.

Wessale said it seemed like last year there were new developers in at every meeting and asked if it has slowed down at all. Eldred stated that it seems to be because we are wrapping up a lot of developer's agreements, etc., right now.

Eldred stated he would like to have more trials linked in the next few years.

## **Board Updates**

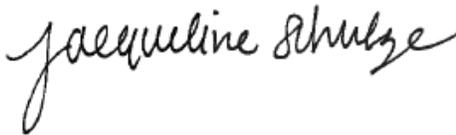
Wessale stated he attended the County's public meeting for the Regional Park Project and encouraged everyone to go on the website because they are taking comments. He said he didn't feel the current model capitalized on the lake views.

Councilmember Leo wanted to make a comment about the inclusive playground. He stated we are about \$65,000 short of the goal of \$250,000. He gave a plug for the Polar Plunge, which the City is partnering with Special Olympics, MN

## **Adjournment**

Adamini motion to adjourn. Hegeholz second. All in favor. Adjourn at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "jacqueline schulze". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Jackie Schulze  
Interim City Administrator