

MARION PARK BOARD MINUTES

October 14, 2015, 4:00 P.M.

Thomas Park Administration and Operations Facility

ROLL CALL: Chair Patty Wise, John McIntosh, Kyle Martin, Charles Kress

ABSENT: Terry Sperial

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Aaron VanMilligan, Karlene Hummel, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: None

Minutes

Moved by Kress and seconded by McIntosh to approve the September 9, 2015, regular Park Board minutes. No discussion. All in favor, motion carried.

Reports

Moved by Wise and seconded by Kress to approve the September Financial Report. No discussion. All in favor, motion carried.

The September Purchase Order Report was reviewed and accepted. The IPRA annual membership fees were paid. DDM Landscape and Irrigation invoice was processed for repairs to the Sixth Avenue irrigation system. Westfield Tennis Club was paid for session 3 tennis lessons at Oak Ridge School for 29 students; the department receives the fees, but remits 85 percent for the instructors. McIntosh asked about the rental of the jack hammer and the roller. VanMilligan indicated the jack hammer was used for sidewalk repairs at the Arts and Environment Center, and the roller was rented while the roller from the Public Services Department was being repaired.

Public Input

None.

Legion Park Pavilion Project

In the current fiscal year there is \$280,000 budgeted for a new pavilion at Thomas Park. This will be an enclosed structure for year around usage. Martin presented three possible locations for the building near the sledding hill. The Board discussed the sites. Site #1 sets on the footprint of the former Brown Pavilion. Site #2 overlooks the park and is positioned between the basketball court/ice rink and the sledding hill. Site #3 is north of the existing road, either near the current restroom structure or replacing it. All of the sites will accommodate the required handicap parking needs. Wise, McIntosh, and Kress stated that they preferred Site #2. Carolan will move forward with developing the request for proposals for architectural services and target 2016 for construction.

2016 Ford F150 Purchase

In September 2014, the Board approved the purchase of a 2015 Ford F150 from Junge Ford (Center Point) in the amount of \$25,944.00. Delays in the 2015 model year F150s, has required Junge to provide a 2016 model year vehicle. The cost of the vehicle will remain the same, however, there is an increase in the plow attachment cost included in the purchase. Staff is asking the Board to accept the revised cost of \$26,572.97. Kress asked if this amount still falls within budget. VanMilligan stated it will be within budget. Moved by Wise and seconded by Martin to accept the revised cost of a Ford F150 model year 2016 and plow from Junge Ford (Center Point). All in favor, motion carried.

Martin left the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Receive and File

The monthly staff report was received and filed. The REAP Grant was awarded to the City for Waldo's Rock Park development. The grant proposal scored highest in the group and received the full funding request of \$150,000.

New subcommittees are being formed as part of the Master Park Plan process. The subcommittees will report their findings to the steering committee. A new timeline is being established for the final steps of developing the plan.

Over 100 trees were planted this fall as part of three different projects. Twelve trees were funded by the Trees for Kids Grant and planted along 10th Street with assistance from the Linn-Mar Agriculture Club. The Alliant Branching Out Grant funded 40 trees planted along Tower Terrace Road. The MidAmerican Energy Trees Please Grant and Urban Forestry fund allowed 50 trees to be planted in the right of ways in residential areas.

The Donnelly Park Trail Bridge project letting was October 12. Fifteen plans were distributed and seven bids were returned. The bid tabulation was handed out. Ricklef's Excavating (Anamosa) provided the lowest suitable bid for the project in the amount of \$148,413, which is under the engineer's estimate of \$209,043.

New sidewalks were installed at Lininger Park between the parking lot and playground area, and at Gill Park connecting the new splash pad to the parking lot.

All reviews of the Swamp Fox Festival received by staff have been positive. Wise thanked Hummel and VanMilligan for their assistance with logistics. McIntosh said some of the food vendors at Lowe were overloading the breakers, and that additional lighting is needed for the vendor area at night.

The splash pads have been shut down for the season and winterized.

The Painted Pumpkins youth program had 9 participants and the fall Kids Crafters session has 13 kids signed up.

The Little Sports Camp was successful with 39 kids participating in this program. With the growth of the program, additional times were created to accommodate everyone.

Other

Carolan has received a request for a utility easement across the Grand Avenue Trail near Menards. While reviewing the request, it was discovered that there is a discrepancy of ownership of the area. Staff and legal counsel will be working to clear this up.

The Marion Arts Council will be hosting Coffeehouse Night on November 6 with Craig Erickson performing from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and doors opening at 6:30.

Board Discussion Time

McIntosh asked about the Utility II position that is posted for the department. Carolan explained in a prior budget year, Mike Cimprich's Utility II position was shifted to the Urban Forestry Division, which left a void in the Park's Operations staffing. This posting will fill the vacant position. McIntosh stated there are many hard working, qualified seasonal employees who already know the work and would be a good fit for the full-time position.

Kress noted that the City auditors have requested a lot of financial documents from the Marion Parks and Recreation Foundation. Staff noted the auditors have also requested bank statements from the Friends of the Marion Parks and Friends of Oak Shade Cemetery.

In September Sperl inquired about moving the peace tree from City Square Park to Lowe Park. Carolan stated to move the tree would cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000 and the health of the tree could be greatly impacted. Carolan recommended replacing the tree in the spring.

McIntosh asked if there has been any movement on the Northway memorial bench. Carolan met with the family after the request, but has not been contacted since then.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at 4 p.m. at the Thomas Park Administration and Operations Building.

John McIntosh, Vice Chair