

**MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Present: Akenson, Josephson, Koster, Lee, Lombardi, Reeves, Sinclair; Town Board Supervisor: Ruzek; Public Works Director: Reed; Planner: Riedesel
Absent: Pat without notice

The meeting was conducted via Zoom. All motions, seconds, and votes were counted by roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions): Lombardi moved approval of the agenda as submitted. Sinclair seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2021: Akenson moved the approval of the minutes of January 21, 2021. Josephson seconded. Ayes all.

TOWNSHIP DAY/MOVIE IN THE PARK: Lisa Beecroft was present to discuss **Park Renovations**. The Township cannot pay for someone to fundraise for the park. The person who fundraises would have to be a volunteer. It was noted that Town Board Liaison Ruzek will discuss this with the Town Attorney at the February Executive meeting. Beecroft noted that she can help give pointers and advice to the volunteer, but they just can't get paid for it. There was discussion of forming a committee to fundraise for the park. Vice-Chair Lombardi volunteered to create a first draft for a notice that the Park Board is looking for a fundraising volunteer.

Ice Explorations starts tomorrow. The bear was finished the day after it was ordered, but yesterday it got knocked down. The sculptor will fix it in the morning so it will be back to normal prior to visitors on the tour seeing it. This is a popular event and the Town is looking forward to participating. In the past, the event has had tremendous success. The flyer went out about the event, an article was published in the *White Bear Press*, and on social media.

Beecroft is thinking through the **Movies in the Park**. Beecroft has some ideas on dates, but needs to clarify with the Children's Performing Arts if they wanted to have the park

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alone on one of the days or if they want to joint share the park. She will update the Board at the next meeting.

Beecroft is just starting to plan **Township Day**. The Good, the Bad, and the Funky band confirmed they would perform for \$2,500. The Castaways requested \$600 instead of \$500, and Beecroft wanted to know if the Park Board would approve that. White Bear Drumline doesn't know yet if they will perform, simply because they don't know when they will be able to practice together as a large group.

Josephson made a motion to spend \$100 more on the band. Sinclair seconded. Ayes all.

Beecroft just received the business licenses, so she will be reaching out for sponsorships soon. She would like to see Township Day have the sustainable Township idea that was thought through last year. She will also have a 2021 event safety plan. There was some discussion of following the same plan of the State Fair, but it was noted that some vendors were notified to plan on the State Fair happening this year.

POLAR LAKES PARK IMPROVEMENT: The Town Planner wanted to continue some discussion from last month's discussion, although the numbers are not finalized yet. The numbers for the restrooms are closer to \$950,000, and the Town is waiting on the finishing bids for sewer, water, and electrical work. The playground estimates would be around \$200,000. The Town will submit a grant and include as much as possible about the Town's improvements to the park: trails, dugout roofs, restrooms, playground equipment, etc. There was consensus that the Board should wait to discuss more until the final numbers come in.

GRANTS: The Town Planner reported that the grant is nearly completed and will send it out to the Park Board once it's done. He is focusing on the perimeter trail and hoping to get half of the cost. He is putting in information about bathrooms and everything. The cap is \$250,000 per project and there is about \$1,500,000 available for grants. The Park Board requested an RFP for the grant too, so the Planner will email that out too. If the Board wants to go over any details, there could be a special meeting made.

LAKE LINKS TRAIL – HIGHWAY 96/RUTHERFORD PARK: The Town Planner reported that there has been a lot of meetings on this topic around the Highway 96/Rutherford Park area. There was a small dispute with MNDOT and the trail folks. There is more research being done. The Town Board Liaison noted that Ramsey County hasn't responded to the Memorandum of Understanding yet, but the purpose is to clarify language regarding drainage issues, lighting, who is paying for the lighting, when they are going to turn the road over, etc. Construction will start in 2022 and County Road F will be reconstructed in 2021. There was some discussion of the sidewalk area and roads around this area. Staff will report back about information regarding the Lake Links Trail, as well as County Road F and sidewalks.

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PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: The Public Works Director reported on the Public Works Department Activity of January 2021. He noted that staff has been maintaining rinks for the Town. When it was so cold, it was harder to maintain the rinks. He noted that when he was at other communities, using hot water really made a nice surface for the rinks. There was a question of why the Town used a water truck versus the fire hydrants. The Public Works Director explained the process briefly, that using a hydrant would take much longer and the water trucks speed up the process. There was some discussion of the rinks in the Township.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS: There was some brief discussion about the Town Board's discussion at the last Town Board meeting regarding the potential sculpture placement at Centerville Road near Meadowlands Drive, maybe for future use. The Park Board could check out that location if interested, if vandalism ensues at the Bellaire Beach location.

Josephson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Reeves seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Cavanaugh
Recording Secretary