

**MINUTES
PARK BOARD MEETING
APRIL 15, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Akenson, Josephson, Koster, Lee, Lombardi, Sinclair; Town Board Supervisor: Ruzek; Public Works Staff: Tholen; Planner: Riedesel

Absent: Reeves with notice.

Riedesel and Lee were present at the Town Offices, all others were present via Zoom. All motions, seconds, and votes were counted by roll call.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2021: Josephson moved the approval of the minutes of March 18, 2021. Lee seconded. Ayes all.

TOWNSHIP DAY/MOVIE IN THE PARK: Lisa Beecroft was present to discuss **Admin & Marketing, Movies in the Park, and Township Day.**

Admin / Marketing: Beecroft reported that she has primarily been focusing on Township Day and the Movies in the Park, but will continue to build up in the following warmer months. She hopes to take some nice photos of Township parks for social media accounts and get a social media contest going.

Movies in the Park: There are 4 movies a movie hosts. June 12th, *The Game Plan* with White Bear Youth Football as hosts; July 10th, *Moana* with Academy for Sciences and Agriculture High School as hosts; August 14th, *Trolls World Tour 2* with White Bear Dance Center as hosts, and a newer movie with White Bear Music Boosters as hosts. The older movies will cost between \$450 and \$495, and the newer movie will cost over \$500, but it is worth it to have new movies.

Lee made a motion to support the movie choices. Sinclair seconded. Ayes all.

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With the movies selected, Beecroft will make flyers and other marketing materials to distribute. The White Bear skate show had a free marketing opportunity. There will also be free marketing available on the Township's billboard and website.

Township Day: Beecroft will be attending a workshop by the State of Minnesota and Festivals and Events for COVID plans for events. She will know more about protocol and can discuss at next meeting. There was some brief discussion of sponsorship and how Beecroft will mail out sponsorship opportunities. This can be done separately and she can invoice the Township. Staff will confirm the Town's preference.

Beecroft did reach out to the inflatables company just to see if they had other options because inflatables are a 'no' for this year regarding health and physical safety. The inflatable companies does have other rental options like photo booths and putt-putt golf that the Town may want to consider.

Instead of face painting, the Town could consider mask decorating. There was some discussion on a silent auction option: Rotary has a new online auction software that could prove beneficial for the Township, if they could be a sponsor. There was some feedback that this is a good idea. Beecroft will continue conversation and see where it goes. She will report back at next meeting.

There was some discussion regarding vendors. It was decided that the cost should be the same rate as in 2019. There is also plenty of room on the soccer fields to socially distance. The payments could be postponed (like register now and pay later) in case things change. There was some discussion on publicity in the *White Bear Press*. There was discussion on printing, billboard ideas, etc.

There was some brief discussion on Beecroft's feel for things opening up enough to have Township Day. She feels fairly confident in the public opening up by fall. She has other events that will require more efforts to socially distance, etc. but she is most confident about Township Day since it is later, in the fall.

POLAR LAKES PARK IMPROVEMENT: The Town Planner reported that the bids have come in and it is looking like the restrooms will cost \$951,400 in total. Now the Park Board can get back to playground discussion. Riedesel went over the Game Time proposal which includes \$92,950 of refurbished options and the Themed Concepts includes \$38,280 for new bear and igloos. The Park Board would like to keep the budget around \$200,000 for the playground improvements. The Capital Improvement Plan shows \$250,000 for Polar Lakes Park, which leaves \$200,000 for the main playground and \$50,000 for the bear and igloo.

There was some discussion of grants, the perimeter trail of the park, dugout roofs, a gate for the baseball fields, and an overflow parking lot. Currently there is \$1.4 million in the Polar Lakes Park Fund including money which the Town bonded for the playground and restrooms.

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There was some discussion of the Town getting new bids for the playground around the \$200,000 range. There was consensus around wanting something newer that would last longer than a \$92,950 investment in refurbishing that would just give another 10 years life on the structures. There was some discussion with Tholen on the structures. There was some discussion of the age groups that play on the parks and the Park Board wants to keep play structures along those groups. There was some discussion on timeline. A potential timeline is: proposals in May, review in June, remodel in the fall after Township Day, and it was noted to keep work and perimeter concrete in mind for the proposals. The DNR grant will be back in July.

It was noted that if there are any aspects of playground equipment that the Park Board wants to see or doesn't want to see in the RFP, Board members should get information to Riedesel. Staff will work on the RFP and there will be discussion at next month's meeting.

LAKE LINKS TRAIL – HIGHWAY 96/RUTHERFORD PARK: The Town Planner reported that staff has met with two property owners of the lakeside property. He gave them a layout of the trail and explained that the Town doesn't want to overwhelm their land, but there is a Township right-of-way, a public right-of-way, and then a property owner right-of-way, and that the trail will spill over into the property owner right-of-way a bit. There will be more discussion with the property owners using the current design. Thankfully the Town has more public property than private property along that trail corridor.

BELLAIRE BEACH – LIFEGUARD CONTRACT: The Town Planner reported that the Town has asked for additional information in the contract to include lifeguard coverage in August. As long as there are lifeguards available, as they go back to school around that time frame, they can cover. The YMCA had to raise their rates to \$17.00 just to remain competitive. The updated contract with the YMCA proposes \$31,000 for the season. This change can be made to the budget.

There was some discussion on pages 18 and 19 of the packet. This contract has been sent to the Town Attorney.

Lombardi made a motion to move forward with updated contract. Sinclair seconded. There was some discussion that approval should be subject to Town Attorney's approval.

Lombardi and Sinclair moved and seconded to amend the motion to include "subject to Attorney's approval". Ayes all.

FOUR SEASONS PARK – CHARCOAL GRILL INSTALLATION: The Town Planner reported that Board member Josephson brought this item up to him. Parks throughout the Township had seldom use charcoal grills that over time rusted and the Town simply

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didn't replace. There was some discussion of grills. Each costs about \$220. There was consensus that there should be grills in the parks with shelters.

Tholen noted that he hasn't seen any grills in the 1990s or now. Residents sometimes bring portable grills. It was noted that whenever kids or anyone puts dirt or other materials in the grills, it causes them to rust quicker because dirt, grass, leaves, etc. hold moisture and moisture causes rust. It was also noted that the Town hasn't had any issue of buildup of ash piles or anything.

There was some discussion of renting parks and how other communities rent parks, sometimes at a higher rate for non-residents. It does cost staff time to clean up and maintain the parks.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT: Public Works staff reported on the Public Works Department Activity of March 2021. **Bellaire Beach shoreline restoration and concrete work for the Saputo shelter** will begin soon. Tomorrow Jacon is moving equipment for **beginning of Polar Lakes Park restrooms construction**. Staff is hopefully done with snow removal and will **start street sweeping** soon. **Tree Trust will begin plantings** soon, but staff is waiting on plans. **Wooden picnic tables have been replaced** where concrete pads were poured last year. The **hydrant flushing** has started. **Tennis court resurfacing/sealing** will start soon for the season. **Four Seasons reconstruction of tennis courts** has been approved by the Town Board. A **new back board** has been installed at Columbia Park. **Deer Meadow paving trail** will begin soon. Town had some fill brought into the **Stable property**, so grading will begin soon. There will be some **mulch and planting done at Summit Park**, and a **new kayak rack** has been ordered: 5 out of 6 spots have been claimed for the season. There was some discussion of the gate that Public Works wants for Polar Lakes Park because people keep driving down to the ball fields, but Clear Channel also does, so that needs to be taken into consideration upon installation of a gate.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS: There were no added agenda items.

Lee moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Akenson seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Cavanaugh
Recording Secretary