

## **KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES AUGUST 18, 2015**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Kasson Park Board was duly held at Kasson City Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

**THE FOLLOWING PARK BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:** Janet Sinning, Jason Moritz, Jason Farnsworth, Terry Meyers, Roger Franke, Greg Kuball and Chuck Coleman

**THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT:** Liza Larsen

**ALSO PRESENT:** Brad Head, Parks & Rec Supervisor Ron Unger and Deputy Clerk Jan Naig

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Kuball.
- II. **Approve minutes:** Motion by Moritz and second by Farnsworth, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the June 2015 Kasson Park Board Meeting.

**III. New Business:**

**A. Brad Head-KM Youth Football representative.** Brad Head presented a brief summary of what is happening with the K-M Youth Football program. Their association has constructed the crowd's nest and installed the scoreboard in Veterans Memorial Park and constructed the storage building in the northwest park. There are 18 teams participating in the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade league. There are 164 youth in grades 2 through 6 playing football this fall. They are certifying coaches through the USA Heads Up Football program which is showing parents they are concerned about the safety of the participants. He thanked Unger and the city workers for the work they have done for their programs. A donation of \$500.00 was made to the Parks Department.

One of the requirements of Heads Up Football is to have water available for games and practices. The association is also working to have water available at the northwest park practice field. A watering station has been purchased. This year a temporary line will be used, but the association would like to have a permanent line installed in the future. They are willing to help with the cost to make this happen. For future planning Unger will find out what it will cost to run a water line in the northwest park.

The league begins play on September 12 and continues through mid-October. Unger will be removing all remaining inventory from the Veterans Park concessions stand. The Youth Football Association will stock and man the stand for their games. They will also operate the concessions stand for

the Marigold Days softball tournament. Motion by Mortiz, with all voting Aye, to hand over the Veterans Park concessions stand to K-M Youth Football Association effective September 12 through the October season. The Association pays the fee to use the stand for their weekly games.

The Board thanked Head for coming in and giving them an update on their program and also expressed their appreciation for the work the association has done to improve the parks and for their monetary donations.

**B. West Park/Library update.** Unger met with Library Director Tiff to get an update on the Library project. Swenke Ims Contracting was awarded the bid for the groundwork. The fencing should be placed around the construction site later this week and construction should begin soon.

#### **IV. Old Business:**

**A. Festival update.** Unger commended the Festival Committee for the fabulous weekend for Festival in the Park. The Parks Department employees trimmed every tree in Veterans Memorial Park during the week before the Festival in preparation for the event. There were many compliments about the park and facilities and about the Festival events.

**B. Parks update.** Unger gave an update on the parks:

- 3/4 of the newly seeded area of Lions Park was mowed; the grass/oats is taking hold
- crews are busy preparing the football fields for the upcoming season
- a tile line in Lions Park was crushed when the modular equipment was delivered; Unger is planning to repair the tile line this fall
- city crews used the brush-hog to clear the areas for the two fitness stations along the trail system
- the Aquatic Center closes on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> – staff will begin draining the pools on September 1<sup>st</sup>
- if time permits this fall, the site work for the modular in Kasson Meadows subdivision will be done
- Unger has two bids to hook up the northeast ballpark scoreboard. A & A Electric has already done the boring. Matt Leth of Leth Electric will be hired to finish the wiring so the scoreboard is ready for next season.

Farnsworth asked if some mosquito control could be done in Lions Park. Unger will look into different options to see what might work best in this Park. Once the grass is established, the mosquito problem should be reduced.

**C. Arena update.**

Unger reported that the City is looking into a matching funds grant to help with the cost of the dehumidification controllers and new ceiling installation

for the Dodge County Ice Arena. The total cost is estimated at \$178,000.00. Arena Manager Howarth, Public Works Director Fjerstad, Finance Director Zaworski and Unger will put the grant submission together by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Meyers reported that since 2010 arena revenues are \$1,234,596.00 and \$19,320.00 has been paid in taxes. The things the City has done since taking over operation of the Arena has made an impact.

The temporary floor worked the way it is engineered to work during the week of the County Fair. The floor will allow Howarth four or five extra days use of the Arena next year. Meyers thanked everyone who was involved in the fitting, installation and removal of the temporary flooring.

Moritz asked how many of the people using the arena are from out of the County. Some of the Board Members suggested a possible user fee for those that do not live in Dodge County to help offset some of the expenses needed to maintain the facility. Is there a way to avoid putting the entire burden on the City and County taxpayers for upgrades to the facility? The fees would be put into a fund for building improvements. Meyers will find out how many participate in the various programs and how many of them reside outside of Dodge County before the next meeting.

**D. K.A.C. update.** Unger reported that the attendance has been great this summer. The programs have been successful. The reserved funbrella has been a huge success for groups this year. In September or October financials will be presented to the Board to help set next year's fees.

Unger sent out letters to the K.A.C. staff asking those who are interested in Shift Supervisor positions in 2016 to contact him. Interviews will be conducted in December for those who responded.

Khendra Johnson had to leave her position early to do her student teaching requirement this fall. Unger has moved Nicole Acker to a Shift Supervisor position for the remainder of the season.

There have only been two incidents of fecal matter in the pool this year. This helped keep the chemical use down.

Last week there was another visit from the MN Department of Health. There were a few minor items cited in the report. The main change is to set up an Employee Illness Log to make sure employees who call in sick are not on the work schedule for 24 hours.

Moritz commented that the concession operations were vastly improved this year. The Manager and Assistant Manager worked hard to streamline this operation according to Unger.

Unger reported he saw a Facebook posting from a Rochester resident about the K.A.C. There were 140 “likes” and 20 “comments” to the post and all were positive. Rachel Wick from KAAL News did a spotlight on the facility. The Festival’s belly flop contest made front page news in the Post Bulletin. There were two swim meets at the facility this summer which received good reviews from those participating. Unger has heard all positive feedback about the Aquatic Center.

**E. Movies in the Park recap.** Naig gave a brief update on the three movies that were presented by Park and Rec this summer. Average attendance was around 70 people. The K-M Lions Club, Country Pleasures Café and Liza Larsen realtor with Edina Realty were recognized for sponsoring movies this year.

**F. Other.** Unger mentioned that he will go over the budget proposals during the September meeting. Some of the items he is recommending for 2016 include:

- purchase of the swing element for the Kasson Meadows park modular
- increase wages for K.A.C. employees. (There have not been increases for three years. The minimum wage increase changed the wages for the crossing guard/cashier/concessions workers in August.)
- a pH/chlorine sensor needs to be replaced
- backflow preventer valve
- purchase 10 replacement lounge chairs for the Aquatic Center
- purchase extra circulation basket covers
- budget \$3,500.00 for EAB Management Plan. (Unger will look at trees this fall and mark around 25 for removal.) Kuball asked if Unger has considered purchasing a pull behind commercial stump grinder. It may be cost effective to do our own stump grinding if the EAB takes hold. The City should consider having a separate Forestry Division.

Under the Capital Improvements Plan Unger has made these budget proposals:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 3 toward the purchase of a mower
- Replacement of the West Shelter in Veterans Park-year 2
- Purchase the additional disc golf baskets for Lions Park
- Ball field fencing repairs-West Park and No. 2 Ball field in Veterans Park
- Cement pads for the bleachers in the Northeast Park
- Bagger attachment for the 60” lawnmower

Coleman asked about the soccer fields in the northwest park. Ken Murry has reported that the situation with pets has been better since the signage and trash containers were installed. Unger said they recently aeriated the fields and they did not notice the dog droppings.

Coleman also passed along a compliment to Unger and the Park Board from the Mayor regarding how the parks look and how well things are going.

**V. Correspondence:** None

**VI. Adjourn:**

Motion by Farnsworth and second by Meyers, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 P.M.

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Chairperson

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Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.