

## **KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES JANUARY 20, 2015**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Kasson Park Board was duly held at Kasson City Hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

**THE FOLLOWING PARK BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:** Jason Moritz, Greg Kuball, Chuck Coleman, Liza Larsen, Janet Sinning and Jason Farnsworth

**THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT:** Terry Meyers

**ALSO PRESENT:** Judy Ruport, Barb Meyer, Rosie Carlson, Nichole, Kara and Chloe Farnsworth, Parks & Rec Supervisor Ron Unger and Deputy Clerk Jan Naig

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Kuball.
- II. **Approve minutes:** Motion by Larsen and second by Moritz, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the December 2014 Kasson Park Board Meeting.

Kuball asked the Board to switch the order of New Business items A & B.

**III. New Business:**

**A. Select Chairperson.** Kuball offered to relinquish the position of chairperson if any other members had an interest in the position. Motion by Larsen and second by Moritz, with all voting Aye, to appoint Kuball as chairperson for the year of 2015. Kuball indicated he would be happy to continue serving as chairperson for another year.

**B. Oath of Office: Meyers and Farnsworth.** There had been some confusion about the mayor's appointments to the Park Board. Early in the month notice was given to City staff that Terry Meyers and Jason Farnsworth were the appointments to the Board. At the January 14<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting Mayor Johnson announced Roger Franke and Farnsworth as his appointments to the Park Board. Meyers will be the Arena liaison and Franke will continue as the full voting member on the Board.

Kuball asked Farnsworth what he feels he can bring to the Park Board. Farnsworth indicated he does not have any specific issues, but he has a young family and he has an interest in what is happening with the parks. He would like to see how the development of Lions Park plays out in the future. He was asked by the Mayor to serve on the Board and he accepted because it would give him a voice in the decisions.

Deputy Clerk Naig administered the oath of office and Farnsworth was welcomed to the Board.

**C. Set wages for 2015 summer employees.** Unger has spoken with Mayor Johnson about the summer employee wages. The City is watching spending and he does not recommend an increase in wages in 2015. Unger is going to work with the Manager to see what things can be done to cut spending/expenses at the Aquatic Center. The 2014 wages were: Manager \$16.67/hour; Assistant Manager \$14.67/hour; shift supervisors \$12.00/hour; W.S.I.'s \$10.25/hour; lifeguards \$9.25/hour and admissions/crossing guards/concessions \$8.00/hour.

Unger has applications from 16 W.S.I.'s and 31 lifeguards. He plans to hire 23 concession stand/crossing guard/admissions staff. Interviews for the shift supervisor positions and new applicants were conducted in December.

Motion by Moritz and second by Sinning, with all voting Aye, to recommend all wages be kept at the 2014 level for the 2015 season and reviewed again before the 2016 season.

**D. Hire 2015 Aquatic Center managers/supervisors.** Unger has interviewed the candidates who applied for the management and shift supervisor positions. Marissa Dufault will not be returning.

Motion by Sinning and second by Larsen, with all voting Aye, to recommend hiring Jesse Johnson for the open shift supervisor position and to rehire the following: Alaina Pappas-Aquatic Center Manager; Joshua Mitchell-Assistant Manager; Kyle Glowa and Khendra Johnson as shift supervisors for the 2015 summer season.

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

**A. Arena update.** In Meyers' absence Unger gave a brief update on what is happening at the Arena. The floor to cover the ice has been purchased. The City's share will be \$6,000.00. No heavy vehicles will be allowed on the floor. It will be up to the Fair Board to lay the floor and the County will be responsible for storing it when it is not in use. Coleman will attend the January monthly meeting of the County Board and City representatives and Manager Howarth next week.

Unger reported a snowblower was purchased to replace the 14 year old snowblower that is no longer working. A portable air compressor was purchased to maintain the tires on the Zamboni. A vacuum cleaner was purchased for arena maintenance.

**B. Parks update.** The Emerald Ash Borer has been found in two locations in Olmsted County. Since it is only one county away, Unger will be reviewing the City's Management Plan and getting information out to the public. There are approximately 2400 ash trees in the City. There will probably be two

options available to homeowners with ash trees on their boulevards. The first option is that the City will remove the tree. The second option will allow the homeowners to inject the ash tree (at their own cost) over the lifetime of the tree. Unger plans to view boulevard trees during the summer and make a list of the most vulnerable trees. Coleman asked if City crews will also be taking care of the trees in the backyard easements.

Kuball again stressed the need for a separate Forestry Division within the City that is separate from the Parks Department.

**C. Other.**

1. There was brief discussion about naming city parks. The name "Jabez Hyde Kasson Park" was suggested. The Board discussed having a booth at Festival in the Park to take recommendations for names.
2. Moritz asked if the donation to the Dog Park was a one-time or an annual contribution. The Board was of the consensus that it was a one-time donation.
3. The Park Board would like to have Mayor Johnson attend the February meeting to share his insight and plans with the Board. Farnsworth will contact him.

**V. Correspondence:** None

**VI. Adjourn:**

Motion by Mortiz and second by Larsen, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. Unger suggested that the Board look at a 20 year plan for the parks.