

KASSON PARK BOARD MINUTES SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the Kasson Park Board was duly held at Kasson City Hall on the 15th day of September 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

THE FOLLOWING PARK BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Chuck Coleman, Jason Moritz, Roger Franke and Greg Kuball

THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT: Terry Meyers, Janet Sinning, Jason Farnsworth and Liza Larsen

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Nancy Zaworski, Arena Manager Steve Howarth, Parks and Recreation 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 Moritz and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to approve the minutes of the August 2015 Kasson Park Board Meeting.

III. New Business:

A. Finance Director Zaworski-K.A.C. financials. Finance Director Zaworski was in attendance to give the Board input on the Kasson Aquatic Center financial reports for 2015. The report has an estimate of \$20,000.00 in additional expenditures (primarily utilities) for expenditures that have not yet been submitted. Using that information, the projected 2015 Net Loss is \$9,354.52. This compares to a Net Loss of \$58,627.57 in 2014. Contributing factors were great weather, closing one hour earlier each day, managers watching the staffing hours more closely and fewer incidents of fecal matter in the pool.

There was a considerable increase in the revenue from daily fees (over \$3,800.00). The increase in family pass fees did result in fewer family pass sales (down 107), but the number of individual passes sold increased (up 74).

Zaworski was thanked for putting the numbers together. The Board will utilize the information when setting fees for 2016. Unger will try to have more specific daily attendance numbers for the October meeting. The Board was encouraged by numbers. Even though there was a Net Loss it was considerably less than 2014.

B. Arena Manager Howarth – Arena programs. Over the past few months some of the Board Members have had questions about the Arena operations. Unger invited Manager Howarth to attend a Park Board meeting so that he can explain the programs, fees, camps and how everything works and also

give the Board Members an opportunity to ask their questions about the Arena operations. Howarth noted in prior months there was talk about needing another sheet of ice. Howarth's factually based, professional opinion is that the need for a second sheet of ice is a long way off. The City is not yet ready for it. There are times of the year when the schedule is "full" to what youth hockey gives Howarth the capacity to fill.

The City is working on a Mighty Ducks' Grant Application for dehumidification. The current system does what it is supposed to do. It has lived past the life-expectancy and its use could come to a catastrophic end. New dehumidification is going from a "want" to a "need". The Grant is to bring the systems up to code with the new air quality mechanical issues that we may run into in the future.

The ceiling replacement is a capital outlay project. It would help with energy savings by reducing the cost of lighting and reducing the load capacity on the compressors.

Howarth continues to enhance the programs at the Arena. Operationally, the facility will break even some years, but funding for capital projects still needs to be addressed. Howarth is looking for new options to make money at the Arena. From mid-May through early June there is some downtime at the facility. Now that he knows the temporary floor works, he is looking into other ways to use the facility during slow times that will bring in additional revenue. Some ideas were offered. The Board is in agreement that Howarth is on track in finding ways to use the facility when the floor is installed.

The Dodge County Ice Arena is in a good location to draw teams from Owatonna, Rochester and Austin. Howarth tries to keep the rates between those charged by Owatonna and Rochester. He will occasionally reduce rates in summer months to bring new groups into the facility. Once a relationship is established, the prices move up. Different criteria are used for setting winter and summer rates.

Howarth distributed the DCYHA 2014-2015 player information. Of the 235 players, 102 are from outside of Dodge County. Howarth was asked what he thinks the impact on the programs would be if a non-resident fee were charged. Howarth would prefer to go to the DCYHA Board and ask for a fee that would be set aside in a capital/facility improvements and maintenance fund. The Board was in agreement that they do not want to reduce the numbers of participants in the programs, but the DCYHA should understand what we are trying to do for improvements to the facility. The cost should not rest entirely on residents of Dodge County and the City of Kasson. Howarth will talk to the Arena Committee before the end of September. The

Committee will have a chance to talk to the DCYHA Board in October and he will come back to the October 20th Park Board meeting with their response.

Howarth was thanked for the information and for attending the meeting to clear up some of the questions. The Board asked if he would be willing to attend a Park Board meeting a few times a year as a way of keeping them in the loop as to what is happening at the Arena.

C. 2016 Preliminary Budget proposals. Copies of the proposed 2016 Budget were distributed. Unger talked about the areas where he has requested budget increases. The Board needs to consider wage increases for the K.A.C. employees since the lifeguards and W.S.I. wages have not increased over the last three seasons. Kuball reminded Unger that minimum wage goes up again in August of 2016.

In the past few years the City Council has allowed \$55,000.00 in the Park Department Budget for Capital Improvements. The following is a list of items Unger put together for Capital Improvements in 2016:

2 nd year of three for lawn mower replacement	\$ 20,000.00
Replace West Shelter in Veterans Park	\$ 17,000.00
9 Disc golf baskets in Lions Park	\$ 6,000.00
Ball field fence-West Park & No. 2 in Vets Park	\$ 6,000.00
Bleacher pads in Northeast Park	\$
Bagger attachment for Toro mower	\$ 3,500.00

Future Capital Expenditures will include the following items.

Improvements to Lions Park:

Walk bridge	\$ 25,000.00
Basketball Court	\$ 20,000.00
Tennis Court	\$ 7,500.00
Picnic Shelter	\$ 25,000.00
Paved parking lot	\$110,000.00

Unger met with the Lions Club this summer. They will be involved with the signage for the new Lions Park.

Improvements to Northeast Park:

Concessions stand & bathroom	\$ 20,000.00
Picnic shelter	\$ 40,000.00
Playground modular (1 st phase)	\$ 40,000.00
Ball field lighting	\$

Other park items:

Water reel sprinkler	\$ 12,000.00
60" ZTR mower	\$
Monument fencing @ Maple Grove Cemetery	\$ 20,000.00

Modular elements @ Kasson Meadows Park \$
(this would be for ages 5-12)

Unger indicated the 0-4 year modular may not be constructed in Kasson Meadows Subdivision this fall. Before the City crews go at construction of the modular, they need to work on the fitness stations along the county trails.

The key to what improvements are done in the parks is based on how capital expenditures are budgeted for the year. A question was asked about the money that was to come from Oppidan for the development of Lions Park. Unger indicated the \$80,000.00 from Oppidan was used to move the modular. It cost \$368,000.00 to do the projects in Lions Park in 2014.

IV. Old Business:

A. Parks update. This discussion was part of the budget discussion.

B. Library project/West Park update. Trees have been removed in preparation for the construction project. There has been a meeting with WHKS Engineering concerning the drain tile along 2nd Street NW. This will be part of the Library project since it is needed for water that comes off of the parking lot. The Library Committee hopes to have the cap on the building before winter.

V. Correspondence: None

VI. Adjourn:

Motion by Moritz and second by Franke, with all voting Aye, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 P.M.

Chairperson

Deputy Clerk

The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20th at 6:00 P.M.