



PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 4, 2020, at 6:00 P.M.
Public Works Building, 230 10th St SW, Plainview, MN 55964

The Plainview Parks & Trails Commission meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm on August 4, 2020.

Commissioners in attendance: Aaron Luckstein, Beau Hebert, Ben Jacobs, Carolyn Stelling, and Marlene Young.

Absent: Jason Hall and Jenny Schneider. Staff in attendance: Shane Loftus.

Motion was made by Jacobs and seconded by Stelling to approve the agenda. Passed 5/0.

Motion was made by Stelling and seconded by Jacobs to approve the July meeting minutes. Passed 5/0.

Luckstein shared public comments submitted by Steve Erwin. Erwin is seeking funding from the City Council in the 2021 city budget to repair the tennis and pickleball courts at Eastwood Park. There are currently several cracks and vegetation growing on the courts. Loftus shared that the courts were original put in with grant money and he would need to check into the grant to see about improvement requirements. Jacobs and Loftus will work on getting pricing for repairing and/or replacing the courts. They will bring results back to the September meeting.

Loftus gave an update on several projects. The lighting at Eckstein Athletic Complex needs to be replaced. People's Energy Coop has pulled the fuses from the lights due to safety issues. Loftus has quotes from Musco from 2019 indicating that replacement of the entire lighting system would cost approximately \$156,000 - \$270,000. The replacement would include LED lighting, new towers, new transformers, and metering. There have been continued discussion on a location for a possible dog park. There were several incidents recently of vandalism at the city parks, including plexiglass windows broken, trash cans burned, and carving on tables. The city police believe they have this under control. A message was added to the Facebook page requesting that citizens report any vandalism so it can be quickly followed up on.

Hebert shared that the commission's Facebook page is now live. He spoke with MariClair Schneider about setting up an email through the City for people to be able to contact the commission.

Luckstein shared that the library is pursuing a grant to complete a community connections project. The purpose of the grant is to gather information from residents on their interests and connect people to clubs, groups, volunteer opportunities, etc. There is also an important mental and behavioral health education component. This project has many benefits to the Commission including but not limited to helping identify volunteers for tree plantings and park maintenance projects, future commission members, perhaps marketing of the parks to be used as a connection place for groups to meet, etc. He wrote a letter of support for the grant as the Commission Chair.

Luckstein, Loftus, and Jacobs gave an update on the Eckstein Athletic Complex (complex) discussions with the PEM School Board. The school has different pots of funding that each contain restrictions on how and when the funds can spent. The subcommittee discussed various short and long term options for the complex. The first

would be to keep things as is with the city maintaining ownership but the school leasing it. This is the most desirable option if the City can find a way to pay for fixing the lights. The second option would be a land swap with part of the ag field located inside the walking trail. The third option would be for the school to sell the ag field on their own and the school purchase the complex with the proceeds of the sale. The City could then use those funds to purchase land elsewhere. The 2nd and 3rd options would need to be pursued if the City can't afford to fix the lights. Loftus shared that the city doesn't currently have money in the budget to fix the lights. Hebert suggested approaching the Bulldog Nation Foundation for support. There was also discussion on other grants for the DNR, Peoples Coop, and Musco. Jacobs will take the lead on pursuing grant opportunities. Luckstein shared that the dog park and natural park evaluation will be on hold until the situation is figured out with Eckstein field because of the implications on land space.

Motion was made to adjourn by Jacobs and seconded by Stelling. Passed 5/0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.