



Johnston Park Advisory Board
April 21st, 2015 7:00 PM
Crown Point Community Center

MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.
2. Roll Call: Butler, Danielson, Dunham, Minear, Paulsen, Quinlisk
(Ben McNamara, Parks Crew)
3. Motion for Approval of Agenda made by Paulsen. Second by Minear. Approved.
4. Public Comments:
 - A. Trails and Greenways Committee Report- Bailey Mader was not able to attend this meeting, however sent the following notes:
 - Peter Knapp will represent Polk City on TAG and came to the meeting.
His main issue is connecting Polk City to the High Trestle trail.
 - Loren showed us the Great Western to Bill Riley Trail connection.
Crushed rock, bids will be taken in the next month or so. We approved a letter of support for funding Phase 3 of the Ackelson trail at Easter Lake.
 - There will be some open street events this summer.
 - Loren told me that they don't allow wheels on their soft trails; they are for foot traffic only.
5. Consent Agenda- Motion by Paulsen to approve the Minutes of March 17th , 2015. Second by Quinlisk. Motion passed.
6. Non-Consent Agenda:
 - A. Consider request from Allan Ritchey to construct Bluebird trail (bird houses) in the Beaver Creek Natural Resource Area-Allan wants to do this as his Eagle Scout project. Schmitz will supply information to him and Allan will build the houses. They will be placed about 20 yards apart and will attract Bluebirds. The Board felt this was a great project and agreed he should move forward with this.
 - B. Discussion of new trail signage standard created by Capital Crossroads group- Schmitz is part of this group and explained the goal of the group is to try to be consistent with all communities when discussing these ideas. Johnston already has trail signs and a standard they use for them, but the other communities don't. The group is focusing on the main logo for all signs to be Central Iowa Trails,

then go ahead and create their signs. Schmitz already presented this to City Council and they thought it was a good idea. The Park Board also felt it was important to be consistent. Budget for signs was also discussed.

C. Discussion on boat usage on Terra Lake-After much discussion it was decided for now that no motors should be allowed on the Lake to make it a "No Wake Lake." Boats that will be allowed are kayaks, canoes and small Jon boats for now. Schmitz said the small boats can go in the water anytime and this won't disturb the next phase of the construction near the Lake.

D. Discussion of Winter Activities on Terra Lake-The Board agreed that ice fishing, ice skating and ice hockey should be allowed on the Lake when frozen. The Board also agreed it would be best to wait until 2017, when we allow fishing on the Lake for these activities to begin.

E. Discussion on Green Meadows North's Donation Letter-Wade Wojewdea from the Homeowners Association attended the meeting and talked about the donation letter. The Association would like to donate a small area of green space to the City. Wojewdea explained the reason for this donation was to basically lighten their load as far as the expense to mow this area. He said this area is sometimes mowed twice per week. Schmitz let him know if we take the donation of land, it would go on our mowing schedule which would once per week. The Board agreed that he needs to find out if the Association is in agreement with this. Schmitz would also like to take the Parks Crew to this area to see what if any problems there would be with mowing and upkeep of the area. Once this has been done, it will be put on the May Agenda for discussion of whether to move forward with the donation or not.

7. New Business: Paulsen wants the Parks Crew to look at Northglenn grass around the playground area, it seems to have patches that aren't growing. Schmitz said they are aware of this already and will spray again.

Quinlisk is doing a walk-ability study of the area from Walgreens south to the Interstate. She will share her report on what they find at the May Park Board meeting.

Schmitz discussed the Goals Session he recently attended. The main thing that keeps coming up is recreation. However, when looking at funding, nothing is ever funded for this. Council did recognize this as being a main priority, so will put together an ADHOC committee to discuss and come up with ideas for this. Johnston Community Education will also be part of this committee since they are doing recreation programs now. Schmitz feels the main focus needs to be recreation programs in the Parks.

8. Parks Director Report

A. Terra Lake Update- Snyder & Associates have been working on the final design phase for the project. The 2nd Phase of construction should start mid June which will include the parking lot, fishing pier, civic shelter and some trail work. Tim West will present the final Phase II plans at the May Park Board meeting. Schmitz met with the Contractors today and they start seeding the area the end of this week and finish next week. Irrigation will be done in the summer to this area when needed. A public hearing will be held May 4th, then go to Council on May 26th

with the Contract awarded on June 1st, 2015. Schmitz also met with John Deere and they are more interested in giving a donation towards the Civic Shelter part of this project. Especially since Green Days will move to this area and Kites on the Green when the project is complete.

B. NW Beaver Drive Update-This project is moving forward with 2,000 linear feet of trail to be poured tomorrow with another 2,000 linear feet on Friday. The final design will soon be started which will run toward the cemetery.

C. Waterford Trail Update-All of the earthwork has been completed on this project. Concrete will be poured Thursday or Friday if the weather cooperates. This trail should be completed in about two weeks.

D. Residential Tree Program-We have sold all trees except 41 as of today. The tree pick up is scheduled for May 2nd at Public Works. Volunteers are needed and should report at 8:00am. Residents will be picking up trees from 9am-11:00am.

E. Prescribed Burns-Schmitz updated the Board and told them all prairie and grass areas have been burned. This was accomplished before they banned burning due to dry weather.

F. Parks Staff:

- Getting ready to plant around 120 trees in various Park Areas
- Mulching & Mowing/Louis is back as a Seasonal worker to mow
- Removing/ trimming our own trees
- Planted 120 Lilly plants at Library
- Spraying Weeds
- Seeding & Hydro-mulching in various areas
- Pad for picnic table done at Simpson Barn/ready to install new basketball hoop
- Equipment stored for winter/spring equipment in place
- Dave Brauckman has restrooms ready & open at Lew Clarkson & Dewey Park
- Busy applying pre-emergent, seeding and grading at new Public Safety Building
- Prescribed Burns completed
- Tracy Irwin is busy responding to numerous EAB calls now

9. Next Park Advisory Board Meeting:

May 19th, 2015 7:00pm

10. Motion for adjournment made.

Adjourned at 8:45PM.