

FARIBAULT PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR MARCH 24, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lola Brand, Sally Kramer, Chad Kreager, Mike Ross, Henry Schonebaum and Elsie Slinger. MEMBERS ABSENT: Troy Temple and Janna Viscomi. STAFF PRESENT: Parks and Recreation Director Paul Peanasky and Administrative Assistant Denise Hansen. GUESTS: Charlie Lechtenberg, Faribault Baseball.

- 1) Meeting was called to order by Henry at 6:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Sally, seconded by Mike to approve minutes of February 24, 2021, as corrected. Motion passed. Chad arrived and continued meeting as Chair.
- 3) LiveBarn Presentation and Baseball Association: Jamie Bell with LiveBarn did not attend the meeting. Charlie Lechtenberg presented information regarding improvements to Bell Field done by the City, Faribault Baseball Association, Faribault Lakers and Faribault Public Schools. Improvements include new fencing, new block, widened aisles, ramp, asphalt, new windows, new infield, renovated warning track and painting of grandstand and dugouts. He stated they are currently working with the Faribault Booster Club as they would like to pad the entire backstop. Also, the Faribault Baseball Association bought a new mower thru fundraising. Bell Field is used by many teams including the Lakers, VFW, Legion, Faribault High School (FHS) and Bethlehem Academy (BA). Upcoming planned projects include a new pavilion, new scoreboard, updated press box, new sod, entrance cleanup and possibly new decking/patio. Also, the city purchased new speakers for the grand stand.

Faribault and Dundas will be hosting the 2022 State Amateur Baseball Tournament. Charlie indicated they hope attendance would be similar to 2018 which was 17,000 actual attendance and around 25,000 total attendance including workers, players, etc. This tournament has a huge economic impact on the community bringing many people to town. Minnesota amateur baseball is huge in Minnesota with approximately 300 teams in the state. Some great donations have been received and the City has helped enormously to get ready to host the tournament. Charlie stated they hope to get a pavilion, patio and backstop ready as well. Charlie indicated concessions for the state tournament will be done by food trucks and volunteers will just sell beverages. Board discussed keeping the aquatic center open for these weekends from mid-August to Labor Day. Parks and Recreation will not have softball games scheduled those weekends to eliminate more traffic and lights from the softball fields. The pavilion will be located on the first base side of the field. The Board and Charlie discussed the declining numbers of kids in high school baseball and many have gone to play for club teams. BA and FHS coop for summer leagues but they do not for school ball. Regarding videoing the state tournament, Charlie said in the past they've had just one camera from home plate streaming the games. Charlie will check with the State regarding streaming of games and if we can install LiveBarn at the facility prior to the tournament. Paul stated if enough LiveBarn subscriptions are purchased, a small percentage is given back to the facility or organization. Also, there are no upfront expenses for the City to get it installed or to pay for the WiFi. Paul will ask LiveBarn to attend the next meeting.

4) Director's Report:

- a) Shelter Improvements: Council approved replacing the roofs on the shelters at Slevin Park and Wapacuta Park. These projects will begin the end of April.
- b) Community Center HVAC Units: Council approved advertising for bids to replace three (3) HVAC units on the roof at the Community Center.
- c) Electronic Door Locks: Fette Electronics was awarded bid to replace door locks at the Community Center with electronic door locks.
- d) Basketball Hoops: Basketball hoops at the Community Center gym are being replaced this year and then the gym floor will be sanded and refinished as well.

5) Requests to be Heard: None.

6) Old Business:

- a) Inclusive Playground: Paul will plan a three or four stop tour, in June or July, of inclusive playgrounds in the south metro area.
- b) Old Public Works Site Park Site: Paul presented an amended plan of the shelter/restroom facility. Changes include a larger shelter area, change location of doors and urinals were added to each bathroom. Plans also showed a picture of the overlook deck. The size of the overlook deck will be adjusted to fit the site at the park.
- c) Faribault Middle School & Teepee Tonka Park Ballfields: Paul stated he is meeting with school district personnel next week to continue discussing shared use of the fields.
- d) Joint Owatonna/Faribault Park Board Meeting: Jenna Tuma is the new Owatonna Parks and Recreation Director. She will discuss a joint meeting at their next board meeting and will determine if can meet after COVID or possibly next year.
- e) Emerald Ash Borer: The Parks Department staff are removing trees that are infected with the Emerald Ash Borer in the city parks and on other city properties. However, Paul stated that per city policy, trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owners.
- f) Walk Loops: Board reviewed walk loops that have been suggested. Board also noted if the City is encouraging walking areas, the City would need to ensure they are safe walking areas.
- g) Positivity Wall: Nothing new to report.

10) New Business:

- a) Sensory Playground Ideas: Paul presented information Lola provided showing many different sensory playground equipment ideas to put in various city parks. Some of the ideas would be easy and inexpensive to install.
- b) Viaduct Park: Viaduct Park Committee will be meeting in early April. Paul asked the board to submit any ideas for amenities in the new park to him to take to the meeting. Some suggestions already submitted include: outdoor racquetball court, skate loop, skate park, pickle ball court and miniature golf course.
- c) Basketball Court at Waupacuta: Work will start on the new double basketball court at Waupacuta Park in mid or later April. The courts should be completed by the end of summer 2021. Board discussed how nice the courts at North Alexander Park are and the tremendous use of the basketball courts at the park.

- d) Prairie Park Playground: Paul will contact Lisa Everett to attend the next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting to discuss suggestions for playground equipment. After researching outdoor exercise equipment, Paul reported it is better to place all of the outdoor exercise equipment together because vandalism of the equipment is more likely when placed separately. Paul suggested maybe creating an outdoor exercise area at Prairie Park. Without baseball fields, there will be a lot of room at Prairie Park and would be nice to have an outdoor exercise area there.
- e) Annual Report Presentation: Paul presented 2020 Annual Report for Parks and Recreation. Board thanked Parks Department for all they do for the City and commented how great the City parks look.
- 11) Other: Sally stated there is a pile of wood near the trail just east of Realife Cooperative at 2125 7th Street NW that could be dangerous. Paul will ask the Parks Department to look at it.
- 12) Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, at Buckham West.
- 13) Motion was made by Mike, seconded by Elsie to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Hansen, Administrative Assistant