

FARIBAULT PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES FOR JANUARY 27, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lola Brand, Sally Kramer, Chad Kreager, Mike Ross, Henry Schonebaum, Elsie Slinger and Troy Temple. MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Krinke. STAFF PRESENT: Director Paul Peanasky and Administrative Assistant Denise Hansen. GUEST: Biz Buffington, Faribault BMX Board Member.

- 1) Meeting was called to order by Troy at 6:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Sally, seconded by Mike to approve minutes of October 28, 2020. Motion passed.
- 3) Board Members: Troy stated Sally and Henry were reappointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Bruce did not reapply and Jana Viscomi will be the City Council representative assigned to the board beginning in February. Paul stated the City Council representative and the student representative are appointed annually.
- 4) BMX Presentation: Biz Buffington, Faribault BMX Board Member, presented reports for the 2020 BMX season. She reported the season went good once COVID procedures were set up. There were many new riders in 2020. There were approximately 20 new riders from Faribault and many new families. Faribault BMX is scheduled to hold a Gold Cup race in July 2021. Expenses were controlled in 2020 and they are going into 2021 in a very similar financial position as when they started 2020. Online registrations were offered and will continue to be offered. Board thanked Biz for coming and for everything the BMX Board does for the track and the community.
- 5) Director's Report:
  - a) Big Green Chair: The Parks Department is building a giant green chair to be installed in the parks system as a site for photos.
  - b) Teepee Tonka Park Shelter: Paul asked the board for suggestions on a location to install a new shelter in Teepee Tonka Park. Paul explained the road will be extended to the archery range so it is accessible by car. Suggestions included putting the shelter by the archery range near the trail entrance or by the ball fields on the west side near the parking lot. The shelter will be open-sided and approximately 24' x 24'. If it is placed on the west side of the ballfields, electricity could possibly be put in the shelter due to its proximity to the maintenance building. Board agreed to place the shelter inside the fence near the maintenance building on the west side of the fields.
  - c) Faribault Area Ice Arena: The Ice Arena Board is applying for grants because revenues have greatly declined due to COVID closures and restrictions. Also, Parks and Recreation cannot currently have open skating at the arena due to COVID restrictions.
  - d) Capital Projects: Paul reported the following capital projects scheduled in 2021: sand and stripe Faribault Community Center (FCC) gym floor; replace air handling units for the locker rooms, corridor and swimming pool at FCC; install electric door lock system throughout FCC; possibly install electronic basketball hoops at FCC; purchase playground equipment and finish trail at Prairie Park; replace roof and install ceiling

on Slevin Park shelter, replace roof on Wapacuta Park restroom facility; install basketball court at Wapacuta Park, obtain permission from the railroad to create trail across the railroad into Teepee Tonka Park, purchase outdoor fitness equipment; purchase/install shelter and extend road at Teepee Tonka Park; finish development of old public works site park; assist with purchase of BMX starting gate shelter; parking lot resurfacing, trail sealcoating and/or overlaying; finish converting all air-handling units in city buildings for unified controls; and FFAC improvements.

6) Requests to be Heard: None.

7) Old Business:

- a) Inclusive Playground: Board determined they would still like to pursue an inclusive playground but may wait until after the pandemic to meet again. Lola suggested visiting other communities to look at offerings and specifics of an all-inclusive playground.
- b) Mill Towns Trail/Northern Links Trail: Paul reported we are waiting for a response from the TAP Grant application. Paul and Mark Duchene, City Engineer, will make a presentation to MnDOT in February requesting a grant of approximately \$732,000. Railroad has acknowledged that they are in favor of the trail construction project. It is a high priority of the city to get this trail connection completed.
- c) Old Public Works Site Park Layout: Paul reviewed past, current and future maps of the park area. Paul also shared options for playground equipment with a nature-inspired theme. The City is currently working with ISG for shelter ideas. The shelter will include restrooms, a maintenance area and a shelter area large enough for four to five picnic tables and a serving counter. Seating throughout the park would be rocks rather than benches. There is an overlook area planned to look at the river and bluff area as well as taking pictures. There will also be trail access to the river. A kiosk with a map of the city showing where you are in the city, city trails and local amenities will be placed in the park. These kiosks will be placed throughout the city. Paul reviewed the budget for the park. Plans are to have the old public work site park done summer of 2021. The next park to be developed is the park by the viaduct. Elsie and Sally volunteered to serve on the committee for this park.
- d) Faribault Middle School & Teepee Tonka Park Ballfields: School District is unsure of future expenses if sharing the use of the Middle School ballfields so are not in favor of jointly using the fields. Parks and Recreation staff discussed possibility of using some fields at North Alexander Park for both softball and baseball. Board agreed if fields are available at North Alexander to use them for baseball. Paul stated we will continue to use Teepee Tonka Park fields until it floods again. Also, the School District requested formal agreements be drafted for shared use of Bell Field and the softball complex.
- e) Joint Owatonna/Faribault Park Board Meeting: Owatonna Parks and Recreation Director has been hired and is starting mid-February. Paul will contact Owatonna to suggest scheduling a joint meeting.
- f) Naming Policy: Board reviewed Naming Policy adopted by City Council. Board discussed and agreed that renaming a facility is confusing to the public.

- 8) New Business:
- a) Walk Loops: Paul asked board members to map walk loops in neighborhoods for the next meeting.
  - b) By-Laws Updated: Board reviewed and amended the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board By-Laws. Motion made by Mike, seconded by Chad to approve amended by-laws as discussed. Motion passed.
  - c) Emerald Ash Borer: Paul reported the Department of Agriculture, along with the Faribault Parks Department, have found trees in Faribault infested with the emerald ash borer. Trees will be removed as needed and new trees are planted each year in the parks system to maintain the current inventory of trees.
  - d) Outdoor Fitness Equipment: Paul asked the Board for location suggestions for outdoor fitness equipment. Eight to ten pieces of equipment will be purchased. Board was in favor of placing the equipment along the trail from the old public works site park to Spring Park in five different spots.
- 9) Other: None.
- 10) Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, at Buckham West.
- 11) Motion was made by Elsie, seconded by Sally to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise Hansen, Administrative Assistant