

05-26-2021

**PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET**

City of Afton

Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 28th, 2021

6PM

Attendees: Committee members; Grant Jensen, Jed Housker, Julie Siedell, Ken Johnson and Erin Smillie, and city council liaisons; Anne Perkins and Stan Ross and City Administrator Ron Moose.

Approval of the May 15th meeting notes, 5:0

Approval of the Agenda, 5:0

Business:

A. Levee Vegetation

Stan Ross gives a synopsis of the levee vegetation. There are two agencies that we are beholden to meet the requirements to certify the levee. The army core of engineers completed the improvements to the levee and continue to monitor to continue to certify it. In order to be removed from the FEMA flood plain map, we need to continue to meet the army corps certification. The Afton residents in the flood plain are required to purchase a costly flood insurance and caps residents spending on renovations they may want to do. The certification for the levee is strict and is checked annually. We cannot plant vegetation on the levee that would jeopardize the certification. Riprap was installed and paid for by the DNR for \$100,000 and that alleviates an annual erosion and flooding clean up fee of \$35,000 that the city would need to pay. There may be CPL grants for flood tolerant vegetation. A possible location for restoration is the south end of the levee and into Steamboat park. When member Johnson first was hired in 2005, one of his main priorities was to cut brush and trees on the levee.

B. Park Ballfield

Member Johnson gives an update on the ballpark. He was able to get an estimate of \$9,000 to sod the infield and outfield. The committee advised we keep the ballfield as a non-grass field based on the age of the baseball players who use the field. No estimate for regrading and bringing in new aggregate was established. Local resident, Brad Holz tilled the field. Members Housker and Johnson shared that hydroseed would be a good fit for the outfield once baseball season was over. Member Johnson motions for the city counsel to approve bringing in black dirt and hydroseed the outfield around the drains. Approved 5:0.

C. Meadow Ridge Pollination Project

Chair Jensen reviews some of the major differences in the estimate from Stantec's organic (no chemical) restoration and the non-organic. In the organic resto, the resulting vegetation would have less biodiversity than the chemical treatment version. The cost is similar. He reviewed the maintenance fees as well. Jensen will have a site visit with Tara to review the bids and help decide who to go with for the project.

Site visit follows with attendees: Grant Jensen, Jed Housker, Julie Siedell, Ken Johnson, and city council liaison Anne Perkins.

D. Motion to adjourn

Parks Committee Memo

Meeting: May 26, 2021

City of Afton
3033 St. Croix Trl, P.O. Box 219
Afton, MN 55001

To: Parks Committee Members
From: Ron Moorse, City Administrator
Date: May 20, 2021
Re: Town Square Park

There are three items related to Town Square Park as follows:

- Aerating and overseeding of the overall park area
- Regrading and partial seeding of the infield of the ballfield
- Replacement of the picnic shelter

Aerating and Overseeding

The Council has approved the aerating and overseeding of all of the grassed areas of the park to improve the quality of the grass. This work should begin in the next week or two.

Regrading and Seeding of the Ballfield Infield

The Council discussed options for addressing the drainage issues related to the ballfield while maintaining the field for T-ball use. Based on the need to address drainage issues and the support of the St. Croix Valley Athletic Association for a grass infield, the Council approved the regrading and seeding of the infield with the exception of the base paths, batter's box area and pitcher's mound area. While the infield will not remain fully dirt, as recommended by the Parks Committee, it will retain the ballfield layout.

Replacement of Picnic Shelter

The picnic shelter is in need of major renovation or replacement. The Council has requested that the Parks Committee review options for replacement of the picnic shelter and provide recommendations to the Council regarding design and cost. This could include researching small park shelter options and obtaining advice from local architects and/or builders. The following is a list of needs related to the picnic shelter.

- a. The picnic shelter is nearly 40 years old and was built in 1982.
- b. The roof of the shelter was scavenged from another building in the park and the roof leaks.
- c. The electrical system is under powered.
- d. The interior lighting doesn't function.
- e. More interior outlets are needed

- f. Exterior outlets are needed
- g. Due to the open design, the floor of the shelter fills with debris.
- h. The interior is in disrepair.
- i. Consider a design that can be closed when not in use.