**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**

**March 17, 2021 1:30 PM**

Members Present: Jim Anderson, Rand Middleton, Chloe Quinn,

Val Swanson, Alissa Norsten, Abdirahim Hussein

Staff Present: Rob Baumgarn, Rachel Centellas, Curt Hein

Council Members Present: Julie Asmus

Guests: Jared Voge, Steve Gardner

Jim called the meeting to order. No public was in attendance for public comments.

Jim asked for the approval of the minutes. Rand made a motion and Jim seconded. Jim asked all in favor and all said I. Motion approved.

Jim moved onto the Invest in Willmar-Robbins Island Presentation and introduced Jared Voge.

Jared presented the presentation on Robbins Island enhancements, which included new street lights, trees and shelters throughout the island. Shelter #1 will be shifted to face the lake and remodeled. Shelter #2 will be covered with electricity now as well as a countertop. Hiltop will shift to face the lake and get updated electrical. Guri will have some electrical and storage changes and will also be shifted to the North side for better access to the playground. This is phase 2 of the Invest in Willmar-Robbins Island project.

Jim asked for a motion to approve the Invest in Willmar-Robbins Island projects. Val made a motion and Chloe seconded. Jim asked for all in favor, all said I. Motion approved and moves onto the next phase.

Jim introduced Steve Gardener, who is the project manager for the Flags of Honor. He presented what their vision for what they want the flags of honor to look like. They have been raising money and need around $250,000 to complete this project. They have gotten in-kind donations and are selling benches and pavers to raise the rest. A paver is $250 and a bench is $5,000. They have already sold 123 pavers and 2 benches.

Jim asked for a motion to approve the Flags of Honor project. Rand made a motion and Val seconded. Jim asked for all in favor, all said I. Motion approved.

Jim moved to talk about the Willmar Softball Association and asked Rob to talk about that. Rob explained that there is a new group in town offering softball, the Willmar Softball Association. They are not affiliated with Willmar Parks and Recreation, but we are running tryouts together. They will be taking girls who are interested in playing a more competitive traveling league and who are skilled enough to play at a certain level. Girls who sign-up, but do not make the team will be given the option to play Parks and Recreation league. Discussion was had about the impact of this league on the Willmar Parks and Recreation league.

Jim moved to talk about the facility policy. There has been much discussion about this over the past few months and Rob has finally come to an agreement with the Baseball Association about the pricing. This policy will help the Parks and Recreation department to be fair and consistent with all users.

Jim asked for a motion to approve the facility policy. Val made a motion and Alissa seconded. Jim asked for all in favor. All said I. Motion approved.

Rob moved to talk about the Invest in Willmar updates. Swansson Fields is done with their design development and are now in budget. The project was significantly cut down from what they originally wanted, due to money. They will be going out for re-bidding. There will be turf fields, new dugouts, stadium and a concession stand. Orange field is the first priority and blue field is their second.

The Rec fields passed at council and will go out for bids. The Events and Recreation center was also passed and will go out for bids as well.

The Curling Center is in the design development phase and they are looking to connect with the Events and Recreation center. There was discussion about the curling center addition out by the Civic Center.

Jim asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alissa made a motion and Val seconded. Jim asked for all in favor. All said I. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned.