

**Community Education & Recreation
Joint Powers Board Meeting
June 26, 2015**

Members Present: Eric Banks, Dave Baumgart, Bill Borth, Scott Guptil, Tim Johnson, Liz VanDerBill

Staff Present: Steve Brisendine, Rob Baumgarn, Becky Sorenson, Jena Tollefson, Pam Vruwink

Guest Present: Tom Amberg with Selvig Park Supporters

Chairman Eric Banks welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. He then presented Tom Amberg to speak on proposed improvements of Selvig Park in downtown Willmar. Mr. Amberg stated he had been asked by Mayor Frank Yanish to adopt Selvig Park. He stated that he and a group of others had researched various improvements and costs associated with those improvements. The cost to remove the existing retaining walls and rebuild new walls is \$22,000. Additional costs would be \$7,200 for new shrubs, evergreens, irrigation with \$1,500 to cover the cost of sod in the area in front of the parking lot. Steve suggested that Tom should contact Doug Reese. He is part of the Faith at Work organization which is looking for projects to support.

There is a plan to install a plaque in memory of Dick Hoglund.

Selvig Park was created 25 years ago and is in need of an update. Eric Banks asked if it was appropriate for the Board to make a motion of support. Steve stated he felt it was an appropriate motion. Liz VanDerBill stated she thought the plan was a good idea but wanted to make sure that the City was involved in the park plan. A motion was made by Eric Banks, seconded by Bill Borth to support the Selvig Park improvement project. Motion carried.

The next item discussed was the Board openings: one City and one School appointee is needed. Steve suggested looking at our users and asking some of them to serve. The Mayor and School Board Chair have been asked to assist with adding two new members.

Staff Updates: Steve talked about the Dog Park and stated that Pam was working diligently on the project. Pam talked about the Petsafe "Bark for your Park" contest. Willmar was one of 1,000 entrants and is in the top 15. Willmar is the only Minnesota city in the top. Pam requested that everyone present at the meeting not only vote for Willmar but to encourage others to vote.

Jena Tollefson talked about the Text Marketing program that we are creating so people can sign up and receive text messages automatically when there are weather cancellations and other info that we would send out.

Jena stated that there are 200 kids enrolled in the summer Cardinal Place which is a record number. Last year the highest number at the end of the summer was 170. She said they are averaging 130 each day. A bus of Cardinal Place students and staff went to a Twins game this past Wednesday and the Stingers came to Cardinal Place today to visit with the kids. Every Friday is a trip to the Dorothy Olson Aquatic Center. A question arose if there was a plan to increase the rates. Both Jena and Steve stated that we are waiting for the School's year end budget to make a determination regarding a fee increase.

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July 6-24 Cardinal Place is moving to Roosevelt so maintenance and cleaning can be done at Kennedy.

Rob Baumgarn said that adult leagues are running smoothly. The City Auditorium is up and running and looks great. The Range is good but needing some minor changes. Sunday Soccer has started and is a work in progress. Pablo Obregon said he has received complaints of field conditions at Roosevelt. Rob responded that we are in the third year of seeding and fertilizing which has improved the field.

Rob stated the Community Center has been quite busy with graduations and other events.

Steve reported on the Yellow Bike program. There are some kinks to work out but there is heavy usage of the 50 or so bikes currently available. Rick's Cycling and Sports Center has been doing a great job on getting bikes ready and out to the public and making repairs on bikes as they occur.

Movie in the Park started last night, June 25 at the City Auditorium. There were over 100 people attending. Movie in the Park will be the third Friday of July, August and September at Robbins Island. Roberto Valdez will have the inflatables at the event 1 hour prior to the start of the movie. Viking Coca Cola is furnishing the pop and water.

The application to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission for regional park status for Robbins Island is due June 30. This would enable us to apply for legacy dollars for future projects at Robbins Island if the application is successful.

A scoreboard for Swansson Orange has been ordered. Home State Bank, Bernick's Pepsi and the Willmar Stingers and Lakeland Broadcasting will be advertising on this scoreboard.

Steve informed the Board of staff changes. Troy Ciernia, Civic Center Manager has resigned and his last day is today. Two Early Education instructors and one Special Education instructor and a part time interventionist have resigned. Those positions are in the process of being filled.

Pablo Obregon asked about the City Auditorium. Steve stated the floor looks great. There are a few minor glitches in the Range which are being worked on.

Steve mentioned that the budget looks good from CER's standpoint.

Eric Banks stated that the baseball teams using Swansson Orange are looking for concessions. Steve mentioned that the City has an Info Booth that could be moved to Orange and used temporarily for concession sales.

Another question arose about graduations at Baker Diamond, if the City is being reimbursed. Steve responded that issue has been addressed for future occurrences.

Liz VanDerBill asked how programs and classes have been going this summer. Steve responded everything is good, with some classes being full and a few having been cancelled.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next Board Meeting will be July 24 or 31.