

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOONE CITY PARKS COMMISSION
MONDAY November 8, 2021

Amy Landas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Roll Call: Members present: John Niemants, Amy Pollard with April Burch and Emily Coll via ZOOM. Present: Superintendent Mike Cornelis, John Rouse Director of Parks & Public Works and Julie Meimann. Guests: Jim Turbes, Kevin Pearson, Linda Blakely, Amy Rasmussen, Brenda Anderson, Larry Kelley and Darcy Newcomb.

2. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Niemants to approve the agenda seconded by Pollard. All Ayes

3. Presentation of Petitions & Other Communications-

A. 2021 Pool Report- Newcomb reported that it was a good year but she did experience staffing issue she was struggling to find staff, the dog swim was down from years past. She feels we need to look at wages to be competitive. Board would like her to put together price comparisons of wages and prices for season passes. Possibly look at Perry, Ames, Jefferson, Story City, Nevada, Carroll and Glidden were the suggested towns. Bring back to the board in January or February of 2022.

4. Approve of previous meeting minutes: Burch made motion to approve minutes seconded by Pollard. All Ayes

5. Approval of monthly bills: Cemetery, Parks, Pool and Urban Forestry- Coll question about the amount of \$800 that was for a play structure what it was for. Cornelis said it was for a handrail at Cummings Park. Landas ask Burch if she had contacted Rich Lennon about the LL light bill, Burch said she had not heard back from him, Landas ask that she reach out to him again as the bill is high again this month. Rouse said that lights are on all the time at the restroom and shed. Landas said the field lights have been on also.

Park

Alliant Energy	Utilities	1911.72
Boone Construction Company	Buildings & Grounds	64.30
Brad Rholl	Cell Reimbursement	19.00
Kendall Hilsabeck	Cell Reimbursement	19.00
Bomgaars	Clothing allowance	106.95
Portable Pro	Utilities	275.00
Outdoor Recreation Product	Buildings/Grounds	801.29
Walters Sanitary Service	Utilities	197.12
CenturyLink	Telephone	189.23
Boone Hardware	Repairs/Equipment	31.99
Boone Ace Hardware	Buildings/Grounds	79.94
Key Cooperative Boone	Utilities	36.87
D & J's Complete Tree	Tree Replacement 602 East St	2500.00
D & J's Complete Tree	Urban Forestry 1621 Linn	1600.00

Cemetery

Seth Janssen	Cell Reimbursement	19.00
Portable Pro	Utilities	75.00
Condons Service LTD	Buildings/Grounds	800.00
CenturyLink	Telephone	186.62
Bomgaars	Supplies	33.64

Pool

Recreation Supply Company	Repairs	2554.43
Boone Ace Hardware	Repairs	15.18

Misc.

Portable Pro	Community Beautification	165.00
--------------	--------------------------	--------

6. Old Business:

A.) Frisbee Disc Course- Coll is working on the layout of the course for the Disc Golf course sign that will hang on the restroom by the Scout Cabin she is asking who should be on the sign as donors? Pollard felt that anyone that has donated to the course should be listed on the sign. Rouse questioned the new map being printed until the holes are moved and commission approves the map. Coll will bring any items needed for approval to the commission first.

B.) Scout Troop feedback- Coll talked to two troops Boone troop Kat Anderson and an Ankeny troop master. Anderson likes the Scout Cabin and would like to continue to use it, but the Ankeny troop prefers the Gutierrez Shelter. Cabin is unhealthy for any usage. City Attorney says we can remove all of the stuff inside and use it as an open shelter

C.) CIP prioritizing list- First: Pool request (then \$35,000) for deck drains -2023

Second: Pool Painting \$70,000 -2024 and Third Pool Expansion – 2025

Cemetery- First new building to house equipment \$50,000 each year in 2023 and 2024. Pending plot out the south end of cemetery years 2024-2025-2026 also pending overlay of cemetery road starting in spring of 2024 saving for 2025 and 2026. Pending second Columbarium after the first one is full (will use first columbarium monies to pay for second one).

Parks –First matching funds for play structure park raises \$50,000 to \$75,000 then city will match up to \$50,000 -2023, pending \$50,000 for restroom at John Hansen Memorial Shelter and \$50,000 for restroom at Gutierrez Shelter 2024. Resurfacing McHose tennis courts \$45,000-2024 Rouse will inquire about School paying for half, Pickleball monies for Memorial Park tennis courts all grant monies \$25,000 and smaller truck for superintendent to use \$50,000 -2024. Niemants as about the roofs of the shelters, Rouse said looking at 1-2 a year being replaced and Niemants would like to see about another fulltime employee.

7. New Business

A.) Discussion time, place and Zoom of Park Commission meetings- Coll ask about meeting at 6 pm. Landas feels it would be better to leave it a 7 pm, move to the Park office since when the building was built a space was set up for Park Board meetings and Zoom is good but feels that everyone should attend in person. Burch wants to continue with Zoom as her family has been sick and she felt she shouldn't attend the meeting in person tonight but could on Zoom. Niemants said leave time and move to Park office. Rouse told the board that new internet would be at the Park office soon and getting a new laptop. Landas motion to keep time 7 pm, move to Park office and continue Zoom with the better internet- Niemants seconded. All Ayes

B.) Community Garden fencing motion- Burch said the Community Garden had been cleaned up, tilled and sidewalk blown off and left in the condition it was when they started. Burch would like to start fund raising for the fence for 2022, it would be the fence that she handed out the picture of in October. She is thinking \$5000 for the new fence. She spoke with Elmquist to set up the Front Door Grant a program that the city can use for fundraising. She has requested that Elmquist grant her permission or access so she can apply for grants thru Cybergrants.com. She would like the board to approve that she have access to be able to apply for grants thru this program. Pollard questioned that if Elmquist had reservations about Burch applying that maybe Elmquist would help her. Landas questioned what if funds do not come thru for the garden what will happen to the monies? Burch said the funds will then go to the Parks for play equipment or something else that the board approves. Coll made the motion for Burch to solicit funds for the Community Garden for 2022- Pollard seconded. All Ayes.

C.) Free Tree Seedlings program- Coll would like to fill out the seedling form. Cornelis told the board that he received a grant of \$2500 for trees and would like to purchase 25 larger trees for Arbor Day planting. Burch would like to do both programs as she felt it was beneficial to have the community involved in the plantings. Rouse explained that no trees should be planted in the ROW because it causes problems for the city. Burch ask what Cornelis applied for in his grant? Trees to be planted in the Parks and Linwood Park Cemetery. Motion Landas to utilize the \$2500 grant for Arbor Day trees and 100 seedlings from the program to handout for anyone that helps that day-Pollard second. All Ayes

D.) Discussion of comprehensive plan for Parks- Burch ask if the Parks had a comprehensive plan-Rouse said, we use the CIP for that. Ash Bore has been the focus but that had ended. Pre COVID the board would do a drive-a-round in May and look at all of the Parks in the city. Burch would like to start a plan and will bring to the next meeting. Rouse said they have a white board that they keep things on to be done. Burch would like Cornelis to take a snap of the white board and send it to her.

E.) McHose gate moved to the east vote- Burch requested that a motion be made on the moving of the gate at the north end of the park further to the east so it is not perpendicular to the road. Landas recapped what had been noted in the previous board meetings about the gate. Landas motion not to move the gate second Niemants. Ayes: Pollard, Landas, Coll & Niemants. Nays: Burch Motion passed not to move the gate.

F.) Excel spreadsheet of draft budget- Burch stated that knowing that we have the ability with the software program to provide excel documents and that it is a very simple output from the software company, it will allow greater analysis across the board for looking at the spending trend would like to make a motion that the Park Commission be given documents in excel spreadsheet form and have permission to take to Council. Pollard comment likes the idea that it be excel because you may see something that you missed by having it in a PDF form. Burch moves to request that the documents that the Park Board receives be given in excel format from Elmquist, second Pollard and with approval if necessary from City Council. Ayes: Coll, Pollard and Burch Nays: Landas and Niemants Motion carried

G.) Discuss possibility of light show fundraiser at Herman Park –Burch talked about a light show that would come off of Story St on Christmas Eve leading to Herman Park Pavilion with that having lights and possibly inflatables decorated by business, letting them make signage with their business name. Coll feels it is too late for 2021, but would like to see it pursued for 2022 with the “Holiday Lights” possibly as the name of the event. Rouse told the board that the Parks could only provide the electric for this event.

8. **Superintendent's Report-** Cornelis wanted to let the board know that the white board is only a daily job board. Water was shut-off to all parks on October 18th and winterized, summer help was done all but one at the cemetery his last day Nov. 10th. Aerial truck is in the shop for repairs, the ice boards are up and ready for the liner when weather gets colder. He left a picture of the John Hansen new counter on the table that was paid for by donations from the Hansen's and others. Cornelis purchased two Ginkgo trees and planted them on the north and south of the Teddy Roosevelt Statue with the Garden Club donation money. Trenary's Tree Care had started taking down the trees from the hazard tree contract and weather permitting should be done the following week. Rouse told the board Ogden Telephone Company was installing internet at the Park office at a lesser cost and they would be removing dirt from the sledding hill soon.

9. **Commissioner's Report**-none

10. Public Comment for Items not on agenda- Linda Blakely commented that the given an excel sheet is that a PDF cannot be manipulated. Burch responded by saying that no elected official would manipulate the figures they just do not want to spend hours imputing data. Blakely question what is the purpose of the Community Garden, can any commissioner answer that question? Burch answered by saying to grow flowers, vegetables and fruit that they do not have the space to grow on in their own places. Growers give back to the community like Impact. Blakely questions when she saw the eight people that had plots and then there FB pages that they have the space on their own land to have a garden. Coll responded say no public money was used for this. How are applications taken-Burch Online thru the city website or by printing and sending application to the city? Pollard the objective is to get people that do not have access to gardening and it was just the first year. Blakely who oversee the garden- Burch there was a committee and then the final decisions are made by the Park Board. Blakely questioned what will happen when she brings pictures of rakes, shovels and water jugs laying all over the garden and shows it was not keep up very well. These things can also be a problem for the children that play at Cab Erbe if they were to get ahold of any of these items. Burch the area is cleaned-up and back to the way it was when they started the garden and can be seeded to flowers or grass. Pollard understands the criticism so it will help it grow into something better. Blakely again questions the public funding of the garden for private use; Coll feels the process will take 3-5 years to really benefit all. Blakely is asking the commission to reconsider a garden in 2022 before they tear up any more Parks and leave a mud hole. Nystrom spoke that he has seen the garden tools left out and water jugs making it a hazard for little children that come to the Park. Landas as a commissioner does not want to be liable for the tools that are left and kids could get ahold of, all good points to look at for 2022.

Kelley spoke about the Pickleball courts at Memorial Park, that Scheels, Hy-Vee and Fareway along with Leonard Good Foundation could all be willing to donate for the many things that need to improve the courts at Memorial for the Pickleball players. Project looks like it will be around \$25,000 to complete.

Gary Nystrom, President of the Boone City Parks Foundation read a statement about the Foundation and let the board know that he would not be fielding any questions or entertain any discussion after his statement. He wanted to address the Park Board for several reasons, first, to dispel statements and accusations negative to the Boone City Park Foundation and second to give a brief statement as to the purpose, goal and legal requirement of the foundation. First off, in regards to transparency, we do everything that is laid out by the IRS for a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our meetings are private as allowed by law. Our financials are properly documented and federal compliance is completed by our professional CPA firm. The Boone City Park Foundation a 501(c)3 Corporation was established October 1997 and was organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, including making of distributions to organizations, which qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue code of 1954. This corporation is also organized to solicit and accept gifts from persons or organizations for the development and enhancement of environment education and conservation projects within the scope of the jurisdiction of the Boone City Park Foundation.

11. Adjournment – Coll made motion for adjournment, seconded by Pollard, motion approved at 8:53 p.m.

Commission Secretary _____ Commission President _____

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING ON December 13th AT 7 PM