

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
PARK BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Horkey at 6:45 a.m.

Members Present: Jeremy Horkey, Shane Wendland, Ryan Short, Beth Rohrich, Joan Back, and Tim Auringer

Staff Present: Jennifer Bromeland, Kerry Rausch, and Brian Goettl

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented.

Business

1. Lake Eagle Park Master Plan Kick Off Meeting

- Jonathon Nelson with Bolton and Menk was present to discuss and to learn more of what the City is looking for with the Lake Eagle Park Master Plan.
- Park Board and Staff discussion included the following.
 - Lake Eagle Park is one of the focal points of the City and is the primary park for events and sport activity.
 - Parking is an issue and the Board is open to additional and alternate parking areas. One area identified for additional parking was along LeSueur Avenue. The possibility of expanding the current parking lot with the removal of ash trees was discussed. The green space on the southeast corner of the park could be turned into parking. If no parking is installed on Thomas Drive, an educational component would need to be implemented. Utilizing the area of the current softball field for parking was mentioned.
 - The old pavilion has been removed and a new one is desired, but first want to determine best design and location. The Board is not looking to include concession stands in this design because a mobile concession stand could be brought in for the few times it would be desired. It is desired to have a pavilion with wind break options such as closable overhead doors or other such options. People sat in old pavilion to have shade and watch ball games. Creating a new pavilion is top priority and should be considered as part of phase 1.
 - The idea of angled piece of overhead shading be installed for people watching games was mentioned.
 - The Board would like to look at long-term planning for the park to maximize usage and streamline design and budgeting plans.
 - Making changes to existing path locations is open for discussion.
 - The need to establish the ability to use the wetland/wet area needs to be determined by determining if it has been delineated as a wetland or if it is just land that is wet.
 - The baseball field is used nightly during summer months and many people park on Thomas Drive which is a safety concern.
 - Existing unloading area is used improperly in which vehicles actually park there instead of as an unloading area. Would like to see this area to continue to be used for handicapped parking.
 - MAYBA will be putting a storage shed by the baseball field fence, by the dugout.

- Designing a new area for t-ball was discussed as well as possible locations within the city park system, there are approximately 60-70 youth who participated last year. Soccer would be another sport which could be included in the park system.
- Frazee Park is under utilized but parking may need to be considered when making updates to that park.
- Future park storage needs should be considered in concept planning.
- ADA restrooms were discussed and if added to the existing restroom, storage on the back side would be a possibility.
- The Adventure Park area is overgrown and full of mosquitos.
- Consider a warming house with an attached community room which could be rented. The possibility of using existing warming house and constructing a detached community room was discussed and air conditioning for renter's comfort in summer months should be considered.
- There is a force main line in the park and needs to be taken into consideration with park planning.
- Consideration for a future water filtration plant needs to be considered with park design.
- Moving of the lawn mower shelter is a possibility to be considered.
- The playground was updated in 1995 but was refreshed in 2021. The playground could be reconfigured, such as moving swings.
- Water amenities were discussed with concern for cost and cost viability.
- A gazebo on the west side of the pond for a reflection/quiet area should be considered.
- The bike rack for Lake Eagle Park is not noticeable, discussion to improve visibility was discussed as well as the possibility of adding a new bike rack.
- Grant funding possibilities would be information to be presented. SHIP funding may be available for benches, possibly garbage receptacles, picnic tables and bike racks. SHIP can award \$3,000 a year to an entity.
- Discussed was the potential of the Shuck property for a natural access to pond and to remain a very natural area.
- A pump bike area may be an option for the park.
- Mr. Nelson provided the following input.
 - Long term planning and visioning for the park would look at 20-30 years down the road and plan for a phased approach.
 - When looking for funding sources, a long-term plan is important. There are grants available, some of which could be significant which are offered annually. His office will provide funding avenues as well and can help with applications. SHIP grants, which is pretty small typically may be available for bike racks and bike repair stations.
 - A lot of parks don't have any restroom.
 - The possibility to rent a shelter is an nice option.
 - Typically, it is nice to have parking adjacent to a pavilion. He may be able to fit a drop off area by the restroom. Could put island in parking lot.
 - He will look at limits of the wetland area.
 - He will develop a couple of concepts/layouts.
 - A long-term plan could include absorbing the softball field.
 - He will try to determine parking needs.
 - He will put concepts on paper and bring to future meeting and then do a redesign based on the Park Board's feedback.
 - The initial concept plan could be available for the March Park Board meeting and refinements would not take long.

- The construction of a pavilion could possibly be done this year. Info could be put out to the public by June.
 - Staff will send previous company's design.
 - Set meeting for March 10th for next concepts to be presented was set.
2. Update from Public Works on Status of Order for Picnic Tables, Benches, and Garbage Receptacles
 - Not discussed.
 3. Recap of 3rd Annual Winter Activities Event
 - Not discussed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerry Rausch
Deputy Clerk