

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

Call to Order: Chair Horkey called the meeting to order at 6:47 a.m.

Members Present: Jeremy Horkey, Don Wesely, Ryan Short, Beth Rohrich, Joan Back, and Tim Auringer.

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

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented.

Business

1. Application for Park Board Vacancy from Don Wesely
 - Administrator Bromeland stated that an application to serve on the Park Board was received from Don Wesely. Upon consensus, the Park Board recommended that Don Wesely's appointment to the Park Board be brought before City Council for approval.
2. Tree Canopy Ideas for Parks (Community Forestry Member Rachel James)
 - Rachel James, Community Forestry Member, explained that the Forestry Corp is new program which started last year. She is working on preparing the City for emerald ash bore (EAB) and that staff will be attending a workshop today to learn how to identify EAB.
 - It was recommended that the City and residents consider expanding the tree canopy to diversify tree types to avoid the loss of several trees due to infestation and disease.
 - Ms. James has completed a tree inventory on public property and stated Lake Eagle Park is comprised of approximately 60% ash trees and over the next ten years several trees will need to be removed. She is writing an EAB plan and a tree replacement plan as well as providing a cost estimate. She recommended the City consider removing and replacing trees instead of treatment due to the fact that trees will eventually die if treatment stops. She stated that some trees could be treated while others are replaced as an approach to allow for incremental replacement of trees.
 - The City of Lake Crystal is looking at doing injections into the roots of the tree and they may be willing to share equipment if staff are trained on the equipment. There are not many companies doing EAB treatments. Rainbow Tree Care out of the cities is the main company to do the treatment. Treatment will kill any insect that would eat the leaf of a tree.
 - Replacement tree recommendations and cost were presented.
 - The City has grant from the DNR to remove and plant seven trees this year.
 - The disposal of a tree with emerald ash bore is more difficult due to Blue Earth County being in a quarantined status due to EAB being in the county. Affected wood can be burned or mulched and repurposed, otherwise trees need to be brought to Minnesota Paving and Materials - Pilgram Demolition Landfill. There is a charge for the disposal of infected trees.
 - The emerald ash bore only moves a couple of miles a year on its own.
 - It was recommended that city code be reviewed and updated to include how diseased and infested trees should be handled on private property.
3. Update on Memorial Bench and Balance Beams (PW Director Goettl)
 - This will be discussed at a later meeting.
4. Lake Eagle Park Master Planning Process (Continued) – Jonathan Nelson
 - Jonathan Nelson with Bolton and Menk was present and asked for feedback on the concept sketches he prepared. Some of the primary concerns identified at the last meeting were parking, the need of a shelter and placement of it, and trails and their connectivity.
 - Discussion identified the desire for a resident survey to provide input as to what park amenities residents would utilize and that contacting key community resources to assist in determining youth interests. A community meeting including youth may be considered to gain input.

- The goal is to design the space on master plan as a long-term goal. The plan can be updated to adjust the plan. Short term planning could include installing a simple, portable shelter which could be used in another location as long-term plans come to fruition.
- Jonathan Nelson will work on drafting a survey to review at next meeting.
- Other items discussed included carpeting the batting cage area and that MAYBA is planning to complete work on dugouts and the scoreboard.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.