

**CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
PARK BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2022**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Horkey at 6:55 a.m.

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

Staff Present: Jennifer Bromeland, Andrew Hartman, and Kerry Rausch

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was presented.

Business

1. Lake Eagle Park Master Planning Process

- The Park Survey will close August 15th. The survey was promoted in the City's newsletter, on Facebook and the City's website, during Music on Parkway, and by word of mouth.
- Preliminary survey results were reviewed with a final draft arriving after the survey period ends. Most respondents to date live within ¼ mile of the park, most have 5-12 age children, 96% indicated they visit the park, summer is the highest use of the park followed by fall, spring and then winter. 68% of the initial respondents indicated they walk to park, approximately 1/3 of the respondents indicated parking is sufficient, 1/3 state it is not sufficient and 1/3 state they don't use the parking lot. The most utilized existing facilities are the trails and playground. Most indicated opposition to moving the ballfield while the majority would like restrooms improvements. Safety concerns with the park were not an issue.
- Some general comments provided included elderly accessibility and mobility issues.
- The top requested new amenity was a splash pad and pool as well as a pavilion and picnic areas with grills. It was indicated that a new shelter with picnic tables, electric, and restrooms would be ideal.
- Park Board discussion included looking at communities that have splash pads to see their usage and maintenance trends, the desire to have the frisbee golf relocated within the park, as well as adding a "lazy river" for winter months where people could skate.
- Discussion included when is it appropriate to hire a recreation director to provide programming for the parks.
- Final results will be presented to City once they are compiled, hopefully at the next meeting.

2. Recap of Recent Ballfield Meeting with MAYBA and School Reps

- Administrator Bromeland and Public Works Supervisor Andrew Hartman met with East High School and MAYBA representatives at the ballfield to review ballfield needs. MAYBA would like to install an irrigation system which they would pay for. In return they would like the City to be responsible for the water used. MAYBA would like to install a 12 x 16 shed behind the dugout on north side for storage purposes. Signage for advertising was discussed but Council indicated a couple of years ago that they did not want to install advertising on the fence, feeling it takes away from the beauty of the park. MAYBA asked if ads could be placed on the dugouts instead. MAYBA would receive money from the advertising which would go back into the Eagle Lake field.
- The agreement with MAYBA will be brought to the City Council at the September meeting for review and renewal.

3. Recap of 3 on 3 Programming and Plans for Next Summer

- This will be provided at the next meeting.

4. Request for Placement of Bench and Doggie Waste Station along 598th Avenue or South Side of City Hall along Parkway Avenue

- This will be looked at when more benches are received.

5. Miscellaneous Updates from Public Works

- a. Timeline for Painting of Rink and Bathrooms – not done yet.

- b. Eagle Heights Park - Status of Grass Establishment, Planting of Trees, Etc.
 - Public Works is working to eliminate crab grass. Trees have not been planted yet and discussion included the need to be strategic on their placement so that pick up ball games can still be held. A possible location discussed was close to the playground.
 - c. Dogs on Leash Signs – An update will be provided at the next meeting.
 - d. Handicapped Parking – Feedback from Loss Control Consultant with LMC
 - The City is compliant with handicap parking requirements with the parking lot at Lake Eagle Park.
 - e. Girl Scout Project at Dog Park
 - An update will be provided at the next meeting.
 - f. Other – Administrator Bromeland explained that residents are asking about the naming of Lake Eagle Park. Beth Rohrich stated she will contact Blue Earth County Historical Society in an attempt to learn how this park was named.
6. 2023 Budget Request for Parks
- a. Capital Outlay Needs
 - b. Part-Time Parks and Recreation Director or Intern?
 - Administrator Bromeland explained that budget work is in process and the Park Board’s input for budgeting was requested. Discussion included if the current amount of \$50,000 will be sufficient for 2023. Administrator Bromeland explained that if new restrooms are constructed it would be City project and not come out of the Park Board budget. Also discussed was that due to pricing and more modest pavilion would be acceptable, that a temporary structure, if installed, could be moved when a new pavilion is constructed, that it would be nice to have a pavilion at Lake Eagle Park and then continue on from there. Park Board consensus was to ask for a little more than \$50,000 but that they would like to consider \$50,000 as the minimum budget amount for the Park Board.
7. Fox Meadows Development - Future Park Needs Discussion
- Discussion included if the city can handle another park, that the developer is looking at a neighborhood pocket park. The City may want to consider another park or determine if Fox Meadows is close enough to Lake Eagle Park.
8. Other Items
- Mayor Auringer asked if the City would want to consider lights on the ballfield since it was included on the Park Survey. Consideration as to how this would affect the residential homes in this area, the frequency of ball field use and if other organizations would consider installing lighting was discussed.
 - Administrator Bromeland stated she has contacted a local golf course to determine how they maintain their ponds. Their recommendation was to use barley bales, which is a low-cost option to improve the aesthetics of the pond. Discussion included that the pond may need to be dredged. It was also asked if decoys be put out to keep geese out of the pond area.
 - Upcoming events include Rec on the Go! on Wednesdays and the Outdoor Movie Under the Stars-SING 2 will be shown on September 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Elementary School.

Kerry Rausch
Deputy Clerk