

Hartford Park and Recreation Board - Regular Meeting March 27,2023

President Josh Mulder called to order the meeting of the Park and Recreation Board at 6:30pm at Hartford City Hall with the following board members present: Josh Mulder, Callie Tuschen, Matt Evans, Kandi Lewi, Chris Woslager (city council representative) and Craig Wagner (city employee representative). Absent with notice was Gail Blocker. City Administrator Teresa Sidel was also present.

Approve Agenda: A motion was made by Evans and seconded by Lewin to approve the agenda as set- all voted yes, motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made by Tuschen and seconded by Mulder to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2023, Board meeting – all voted yes, motion carried.

Public Comments: Ava Gerlach was present to address the Board. Gerlach is working on her Eagle Scout award and asked the Park & Rec Board for potential idea for a project. Gerlach has approximately 4 years to complete a project but wanted to start planning. Things that are of interest to her are animals and kids. The Board thanked Gerlach for approaching them and they will think about possible projects over the next month or two and get back to her.

Reports: City Administrator Sidel provided a report to the Board. Public Works Superintendent, Craig Wagner, noted that the benches for the sports complex were approved by the city council and ordered. He also noted the public works department is providing maintenance on 2 benches and are updating the park restrooms in both Lyon Park and Turtle Creek Park.

Old Business:

- Swenson Park - No new updates. Wagner talked with the golf course about possibly utilizing some of their sprinkler heads to see if they will work at the sports complex. Mike Smith stated that he will check to see if he has anything we can use.
- Pool - Kandi Lewin has been in contact with Lorre Colbern with MC&R Pools. MC&R is looking into possibilities for upgrading the city's pool. Questions for the Board included: 1) Where was the old quartzite pool located? 2) Does the city want to just renovate the old pool, build just a new pool, or incorporate a new pool with the old pool? 3) If we keep the old pool – what depth are we wanting? The board will have to decide if we want diving boards, slides, lap area, etc. After discussion, the Board is seeking proposals with cost estimates for varies options. Sidel will get input from the pool manager and talk with our insurance company about possible risks.
- Bike Trail – The Board reviewed options for the bike trail between Main & Feyder Avenue. The city received a grant from the SD GFP for a 10' bike trail that would run along Turtle Creek between Main Avenue and Feyder Avenue. The city land on the east end is narrow and an easement would be needed from the adjoining property owner to accommodate a 10 ft trail. Unfortunately, the city was not able to secure an easement so the trail on the east end will need to be narrowed down to 8 ft. This city will also need to incorporate an extra retaining wall to accommodate the changes to the trail. Original cost estimates for the trail were \$293,022. With price increases, an added retaining wall, and changes to the design the new cost estimate is \$370,220 – \$77,198 over budget. If the city were to place an 8 ft trail the entire length between Main Ave & Feyder Ave, the estimated cost would be \$344,854 – giving the city some cost savings. The Board reviewed the options of placing a 10 ft trail on the west end and an 8 ft trail on the east end at a cost proposal of \$370,220 or placing an 8 ft trail the entire length at a cost proposal of \$344,856. The consensus of the Park & Recreation Board was to recommend an 8 ft trail the entire length between Main & Feyder Ave. This would keep the trail a consistent width, it would provide some cost savings since the project tis already over budget,

and it makes sense since the trail only connects to sidewalk and does not connect to another 10 ft trail at either end.

New Business:

- Review Community Development Trail System - The Board provided a copy of the city's master trail plan. This will be utilized for future planning of the city's bike trail system.
- Future Need/Community Development Plan Review – The Board discussed the need for a 5-10 year master plan for park & rec improvements. This would help with future planning, funding options, and budgeting. Each Board member was asked to think about future needs for each park facility and city-wide amenities such as bike trail extensions. Evans will create a google doc that will allow board members to add projects and prioritize them. This information can then be utilized by the board to develop a 5-10 year plan for park & rec improvements.

Other Discussion Topics:

- Benches – There is a citizen that wants to donate a memorial bench to the city. In the past the Bike & Rec Trail Committee worked with bench donations and placement, so Wagner was wondering if the Park & Rec Board wants to review these donations or if they want the city staff to just handle them. It was the consensus of the Board that the city should look into the cost of purchasing 2-3 benches and place them at various locations, then if someone wants a donation plaque placed, they would see what location they like and then reimburse the city the cost of the bench in exchange for the placement of a plaque on that bench. Wagner will check into pricing and bring it back before the Board.
- Agenda items for next meeting –
 - Pool Proposals from MC&R Pools
 - 5-10 year Plan – review project priority list
 - Swenson Park Updates – Sprinkler Heads, Hoses, Carts
 - Pricing on Benches

Adjournment: A motion was made by Tuschen, seconded by Mulder, to adjourn at 7:35pm - all voted yes, motion carried.

I, Teresa Sidel, City Administrator, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes which are on file at Hartford City Hall.