

Park Board Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2021

The August 2, 2021 Cascade Park Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Boffeli at 5:00 p.m. Board members Rausch, Sconsa, Manternach and Orr were present.

Motion by Rausch, second by Orr to approve the agenda – all ayes.

Motion by Sconsa, second by Rausch to approve the meeting minutes from July 13, 2021, – all ayes.

Melissa Kane, Library Director and Marie Thomas from the Library Board was present to discuss the Library Story Boards for the Story Walk. They would like to partner with the Park Board on this. The library applied for a DRA grant to help with the cost of this and the notification on award will come in mid-August. The money needs to be used by the end of December. The Story Walk needs to be placed in an area that encourages exercising and reading for kids and their families. The board discussed and thought the best location would be the Coohey walk trail since this is used by so many families. We will review how far off the trail the story walk boards need to go. Motion by Manternach, second by Rausch to place the library story walk on the Coohey trail – all ayes.

The Park Board starting review the condition of the trees at the Community Park. Bill McCarthy was present to review the health of certain trees, the best trees to plant along the edges and in the center of the park. At this time, he thinks there are 10-15 trees that should be removed. The spruces and evergreens don't do well in this area since it is a wetland. He has also consulted with Brian Preston, Swiss Valley Conservation and Mr. Kramer, Dubuque County Forester on best types of trees. Swamp white oak and red oak are great boundary trees and Ohio buckeye, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Skyline Locusts, Sugar Maple and Gingko Tree are best interior trees. We walked through the park and Mr. McCarthy identified trees that should be removed now since they are dead or dying or preventing other healthier trees from seeing their full potential. We will purchase 3 colors of ribbons, one color for removal, one color for pruning and one for keeping and we will work on getting the trees taken care of. We also need to get a pruning program established. Bill will attach the ribbons to the trees so we know the status of each tree. We need to include an amount for pruning, tree removal and trees in the next years budget and going forward. Once the ribbons are on the trees the board will review so we know where we are and we can identify where to start. There are also 2 Ash trees and a large Elm tree that should be removed at the Riverview Park. We will look at this as well.

The Board also discussed the perimeter around the tennis courts. It was suggested placing decorative rock, but the board thinks that could create a situation of rocks being thrown on the tennis court. A concrete border would be better. We will get some quotes on 12" concrete 3" thick or whatever they would recommend and see what they would recommend between the asphalt and the concrete area. Motion by Manternach, second by Rausch to get bids on concrete around tennis courts – all ayes.

An update was provided regarding the pool. The season is wrapping down. Not sure how long we will stay open due to staffing issues and kids involved in school activities. There is an upcoming meeting to discuss keeping it open on the weekends if not enough staff is available during the week.

With nothing further, motion by Rausch, second by Manternach to adjourn the meeting at 5:45p.m. – all ayes.

Deanna McCusker, City Administrator