

**OSSEO PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 14, 2017**

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Osseo Parks & Recreation Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Kerstin Schulz at 6:01 p.m., Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Dee Bonn, Kerstin Schulz, Larry Stelmach, Brittney Quant, Anne Zelenak, and Alden Webster.

Absent: Sloan Wallgren.

Others present: Jeff Feulner and Ryan Ruttger, WSB & Associates; Ed Columbus, Osseo Lions; City Planner Nancy Smebak Abts.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

**A motion was made by Zelenak, seconded by Webster, to approve the meeting's agenda as written. The motion passed 6-0.**

4. APPROVE MINUTES

**A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Quant, to approve the February 7, 2017 meeting minutes as written. The motion passed 6-0.**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Schulz advised the public that this the time for public comments. There were no comments from the public.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS

Jeff Feulner and Ryan Ruttger with WSB & Associates addressed the committee. They provided an overview of three schematic concept plans for Boerboom Park. Each design included different features identified through community engagement and discussions with city staff.

The first concept maintained a more formal and symmetric park, with a fountain and sunken plaza added to the west side of the park. A ramp would be provided to the lower plaza. The bandshell was moved to the east side of the park, with a picnic shelter in the center of the park. A large open lawn was provided, with two central areas on the north and south sides of the park to develop as play areas, a dog run, or community garden.

The second concept provided a more casual and active park. The Veterans Memorial was moved to the southwest corner of the park to serve as a more visible gateway. Memorial benches were relocated to the other three corners of the park, to avoid competition with the play areas. The bandshell was kept in the same location, with a splash pad at the center of the park and a large, separated play area with central seating occupying much of the east

side of the park. A picnic shelter was located along First Avenue, and an open space was provided along the southeast side of the park.

In both the first and second concepts, back-of-curb sidewalks are maintained around the park. The maintenance building/pump house will remain in the same place in all concepts. Dee asked if a permanent rest room or drinking fountain and hand washing station could be added.

The third concept imagined the park as more of a natural, planted garden. A meandering path throughout the park replaced the sidewalks around the streets. A rain garden was added to the northwest corner of the park. Native grasses and pollinator habitat was integrated, and more trees were preserved and added on the site. The stage was shown in the center of the park facing the east, and Bonn suggested moving it to the east edge of the park facing west. A fenced dog run was added to the south side of the park. An enclosed community garden was also featured. Public art installations were located along the meandering path.

Webster noted that the park concepts showed a lot of activity in a small area. Bonn questioned the overall expense and viability of a splash pad. Feulner noted that the city would need to consider desired users and outcomes, and develop the park accordingly.

Stelmach asked about water systems in fountains. Feulner said that fountains typically recirculate water, because they are not intended for human contact.

Stelmach noted a preference for the first option. The changing levels and larger performance space were positive attributes, and it would be an easier option to maintain. Bonn and Quant agreed. Bonn wondered if a pull-down movie screen could be added to a new performance stage.

Zelenak liked the layout of the first design, but also liked elements of other concepts. She liked the larger play areas, and the option of a contained dog area to serve apartment-dwellers with dogs.

Webster asked about the “improved crossing” shown in Option 1. He would like to see a stop light. Feulner explained a raised crossing was one idea for an improvement. The Committee discussed the implications of a “speed bump” crossing, improved signal lighting, and stop lights.

## 7. BUDGET UPDATE

Abts informed the Committee that no money had been spent since the last meeting. She looked into allowable expenses, and recommended the Youth Recreation budget be reserved for programming. The Music and Movies in the Park would continue to be funded by donations.

Stelmach reported the Legion expressed interest in making a donation. He also noted that MRAC, the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, may also provide grants for these programs.

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

### A. DISCUSS SUMMER YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAMS

Abts reported that the subcommittee had met in February to discuss the summer youth programs. They met with John Richardson of Revolutionary Sports, whose organization offers sports programming in many communities across the metro. They also discussed a contractor for arts programs, using Merry Time Arts.

A calendar showing other summer programming was discussed.

These two contractors were willing to provide summer programs for the City. Rev Sports offers evening classes one day a week, for 6-week blocks, plus week-long daycamps. Merry Time Arts offers parent-child classes for young artists as well as classes for school-aged children (no guardian required).

Revolutionary Sports recommended evening classes and daytime camps for Osseo. The evening classes are available to families with working parents and can avoid some of the heat of the day. Camps are offered as a daycare alternative and are especially popular in weeks when school-aged child care is not offered by the local school districts. Zelenak noted that some of these programs were unique to Osseo, and were competitively priced compared to other options in the area. The Rev Sports programs serve younger children than Osseo's previous offerings allowed.

The committee evaluated pricing for the programs. The budget for Youth Recreation is \$8,000. A significant subsidy was desired, to help build the program and make the programs affordable for Osseo residents. This was seen as an easier and more accessible option than offering need-based scholarships. The committee discussed whether having a "family discount" for multiple registrations would be desirable, but ultimately agreed that having a significant discount for all Osseo resident registrations would provide good value with less administrative burden. Schulz recommended offering a 75 percent discount for Osseo residents. They decided to consider an early registration option for Osseo residents for the future, but not for this year, given the constrained timeframe.

The daycamp options were discussed. Although the first daycamp is offered at the same time as Osseo United Methodist Church's vacation Bible school, the committee agreed to offer it to see how it was received. The camp would not be offered if enrollment was not enough. If the program is well-received, a second day camp could be added at the end of the summer.

Stelmach expressed an interest in contacting past participants and getting their input on the changes.

Merry Time Arts offers a variety of arts classes. Participants register for individual classes, or the entire season. The proposed programs use low-cost materials. A group mural project is also an option. The mural could be displayed in City Hall for a set time after it was created. The committee agreed that a mural would be a good option. The committee was interested in expanding programming based on community response and availability.

**A motion was made by Quant, seconded by Webster, to recommend the City Council approve the Youth Recreation Programs as discussed. The motion carried 6-0.**

## B. DISCUSS MUSIC & MOVIES IN THE PARK EVENTS

Ed Columbus briefly recapped the 2016 season. He thought businesses might be willing to donate if asked. He would be willing to serve as an emcee and provide the sound equipment for the movies.

Abts reviewed the proposed schedule, which includes performances almost every night of June, July, and August. In response to comments, the schedule has more movies and more performers with local ties. The initial costs were around \$7,000 for programming, with additional considerations for signs, promotional cards, and “Movie Attendant” staffing.

The Committee agreed that new signs for the concerts and to thank donors would be helpful. They also agreed that hiring two tall individuals would help with movie screening. The Committee recommended *Moana* and *The Wild Life* were selected from the options for films. They also suggested adding local band *Bad Mojo* to the schedule, to try something new.

**A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Webster, to recommend the City Council approve the Music and Movies in the Park events as discussed. The motion carried 6-0.**

8. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

9. UPCOMING EVENTS

The Committee reviewed upcoming events, including:

- Osseo Fire Department/Fire Relief Association Easter Egg Hunt
- Osseo Lions Pancake Breakfast
- Step to It Challenge
- Citywide Cleanup
- Citywide Garage Sale
- Vintage Car Show and Craft Sale

10. STAFF & COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Abts provided an update on the Healthier Communities Project. Stelmach mentioned he was working on a Spring Event with food trucks and craft beers. Schulz reported the Osseo Businesses were working on a spring event. She also would be the contact for craft sale at the Vintage Car Show. Bonn noted that attendance at the exercise programs continued to increase. A potluck was scheduled for Monday.

11. ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made Webster, seconded by Stelmach, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Abts  
*City Planner*