

**OSSEO PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
February 7, 2017**

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1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Webster, to elect Kerstin Schulz as Committee Chair and Sloan Wallgren as Vice Chair. The motion passed, 7-0.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The Osseo Parks & Recreation Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Kerstin Schulz at 6:01 p.m., Tuesday, February 7, 2017.

3. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

Others present: Jeff Feulner, WSB & Associates; City Planner Nancy Smebak Abts.

4. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Stelmach, seconded by Zelenak, to approve the meeting's agenda as written. The motion passed 7-0.

5. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by Bonn, seconded by Webster, to approve the October 4, 2016 meeting minutes as written. The motion passed 7-0.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

7. SPECIAL BUSINESS

Jeff Feulner, Landscape Architect with WSB & Associates, addressed the committee. He provided information about activity to date and scheduled future milestones. Jeff shared community input about the Boerboom Park Master Planning process. He summarized comments received at Lions Roar in September 2016, and at the Community Visioning Event held on January 26, 2017.

Uses that people reported at the park were consistent with its current design. People enjoyed the Memorial and the park's location in downtown Osseo. Dislikes included that most uses

were adult-specific and were mostly passive. Access to the park across Central Avenue was a noted challenge. Natural features, a park shelter, and features for all ages and seasons were desired. A Splash Pad had been a polarizing feature.

The comments will be considered alongside input from City Staff in creating a programming plan for the park. Staff comments had focused on retaining the Memorial but possibly relocating the benches to other areas in the park. Continuing to accommodate existing events and tying in to Central Avenue landscaping was a priority.

Feulner and his team plan to prepare a series of three concept plans for the park based on the programming ideas. Background information has mostly been gathered, but the group will follow up with community stakeholder groups regarding the park.

Jeff explained that the Master Plan concept proposals would include a schematic diagram of different uses that could occur in the park. City Staff would help select a preferred alternative, and all designs would be presented to the Committee in March. After the Committee reviewed the concepts, designs would also be shared with the City Council. After a concept is selected, the Master Plan will be developed. It will include cost estimates and possible phasing suggestions. The Committee discussed the timeline for the Master Planning process. Final approval may occur in May 2017.

In response to a comment from Bonn, Feulner noted that combining a splash pad and skating feature posed some potential challenges. The Committee discussed approximate costs of a splash pad feature, including ongoing maintenance costs. There are various advantages and disadvantages to installing a circulating water system or a flow-through system that does not reuse water. Wallgren reported that he had researched Splash Pads and thought advantages of a recirculating system included the ability to use more water, and that water was warmer.

The Committee noted that having approximate costs of various elements would be helpful in selecting an alternative. Feulner agreed that there were political implications of various costs.

8. BUDGET UPDATE

Abts presented information on 2016 balances and year-to-date expenditures for 2017 budget items that related to Parks and Recreation. She clarified that the Farmers Market is funded through the Community Fund.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSS SUMMER YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAMS

Abts offered a brief recap of the 2016 Summer Youth Recreation Programs. Last year, approximately \$3,000 was spent on youth recreation. A total of \$8,000 is allocated to Youth Recreation for 2017. The committee was asked to provide input about changes for the 2017 program.

Committee members appreciated the possibility of “hiring locally” for program staff, but understood that the program’s limited hours might not provide an attractive employment opportunity. The Committee identified faith-based communities or service organizations that could provide referrals to members that might would be interested in providing programming. The group discussed various options to contract with other organizations to

provide recreation services. Zelenak reported she was interested in learning more about contracting opportunities. Wallgren inquired about the Rec on the Go services provided by Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park. Schulz asked if Three Rivers Park District might also be able to provide programming.

The Committee discussed the possibility of adding a modest registration fee. Members felt that this change could help improve commitment to the program and would still provide a good value for participants. A registration fee would help recognize that the City has costs for providing the program. A different rate for residents and non-residents could also be used to recognize that residents contribute tax dollars to the program. However, there are peripheral benefits to bringing nonresidents to Osseo. Wallgren noted that it would be beneficial to offer a fee waiver for those who would be unable to pay.

The possibility of adding various themes and special programs to the schedule was discussed. Perhaps community education presentations like the Raptor Center or Three Rivers Park District outreach programs could be added to the schedule. Committee members expressed an interest in learning what other communities or contracting service providers might recommend in terms of schedule and scope.

Committee members noted that the summer youth programs might also provide an opportunity to address food insecurity for area residents. Continuing involvement with the city's public safety and public works departments should also be incorporated in the program.

The subcommittee of Zelenak and Quant will consider the alternatives and report back to the group at a March 14 meeting.

B. DISCUSS MUSIC & MOVIES IN THE PARK EVENTS

Abts noted that this was the first year the City had been fully responsible for the summer events series. She asked the committee to discuss a proposed schedule of events, staffing concerns, and opportunities to increase donations to support the programs.

Committee members noted that there was a desire for more movies on the schedule. Abts estimated each movie required between 3 to 5 hours of time for set up, screening, and take down, depending on whether a concert preceded the movie. Setting up and taking down the screen required at least two people in her experience. Stelmach and Webster identified several local service organizations as possible sources of event volunteers to help with setup, take down, and monitoring of the projection equipment. Perhaps members of the Legion, Masons, or Boy Scouts would be interested. In the absence of volunteers, the committee also discussed the possibility of hiring the summer equivalent of "rink attendants" for the movies. Wallgren suggested an interest in purchasing an easier-to-operate inflatable screen in the future.

Abts agreed to research whether any expenses could be paid for with the Youth Recreation budget and share information with the committee.

The Committee also considered the need for donations to support the concerts. Members agreed that it was difficult to ask for donations without knowing what the event schedule would be, but that it was also difficult to commit to paying for performances without having committed funding. Committee members agreed to contact local service organizations before the March meeting to ask for donations. City Staff are also prepared to send out

letters to local businesses requesting donations on behalf of the Committee, if necessary. Stelmach asked Abts to contact the Osseo Gun Club regarding a donation.

The Subcommittee of Schulz and Webster will meet in advance of the March meeting to finalize a proposed schedule for the summer events.

C. REVIEW FEEDBACK FROM LIONS ROAR AND COMMUNITY VISIONING SESSION

Abts noted that Jeff Feulner's presentation had summarized much of the community feedback from recent outreach events. She directed the Committee's attention to a printed report summarizing feedback from Lions Roar. She invited attendees at the Community Visioning Session to share their impressions.

Sloan Wallgren was impressed to see non-Osseo residents in attendance at the event. The committee felt there was good representation from businesses as well.

9. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

10. UPCOMING EVENTS

The Committee reviewed upcoming events, including:

- Osseo Fire Relief Association Fireman's Dance
- Osseo Fire Department/Fire Relief Association Easter Egg Hunt
- Citywide Cleanup
- Citywide Garage Sale
- Vintage Car Show and Craft Sale

11. STAFF & COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Wallgren noted that the Minidazzle Parade had been an enjoyable event, with increasing attendance and turning getting better and better. Schulz appreciated the business participation in Minidazzle.

Abts reported that the Creating Healthier Communities Leadership Team had begun meeting. The group is supported by funds from Active Living Hennepin County and the Minnesota Department of Health's Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP). The group had discussed the possibility of providing food for the summer youth programs. Funding support through the initiative would also support Boerboom Park planning.

Dee reported that attendance at Yoga classes was increasing. New attendees at the Jazzercise classes frequently enjoyed a post-class lunch at local restaurants.

Stelmach mentioned a CCX Media feature on Downtown Osseo's reinvigorated environment. The city's positive climate was remarked on at the State of the Cities event. He felt the Parks & Recreation Committee's efforts were a component of that success, and thanked his fellow

committee members for their contributions. He also reported that he had made contact with instructors of cross country skiing and tennis courses. He would be willing to bring some more information about those recreation opportunities to a future committee meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made Bonn, seconded by Zelenak, to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. The motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Abts
City Planner