

Sartell Park Commission
July 26th, 2016
Watab Creek Park Shelter

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the meeting of the Sartell Park Commission was held on July 26th, 2016 at the Watab Creek Park shelter. Dave Lindbloom called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Molitor, Diane Schellinger, Dave Lindbloom
MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Burzette, Rachel Lolmasteymaugh,
OTHERS PRESENT: Nate Keller, Community Development Technician
John Kotheunbeuttel, Assistant Public Works Director
Larry Then, Utility System Supervisor
Maybelle Gordon, Sartell resident 605 2 ½ ST N

AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION

A motion was made by Schellinger to adopt the agenda as proposed. The motion was seconded by Molitor. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Molitor and seconded by Schellinger to approve the May 25th, 2016 Park Commission minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Park Maintenance Update

Kotheunbeuttel explained how Park maintenance was going this summer. New wood chips have been added to Sandstone, and Celebration parks. Public works staff have also been busy taking care of thistle, and weeds.

Neighborhood 5 Survey results

Prior to discussing the Park survey results the Commission had the pleasure of hearing from a local resident (Maybelle Gordon-605 2 ½ St N, Sartell) who spoke about the importance of keeping the trails on the North end of the park natural. Ms. Gordon also wanted the Park Commission to be aware of the vandalism occurring on the bridge. Park Commission members discussed possible options to detour vandalism including installing signs or cameras.

Keller provided a brief background on the survey including the added addition of park specific questions to the survey. Staff felt the quality of feedback was high and more specific feedback was provided on each individual park.

The Park Commission reviewed the feedback on each individual park included on the survey. The following results from the discussion:

- **Watab Creek**
Discussion was made on improvements to the Park Shelter, trail maintenance, wading pool, parking, and signs to detour vandalism. Commission members talked

about the vandalism on the bridge crossing the Watab and to the Park shelter. Commission members discussed the possibilities of looking at signage stating “this park is under surveillance” and installing these signs at our parks which house shelters. Keller will talk with Police and staff on the possibilities of installing signs to detour vandalism. Keller also mentioned the city has a new park shelter for Watab Creek as the #1 priority for the park.

- **Sartell Veterans**

Commission members discussed the purpose of Veterans Park and how the majority of people go there for a view of the river and as a “stop-n-go” rest stop. Commission members discussed maintenance as an important piece of this park. Discussion was also made on the results of the survey which showed “enacting a smoke free policy” as the #1 potential improvement to the park.

- **Sabre Oaks**

The commission discussed the purpose of Sabre Oaks and how it serves as a small neighborhood park for adjacent residents. “Upgrades to the playground equipment” and “enacting a smoke free policy” were the top two choices indicated on the survey. The 3rd was “no other improvements needed”. Commission members believed the park was in great condition and up-kept well. Commission members also noted this park has a sheltered picnic table which is nice and not to common at our smaller neighborhood parks. Commission members expressed their gratitude to all those who help keep our park gardens looking nice.

- **Natures Edge**

Discussion was made on the survey results. The survey showed “enacting a smoke free policy” as the #1 improvement followed by “playground improvements,” and no “other improvements needed”. Commission members noted there was minor weeds in the rear of the park which needed cutting. Commission members discussed that the playground was in good condition. The equipment is geared towards younger kids and adequately meets those needs. Members agreed that weed maintenance was the #1 priority for this park.

- **Rotary Riverside**

“Parking improvements”, “improvements to fishing pier”, and “additional picnic tables” were mentioned as the top three improvements to Rotary from the survey results. Lindbloom mentioned the parking lot was staked out a few years back and the Commission approved parking improvements. Lindbloom asked why the project was halted. Keller was not sure the exact reason why the improvements were never made but did note that the Rotary group initiated most of the projects for the park. Discussion was also made on the possibilities of adding another picnic table closer to the river. The existing picnic tables are cemented down and located closer to Riverside Rd.

- **Meadowlake**

The top three priorities for Meadowlake Park as seen on the survey include: “enacting a smoke free policy”, “playground improvements”, and “additional picnic tables”. Commission members again stressed the importance of just maintaining and up-keeping the weeds at all of our parks. Discussion was also made about the existing curb cut access and how no sidewalk or pathway is installed from the curb

cut to the park. For some people with strollers, or wheelchairs access from the street to the park can be difficult. Commission members would like to see what the possibilities of putting in a bituminous pathway may be.

Other business

Keller briefed the Commission on the upcoming Rain Garden Maintenance class offered August 4th from 6:00-7:30PM. 20 participants have signed up thus far (class limit is 25). Keller encouraged members to reach out to anyone who may be interested in attending. The Rain Garden class is being led by the Sauk River Watershed District and will be hosted at Sartell City Hall.

Keller mentioned there is still plans to have a Pickelball CT grand opening. The date is TBD. Construction on the courts should begin this week or next. Keller has reached out to the Police, Fire, and Pickleball Association as partners for the event.

The status of the Neighborhood Matching Fund program was discussed by Keller. There have been minor setbacks in getting the program going including disbursement legality concerns. Keller is hoping to have the initial meeting yet this summer with a launch of the program next spring.

Discussion was made on the possibilities of pursuing a Tobacco free policy. The policy would be implemented at all City owned parks. Survey results have shown that this priority scored high. The Commission would like staff to continue researching how a policy would work and bring it back for discussion at the next Park Commission meeting.

Keller explained more pictures of our parks will be added to the website throughout the next year. Keller also discussed the city possibly doing a photo contest similar to the one the city of St. Cloud currently runs.

Keller also updated the Commission on a few minor map corrections which will be added to the website.

Keller suggested the next Park Commission meeting to be held at Sartell City Hall (Tuesday, September 27th).

ADIJOURN

A motion was made by Molitor and seconded by Schellinger to adjourn the meeting at 7:45PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon the conclusion of the meeting the Commission and staff members conducted a walk around Watab Creek to follow-up on recommendations made in the survey by residents.

Minutes by:
Nate Keller, Community Development Technician

