

Sartell Park Commission
May 25th, 2016
Val Smith Park Shelter

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the meeting of the Sartell Park Commission was held on May 25th, 2016 at the Val Smith Park shelter. Dave Lindbloom called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Molitor, Diane Schellinger, Michael Burzette, Rachel Lolmasteymaugh, Dave Lindbloom

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Nate Keller, Community Development Technician
Brad Borders, Public Works Director
John Kotheunbeuttel, Assistant Public Works Director
Larry Then, Utility System Supervisor

AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION

A motion was made by Schellinger to adopt the agenda with the addition of 5a) Miscellaneous. The motion was seconded by Molitor. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Burzette and seconded by Schellinger to approve the March 23rd, 2016 Park Commission minutes pending spelling error correction. Motion carried unanimously. Lindbloom abstained.

I-2 Standards/Redevelopment Task Force

Keller explained the purpose of the moratorium and gave an overview of the properties impacted by the ordinance (Dezurik, Paper mill property, Hydro facility). Keller explained the creation of the “task force committee” and asked for a volunteer from the Park Commission to serve on the task force. Burzette volunteered to be on the task force committee. Keller will communicate to Burzette the meeting dates and times once the task force is selected and approved.

Comprehensive Plan Recommendation

Keller provided an overview of the Comprehensive Plan along with the specific goals allotted to in the Parks and Open Space section. Discussion was made on what the timeline was for the Comprehensive Plan and the overall goals of the plan. Keller also discussed what a Comprehensive Plan is and isn't. Overall the Commission liked the goals in the Parks and Open Space section and will provide Keller with additional input as they have more time to review.

Eastside Park Survey

The Commission discussed the results of the survey for Val Smith and Eastside Kiddie Park. The following were discussed as it relates to Sartell's East side parks:

- Val Smith is used quite often during PAL's activities which brings great exposure to the park
- Parking is an issue at Val Smith. Currently the parking options are limited. Staff and Commission members noted that many people park right next to the Val Smith park shelter along Park Ave leading to distress on the grass. Commission members discussed if adding some parking spaces along Park Ave would be viable. Staff noted that the road is currently privately owned and the city does not own any right-of-way. Due to Park Ave being privately owned the ability for the city to construct parking along this roadway at this time is not a possibility.
- Burzette asked if we are repeating ourselves with the amenities offered at East Side Kiddie Park. Staff mentioned Eastside Kiddie Park is a small neighborhood park meant to service only those residents in the adjacent blocks. While Val Smith is a regional park which attracts residents outside of the area due to the wider range of amenities offered (baseball/softball tournaments, shelter rental, etc.) Discussion was made on the purpose of each of the parks and the residents they serve.
- Staff discussed the maintenance schedule of Val Smith and Eastside Kiddie.
- Lolmasteymaugh noted enacting an ordinance to be smoke free is an intriguing idea. Keller also explained the discussions staff has had with the Police Department. One major obstacle with this ordinance is effective and consistent enforcement.
- Staff will inquire if another picnic table or two can be added to Eastside Kiddie Park based on the feedback received from the survey.

Miscellaneous

Lolmasteymaugh discussed a letter she received from the Lacrosse Association requesting an electronic billboard for Pinecone Central Park. Kotheunbeuttel explained the resources and staff time currently put into prepping the fields for Lacrosse games. Kotheunbeuttel suggested to Lolmasteymaugh to start the request by reaching out to the Pinecone Central Park Board for feedback and input. Discussion was also made on the importance of grassroots activism and fundraising.

Keller updated the Commission on a possible partnership with the Sauk River Watershed Association in hosting a Rain Garden maintenance class. Staff alloted to the fact that many of the raingardens in the city are not up kept and in disrepair. Keller will provide an update to the Commission once a date is established for the class.

Keller provided an update on the potential joint meeting between the City Council and Park Commission. Keller recommended the Joint meeting wait until winter since two current Council members are not seeking reelection. The Commission agreed it's better to wait until the new Council members get elected.

Discussion was made on the new Pickleball courts. Keller suggested partnering with the Pickleball Association and hosting a "grand opening" of the Val Smith Pickleball courts. Keller will outreach to the association and keep the Commission updated on the potential grand opening event. The Commission agreed the event would be a great opportunity for public engagement while exposing people to the game of Pickleball.

Lolmasteymaugh mentioned the importance of having pictures and more information on the city's parks available on the website. Keller will look at adding more pictures for each of the parks to the city's website.

Keller suggested the next Park Commission be held at Watab Park Shelter (Tuesday, July 26th). The next Neighborhood Focus area will be Neighborhood 5. The Commission agreed.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Molitor and seconded by Schellinger to adjourn the meeting at 7:48PM. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Minutes by:
Nate Keller, Community Development Technician