Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Those present:
- Andy Cison, Chairperson
- Sharon Ornquist, Secretary
- Chelsie Bowker
- Cindy Domeier

Also present:
- Bruce Zenner—Council Liaison

Those absent:
- Charlene Whitbred-Hemmingson
- Micah Bender

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Bowker, second by Domeier to approve the August 8, 2019 minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Bowker, second by Domeier to approve the August 13, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Eagle Scout Project
Ben Harvey (St. Paul Park Boy Scout Troop 83) informed the Commission that the hockey scoreboard was installed on September 2. The backside has been left blank so it can be used as a bulletin board. And the graffiti on the hockey rink has been repainted. The Commission will need to purchase a bucket of chalk for the scoreboard.

The Commission was please with his work on the hockey rink, scoreboard, construction of two raised beds and the repair of the benches at the Little Free Library. Chairman Cison signed off on his paperwork.

The Commission recommended that an Eagle Scout Plaque be purchased and displayed at City Hall to recognize those who have (or will) achieve this award.

Toni Harvey (St. Paul Park Boy Scout Troop 83 Leader) informed the Commission that the St. Paul Park Boy Scout Troop 83 will be celebrating 93 years this year. The Commission felt this would be a good topic for the Heritage Society.
B. Whitbred Memorial Park
The water treatment plant is slated to be finished in February 2020. The
Commission would like to begin planning for the redevelopment of Whitbred
Park by creating a vision.

Council Liaison Zenner informed the Commission that the batting cages are on
hold. As of today, the City has budgeted $10,000 in the year 2020, the Lions
Club will be donating $10,000 and the Athletic Association will need to raise the
remainder. The batting cages will be relocated by the warming house closest to
the water tower. The Plan is to build two cages at an estimated cost of $26,000.
There is a secondary option for a full net batting cage at a cost $15,000. The
Athletic Association is concerned about the security of the equipment and looking
at storage options before making a decision.

Commission Member Bowker inquired if the batting cages will need to be ADA
Compliant. Similar to Heritage Park, does that mean everything at Whitbred Park
will need to be compliant. If it does, what would this park look like?

The Commission would like to create a vision for this park with the assistance of
the Athletic Association. Before starting this journey, Council Liaison Zenner
suggested the Commission meet with Public Works Supervisor Dionisopoulos
first, possibly in October then invite the Athletic Association to the November
meeting to discuss the vision for Whitbred Park.

C. Veteran’s Park Improvement
Council Liaison Zenner informed the Commission that improvements to Veterans
Park is slated for 2020 in preparations for the Legion’s Anniversary in 2021.

D. Capital Improvement Plan for Parks
Council Liaison Zenner suggested that the Commission identify their top five
parks that need to be done.

E. Lions Levee Park Grand Re-opening.
The boat launch has been repaired and re-opened in August just before Heritage
Days. This was a collaborative effort with the DNR. The project was delayed due
to high water levels. The Commission didn’t feel a grand re-opening was
necessary.

Chairman Cison informed the Commission that two of the floats to the dock are
missing. Public Works Supervisor Dionisopoulos is looking at options to refloat
the plastic dock. The hillside has been invaded by trees which will need to be
removed. The staining on the bridge did not hold up through the flooding and 3-4
boards will need to be replaced. The island is in rough shape. There are a lot of
large logs that will need to be removed for safety purposes. Lions Levee Park is
needing some major repair/improvements and the Commission would like the
City Council to consider these improvements in the year 2021-2022.
F. Dedication of the Little Free Library at Axelrod Park.
The Little Free Library at Axelrod Park has been installed. The Commission will submit an article for Fall Newsletter recognizing the Girl Scouts.

G. Review application from Christopher Doherty.
The applicant was not in attendance. The Commission asked that City Staff send an invite to the applicant informing him of the next meeting.

H. 5K Runraiser.
The first 5K Runraiser was a success with 21 participants who ran, walked or strolled past five of the ten parks. The Commission wishes to run this event again next year. Council Liaison Zenner informed the Commission that there are two options for sponsorship, continue with the Lions Club or team up with the Masons.

I. Newsletter—the following topics were suggested for the newsletter
   • Community Garden Harvest
   • Heritage Park Improvement
   • Art & Garden Event
   • Boat Launch
   • Little Free Library at Axelrod
   • Heritage Days Fireworks and 5K Runraiser
   • Pollinator Patch (Pheasants Forever project)
   • Upcoming Events
   • Whitbred Warming House (any affects due to water treatment facility)

PARKS COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION:
The Commission expressed the following concerns:

A. Lions Levee Park
   • Dock. The dock needs to refloated, two of the floats are missing.
   • Bridge. 3-4 boards need to be replaced. Consider replacing all boards on bridge with composite decking.
   • Tree removal. Island is in rough shape. Need to figure out how to remove the logs on island for safety reasons.
   • Hillside. The hillside has been taken over by invasive tree growth. Need to figure out how to remove them. Possibly burning the hillside late fall or early spring. Commission recommended reaching out to organization that planted the hillside for guidance as to how to remove the invasive trees.

B. Vision for Whitbred Memorial Park
   Council Liaison Zenner suggested that Public Works Supervisor Dionisopoulous attend the Park & Rec. Commission meeting before inviting the Athletic Association and suggested the October meeting.
OPEN DISCUSSION:
  A. Holiday Lights Contest—Commission Member Ornquist suggested the commission organize a Holiday Lights Bus Tour during week of December 16-20. Commission could serve cookies and cider at City Hall before and after the bus tour. The Commission will discuss this further. It was suggested that each Commission Member nominate a house this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting—October 10, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted September 30, 2019 by Commission Secretary Ornquist

Important Dates:
  • December 28—Glow in the Dark Sledding Event

Agenda Items:
  • October—Garden Clean up—Set date
  • October—Whitbred Memorial Park planning session with Public Works Supervisor
  • November—Holiday Lights Contest Bus Tour idea
  • November—Whitbred Memorial Park planning session with Athletic Association