

SLEEPY EYE PARK BOARD MINUTES

APRIL 11TH, 2022

Present – Sean Mathiowetz, Jared Miller, Pat Starkey, and Greg Tennant

Absent – Bob Schmid, Council Liaison Gary Windschitl

Board welcomed new members Jared Miller and Sean Mathiowetz.

Greg made a motion for Jared Miller to be the new board chair and Bob Schmid as secretary. Pat made the second motion, and all were in favor.

Greg made a motion to accept the October's minutes as we did not have a January meeting. Pat seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Director Matt Schmidt informed the board about the new kayak trailer. It will be coming this May. It will be in Sportsmen's Park near the aeration building. It will house single kayaks, double kayaks, and paddle boards. People will be able to reserve kayaks or paddle boards in two-hour blocks. The first reservation starts each day at 7 AM and the last rental is at 5 PM. The cost for the single is \$10, tandem \$15, and \$10 for the paddle boards. The trailer's location will be gps'd and will be put on the company's app so renters will know the location of the trailer. The Brown County Sheriff's Office will have to do an annual inspection on the trailer. We will put a gravel pad under the trailer and some landscaping will be needed. The trailer and contents will be maintained by us, but the locking system will be maintained by the company.

There was discussion on whether to remove the volleyball courts in Eagles and Allison. Director Schmidt advised that he had contacted both schools to see if there are used and neither school uses them. Director Schmidt said there little to no use at Eagles and Allison. Board member Ms. Starky advised she had seen people use the Allison court. Director Schmidt advised the board that there are yearly complaints on Cicada Killers in the sand and that he believes that court location could be utilized by vendors etc. in Allison. With the 150th celebration this year there was talk about volleyball tournament at Eagles but didn't know if that is happening or not. Motion to remove the two courts at Eagles and leave the court at Allison was made by Greg, seconded by Jared, and all were in favor.

There was discussion on whether to keep the horseshoe pits at Southpark. Director Schmidt advised the board that there is again little to no use and are in need of repair. He had contacted a party that lives near the pits to see if there was any use. The party advised there wasn't. Schools were also asked if they utilized them at all. St. Mary's School does offer a two-week class, but no students had signed up in the past few years. Motion was made by Pat to remove the horse pits, was seconded by Sean, and all were in favor.

Results from last year's survey came in that was conducted by the MN Department of Agriculture. The specimens collected were identified as indigenous insects and there were no exotic insect species. They were given permission to collect samples again this year in Sportsman's and Allison.

A donation from Mark and Sandy Beito for a memorial bench came in. It reads "In Memory of Rex and Judy Beech They Loved Sleepy Eye". They will also donate a cement slab for it to be placed on. Director Schmidt advised that he would make the slab larger than needed so he would be able to add some type of shade structure in the future. They also donated four headed bag dispensers. They would contain dog waste bags and will be placed around town. At this time Director Schmidt was going to have them placed at Southpark, along the trail near the beach, Kiefer, and Eagles. A case of bags was also supplied. Mark had also talked about refinishing the Chief Sleepy Eye statute in Wooldrik Park. Mark had spoken with City Manager Bob Elston regarding the statute. An anonymous donation also came in at the end of last year in the amount of \$10,000. The party would like it used for the trail but could use elsewhere if needed.

The Sleepy Eye Baseball Association is going to shingle the garage and concession stand at Eagles Park. Our bathrooms are attached to the concession stand so we would have that shingled right away as well. The batter's eye needs some repair. Fifteen sheets of plywood were purchased and painted. Both sides were painted in hopes to make the sheets hold up longer. There is a total of forty sheets on the wall. Once sheeting is replaced may have to paint the entire wall as colors aren't likely to match.

Carter Brinkmen will not be returning this year as summer help. He has accepted an internship that is required for his degree. I know we have at least 1 application turned in.

Currently taking applications for lifeguards. The deadline is April 15th at noon and are to be turned in at city clerk's office. It was posted in the paper and Wendy said that she was going to make another Facebook reminder. Applications can be found on the city website, at both schools, and at the clerk's office. Currently have three applications as of Thursday that Wendy knew of. Target opening date would be June 1st. That will be dependent on staffing and athletics.

Arbor Day will be April 29th. Director Schmidt had contacted City Manager Bob Elston to put in the agenda for the mayor to do the arbor day proclamation. Most likely will do another virtual tree planting like last year.

Jeff Zinniel came out to shop and asked park staff to look at some ash trees that he believed was infected with the Emerald Ash Bore on North Lake Rd. There are several Ash trees there. This property is not in the city limits. The board was shown a map of the confirmed locations in Brown County from the MN Department of Agriculture.

Two permits have been issued for a total of 4 Maple trees and one hazardous removal of a Hackberry on 300 block of 4th Ave NW. Trunk was split almost too ground and cracks were opening in the wind. There was also a PUC pole next to it with a transformer mounted on it. This was a 50/50 cost share. The rest are along Southdale St SW. These were not deemed hazardous, and all cost was on the home owner. The 2nd permit issued was for three maple trees. I was hesitant to issue the permit, but homeowner agreed to plant one maple tree back in.

Our application met requirements and was approved for 2021. We are recognized this year for being a part of Tree City USA for 40 years. We received new signs to put up, currently only have one up and that's on Highway 4 south of town and can be seen coming into town. Stickers to place on sign for 40 years recognition. We also received a Maple leaf plaque, a 40-year recognition plaque, and a new flag.

A member of the Sportsmen's Club approached Director Schmidt and asked to remove the two bushes that are on the west side (backside) of the entry sign into Sportsmen's Park. He told him that was on his to do list at some point. The party advised they would cover the material cost. Director Schmidt would still have this put on Sleepy Eye Sportsman's Club agenda before completing.

The equipment needs maintenance. The cages are starting to rust. A complaint was made regarding frisbees falling through the basket. Another ring or two would need to be added around the basket. The yellow ring at the top that has the business name and basket number needs replacing. Some of the businesses that sponsored a hole are no longer in business. The hole information plaques that were made are also in need of repair or to be replaced. The bolts that were placed in between are no longer holding. When you try and put the nut on, they just spin. Director Schmidt started getting estimates of repair and speaking with businesses that sponsored the hole previously.

A 6" K-Drill was purchased for use as our new auger. Started measuring 12/27/2021 and stopped measuring 3/2/2022. The max ice thickness was 25 inches. Our highest O2 level was 23.2 and the lowest was 8.14. Ice out was 4/6/2022. Last year ice out was 3/20/2022.

Director Schmidt advised that he had received a complaint regarding the cracks at Kiefer's court last year. This year the cracks at Eagles seemed to really open up. This had been brought to Public Works Director Mike Hardin for future budgeting.

Previously talked about changing the way the camp reservation cards would be done. Utilizing the new system to print them out but would then have to update how they are posted at the site. Director Schmidt spoke with Amanda. She felt her current system works well for her. We will not have to look for new reservation holders.

Materials have been purchased to complete the bench swing that was talked about last year. Party wanted it on the southside of the lake. Current thoughts on it right now is to take one of the benches at the beach and move it towards highway 4 and place the bench next to the trail and next to the grass on the west side. Difficult area as there is no flat area to put it.

The trail needs maintenance and since a good chunk of the repair cost was donated that will get done this spring. The work consists of crack fill and fog seal. Public Works Director Mike Hardin informed Director Schmidt that that project would possibly start this week.

32 shelter rentals already in and couple of those are picnic table rentals.

Cleaning supplies were ordered. May or may not get through the season but wanted to make sure we could get it and before prices went up.

Starting to put dock bumpers on.

Some vandalism at Allison Park was reported. They broke a seat board on one of the tables, attempted to kick in the utility room door on the back side of the bathrooms, and messed with the light bulb sockets. While looking found wire that was chewed that will need to be replaced as well.

NEXT MEETING

JULY 11TH, 2022