

**PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2021
6:30 PM**

Don called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Don Buchert, Marty Hura, Nina Schroeder, Cookie Vanek, Scott Weaver

Other Village Personnel Present: None

Citizens Present: Phil Rath

- ❖ Motion to accept amended minutes from October 20, 2021 made by Scott, seconded by Don; all “ayes” given.

Old Business:

- Don asked about sewage depth at Buchert Park; the Board has received no additional information about this yet. Phil says that the architect who assisted in creating a design concept also had no access to water/sewer line data at the time he rendered architectural drawings.
- The cost of Phase 4 (safety measures: add ADA-compliant walkways and picnic tables; correct heave in basketball court; replace concrete pads in pavilions) is at least \$35K based on preliminary quotes received.
 - The Board received quotes from Benner Masonry.
 - Replace 40’X32’ pavilion pad and demo and replace concrete pad at basketball court and reinstall fence at \$24175.00
 - Repair the heave on the basketball court, replace the fence and concrete footer, and match existing concrete at \$8,800
 - Total estimates do not yet include the construction or installment of some kind of barrier around the walkways to prevent motor vehicles from driving on them, as discussed at the last meeting.
- The cost of Phase 5 (restrooms) in total is estimated at around \$46,500, according to Phil.
 - The cost for the construction of restrooms was quoted by Joyce Construction— using the aforementioned design concept and architectural drawings, and without water/sewer line information at-hand.
 - Nina points out that at the Council meeting prior, CT Consultants speculated and gave cursory figures for free-standing bathrooms in nearby communities that were much higher (approximately double the cost of Phil’s estimate).
- Scott and Marty expressed concerns about the Village’s current financial situation. Nina expressed worry that the NatureWorks grant (“state allocation, up to \$150,000”), which makes all of these projects possible, is not guaranteed, and that the money awarded may only total as little as \$30-40K, per the Mayor’s concerns at a past meeting.
 - The Board and Phil agree that paring back projects and current expectations may be inevitable but can be discussed when necessary.
 - The Village is still working on appropriations for 2022, but the Board agrees and reiterates that the Village does not have the budget to afford these projects and ongoing costs.

- The Mayor and Parks Board have been concerned that the grant amount awarded may not be sizeable enough, and all recognize that we've been fortunate in the past to receive total available grant monies. Scott points out and the Board agrees that more clarification is needed on the total amount to be awarded by NatureWorks, as 30-40k reimbursed is far less than these projects require.
- The Board and Phil speculate that the grant amount awarded will be, hopefully, at least enough to cover Phase 4's safety projects.
- The Board agrees that it needs additional quotes to determine more precise costs of restroom construction and safety projects.
- Phil reiterated that the money the DMRC contributes toward these projects will not be a loan; it is an interagency agreement that allows the DMRC to pay for the projects upfront, to channel their revitalization funds through the Village, until the NatureWorks grant reimburses the cost of the project less 25%.
 - The funds, ultimately reimbursed to the DMRC through said interagency agreement, can then be recycled for future projects.
 - This grant is an attractive option because it is high-yielding at 75% reimbursable.
 - The grant application is due in February.
 - According to Phil's estimates, the total out-of-pocket cost for the DMRC (after the grant is reimbursed to the Village and the DMRC is reimbursed by the Village) would only be around \$7K.
- Phil will verify how much money in unencumbered funds is available through the DMRC. Phil says the DMRC Board meets on Friday, December 19 and will discuss whether they are willing and able to appropriate their funds toward Phase 4 safety projects.
 - Phil says that at their last meeting the DMRC had the following rounded funds banked: \$42K in checking; \$37K in savings; 22K encumbered for the Village
 - Per Phil and according to language used by the DMRC, Phase 4 and Phase 5 (as the Parks Board recognizes them) are combined under one moniker (i.e., "Phase 4") and, ideally, a grant will be awarded for at least \$60K. Then, safety measures and restroom construction can be underway simultaneously.
 - Scott notes that "Phase 5," per the DMRC, is "to work on connecting the walking paths and creating a walking loop to the south side in the future."

New Business:

- ❖ Marty made a motion to move the request to apply for the NatureWorks grant due in February up to Council, Don seconded; all "ayes" given.
 - This request is contingent upon the DMRC being willing to encumber enough funds for Phase 4 safety measures; Phil will report back after their December 19 meeting.
- Nina asks whether the deteriorating benches discussed at the last meeting were removed; if not, the Board requests assistance from the Service Department.
- ❖ Motion to adjourn made by Marty at 7:23 p.m., seconded by Don; all "ayes" given.