

AUSTIN PARKS, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
MARCH 2, 2022
J.C. HORMEL NATURE CENTER
5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Helen Jahr – Chairperson, Chris Grev, Justin Hanson, Nik Johnsen, CeCe Kroc, DeeDee Marx, and Rebecca Waller
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Nelson, Randy Hofner, Luke Reese, Riley Donovan, Patti Hamilton and Tricia Branden

Moved by Ms. Waller, seconded by Mr. Johnsen to approve the March agenda with addition. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Marx, seconded by Ms. Grev to approve the February minutes. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Waller, seconded by Mr. Johnsen to approve the February bills. Carried.

Claire Michelson and Chris Janson from MSA joined remotely to discuss the projects direction without a director. Making it go longer than projected is not a problem for them, but all felt continuing with the survey and public input parts of the plan was fine, and they will email it to all when completed, however a new director should be involved after that and they can pause if needed.

Moved by Mr. Hanson, seconded by Ms. Waller to support the Mountain Bike Club to move forward with the possibilities of a Skills Park at the Mountain Bike Trail Head area. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Grev, seconded by Ms. Waller to accept an ATV donation for the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center once purchased by the Friends of the Nature Center. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Hanson, seconded by Ms. Grev to move towards using a consulting/contractor and do this spring/wetland project right at Community Park. Mr. Hofner will do some surface leveling at this time to run water towards drain, and we should get assessment work and cost estimates. Carried

Moved by Mr. Johnsen, seconded by Ms. Marx to approve the design themes and allow the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center to install a new mussel exhibit in the interpretive center later this year. Carried.

Discussions were held regarding adding a dog dock and a doggie waste station on the northwest area of East Side Lake however there are mussel collections in the area and dog restrictions. It was decided this would be a great subject for the public survey in the Master Plan process. Tabled.

A review of the subcommittees/chairs were discussed and the current changes are reflected with an * :

Budget – Finance – Claims:	Waller, Hanson, Grev
Acquisition – Development – Planning:	*Kroc, Johnsen, *Grev
Policy – Permits – Personnel:	Johnsen, Marx, Waller
Parks – Forestry:	*Hanson, Marx, Kroc
Recreation:	Marx, Waller, Johnsen
Nature Center:	Grev, Kroc, Hanson

Board Reports:

Ms. Kroc shared the “Bell Study” and proposed changes to start times for the schools, Mr. Hanson inquired about the airport property and planting trees in that area, Mr. Johnsen inquired about 21st Ave by Todd Park and the trees coming down is for a road project, Ms. Grev shared summer soccer early bird registration is over and they are looking for some more active board members.

Staff:

Mr. Reese stated the Ruby Rupner will be re-sided and windows replaced and they are using Austin Builders Supply for the supplies, the ski season was not good for lack of snow and he will be attending the annual meeting of the Bison Herd.

Mr. Donovan stated dome ball has ended, archery runs thru mid-March, Skills & Drills had over 100 kids, Learn to Skate has 38 signed up as of this meeting, co-rec volleyball ran nine weeks and went very well and we are working on finalizing the summer brochure.

Mr. Hofner shared the outdoor ice rinks had a good season but are now done, the crew is working ahead on some summer projects and they are trying to get the crows at the Senior Center to move from the trees.

Mr. Nelson reported that a culvert is being installed at Todd Park and that Spruce Up Austin raised \$25,000 to re-do Honor Guard Park and work will begin when the weather cooperates.

Moved by Ms. Grev, seconded by Ms. Kroc to adjourn the meeting until April 6th, 2022 at 5:15 PM at the Nature Center. Carried.

Adjourned: 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Hamilton