

AUSTIN PARKS, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY BOARD MEETING  
JULY 6, 2022  
JAY C. HORMEL NATURE CENTER  
5:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nik Johnsen Acting Chair, Cece Kroc, DeeDee Marx and Rebecca Waller,  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Helen Jahr-Chairperson, Chris Grev and Justin Hanson  
OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Merrill, Randy Hofner, Luke Reese, Patti Hamilton and Tricia Branden

Moved by Ms. Waller seconded by Ms. Marx to approve the July agenda with additions. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Waller, seconded by Ms. Kroc to approve the June minutes. Carried.

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

Discussions were held on ideas for the Hormel Foundation requests, the uptick in vandalism and security issues at the Parks and facilities and pending project ideas in the works.

Conversations on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) situation and the direction we need to go was discussed with more to follow and information was shared on the Whitewater Feasibility Study and funding is needed to move forward with this project as well.

Moved by Ms. Waller, seconded by Ms. Kroc to proceed with the request for \$45,000 for environmental education funding from the Hormel Foundation for the 2023 request for the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center programing. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Waller, seconded by Ms. Kroc to approve submitting a grant to the Greater MN Parks and Trails Commission to replace the two bridges for crossing the creek – with matching funds from the Hormel Foundation of \$50,000 committed to the project as well. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Waller, seconded by Ms. Kroc to accept the bid proposal for contracted flowers purchased from Hilltop Greenhouse & Farm for 2023-2025 seasons. Carried.

Discussion and an explanation of a SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunity and threats) analysis was shared. More to come on this in the future.

Board Reports:

Ms. Waller shared the trees appear to be getting planted and she is glad some removed from street projects are getting replaced. Ms. Kroc said summer is slower at the school however they are reconfiguring the Administration area. Ms. Marx stated the Bandshell lights were beautiful for the 4th of July celebrations at Bandshell community Park and heard many great comments. Mr. Johnsen thanked the staff for getting the trees planted and said the fireworks this year was awesome.

Staff Reports:

Mr. Merrill said he attended the council retreat at the library recently and it was good and indicated budget time is quickly approaching.

Mr. Reese stated staffing issues have been ongoing at the center.

Mr. Hofner said 100/150 trees are in the ground, the 4<sup>th</sup> celebration was very busy for the department, Wildwood Parks playground is still an issue and moving it literally makes no sense for time, materials and placement. There is a meeting with the neighborhood to see what really makes sense there soon.

July 6, 2022

Moved by Ms. Kroc, seconded by Ms. Waller to adjourn the meeting to August 3rd at 5:15 PM at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:33 PM  
Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Hamilton