

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Helen Jahr-Chairperson, Justin Hanson, Nik Johnsen, Cece Kroc, DeeDee Marx and Rebecca Waller

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Grev

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Merrill, Randy Hofner, Luke Reese, Patti Hamilton and Tricia Branden

Moved by Ms. Waller seconded by Mr. Johnsen to approve the October agenda with additions. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Marx, seconded by Ms. Waller to approve the September minutes. Carried.

Moved by Ms. Kroc, seconded by Ms. Waller to approve the September bills. Carried.

Discussions held included:

A: Community requests for various flags on City poles was discussed but should be limited to City use only and more information should be brought forward on this subject.

B: AMP projects was shared, caulking, painting, bathhouse, speakers/sound & security cameras

C: Motorized & electric vehicles on trails may need ordinance change – more to come

D: Board retreat/Tour – yes interested and find a date

E: Lawns to Legumes & Prairie Plantings – working on this with possible grant monies available

F: 2023 CIP appears to include robot painter, electric mntc crew, RCC backstop, weed mitigation system under fences and playground equipment

G: Website/Advertising – not yet, maybe down the road can look into

H: Packer Arena rental rates & advertising – working on ads on boards

I: Executive Committee – Board Chair, Council Rep and assigned delegate

J: EAB update – more to come

Moved by Ms. Kroc, seconded by Ms. Marx to have the tree crew jobs officially posted for internal union members to fill two positions based on seniority posting. Carried.

Board Reports:

Ms. Waller asked if the area behind Barleys could not all be put into prairie grass as many youth are using that green space as playing fields. Mr. Hanson stated his new responsibilities and duties are not aligning well with staying on the board but will do as he can until a replacement is found.

Staff Reports:

Mr. Merrill stated MRPA conference is next week so will be out of the office.

Mr. Reese shared there was 56 applicants for the upcoming open position at the Nature Center so interviews will be happening in the near future with Ms. Grev and Ms. Waller or Ms. Jahr attending as well. Radios are currently being tested at the center to improve outdoor/trail communications, the DNR has the Austin Deer hunt in the manual incorrect and can't be changed so it's a "tagging" issue for the hunters, the Friends grant has been applied for and the new Mussel Exhibit is done.

Mr. Hofner said the outdoor hockey rinks are up, the free garage will be moved to Kaufman Park for a warming house, the house at Skinners Hill may not be sided by winter, the Ruby Rupner project is planned to take a month, vehicles are still a supplier issue so still on order (funds may need to be carried over), stumps are next to get completed and EAB is planned to start with removal on E. Oakland - North & South 4 blocks.

Moved by Ms. Kroc, seconded by Ms. Waller to adjourn the meeting to November 9th at 5:15 PM at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center. Carried.

Adjourned: 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Hamilton