

WATERLOO PARKS COMMISSION – MINUTES

September 6, 2023

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER. Parks Coordinator Haberkorn called the Parks Commission meeting to order at 5:01 pm in the Municipal Building Council Chambers. ROLL CALL: Voting members present: Setz, Vieth, Weihert, Crave & Kegler. Absent: None. Ex-officio members present: Parks Coordinator Gabe Haberkorn, Public Works Director Chad Yerges. Absent: Friends of Firemen's Park President Jessica Pickel & WYSO Representative Otto Degler. Others present: Danielle Dorn, Lynn Dose, Thurston Schuster, Evan Kurkowski, Deb Braatz, Larry Braatz, Amy Schaumann, Allyson Schaumann, Suzi Gould, Darren Schaumann, Brooke Lawson, Laurie Freund, Jodie Haseleu, Charlie Kuhl, Jeni Quimby, Scott Quimby, Jessica Dorn, Jessica Jaehne, Brennan Kurkowski, Corinne Novak, Ben Freund
2. MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL: AUGUST 2, 2023. MOTION: Moved by Kegler, seconded by Setz. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0.
3. CITIZEN INPUT: None.
4. REPORTS/UPDATES:
 - a. Coordinator's Report: Haberkorn spoke of the summer concerts going well with one remaining this Thursday to start the Wiener and Kraut festivities along with Friday night's band Bree Morgan. Haberkorn talked about Carousel Works now coming in late September to repair the 1911 C.W. Parker Carousel. Haberkorn spoke on other progress with Capital Projects and updates on them. Haberkorn stated work that has already started to get the fields ready for the winter.
 - b. Parks Financial Report: August 2023 through September 2023. Haberkorn spoke on the Parks Department still waiting to have rectified numbers coming in from the Tax Levy for 2023. Haberkorn spoke on the Capital Projects and the Priority List for Firemen's Park. Haberkorn showed the moving parts and trying to fit things into the specific budget parameters and moving projects to also fit into the budget for coming years.
 - c. 2023/2024 Capital Projects: Haberkorn spoke on updated list for the 2024 season and updates to the 5-year plan. Haberkorn stated that the budget for 2024 is almost complete and will be updated for the Parks Commission when we get to that portion of the agenda.
5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 - a. Firemen's Park Softball Fields: Haberkorn opened the discussion by reading a statement about the Social Media message thread that was started by a local resident and commented on by coaches that represent the Waterloo High School and School District. Statement is included in the meeting packet on file at the City of Waterloo Clerk's Office. Haberkorn then opened the agenda item up for Citizen Input. Amy Schaumann then spoke and discussed the following: Safety Concerns, Field Replacement, and fixing of pegs on Field B. Deb Braatz then spoke and discussed how many years she has been here and how many hours they have been up there taking care of the field and moving dirt around. Deb Braatz also commented on Safety Concerns brought up by umpires. Suzi Gould asked if a decision has been made if the school district could help pay for work that will be done. Brooke Lawson asked when the last time anything was done to Field A. Haberkorn stated that the backstop area was leveled, and new top dressing was done 5 years ago. Scott Quimby then spoke of volunteers getting up to the park to do the repairs that need to be done. Quimby spoke on building the dugouts and new fencing that was put in prior to 2012. Corinne Novak asked if that was before the City of Waterloo took control of the Parks Department. Jeni Quimby spoke on the conditions and number of projects that the City of Waterloo and Parks Department took on when the Park Trustees stepped away. Suzi Gould asked if the problem was funding or what the problem is at this point. Haberkorn and DPW Director Yerges spoke about grade levels and excavation that needs to be done before you would resurface any field. Yerges stated that Field B is the best candidate for resurfacing as it is the most level. Ben Freund spoke on considering the kids using the fields and their age levels. Jeni Quimby spoke on Firemen's Park was supposed to be a temporary space to use and that when she was on the School Board, that a softball field was in the design plans. Ben Freund spoke on the problem it faced was the children at recess running on the field. Haberkorn asked Deb Braatz if the softball program would be okay with new clay under those areas of concern and the field resurfaced with Limestone. Amy & Darren Schaumann stated the need for tarps if clay were the route we would go. Haberkorn stated that he would not be in favor of tarps as there are issues that would go along with that: the fields are used by multiple groups every day, if a tarp is ruined, why is paying for a new one, where are tarps stored, who removes the tarps. Haberkorn asked what the end game was. Amy Schaumann said that addressing the safety concerns, but at this meeting tonight they wanted to ask if groups are willing to work with them about future plans and maintaining the Park. Haberkorn asked again if putting clay brick down, would that be suffice for the Waterloo Softball Program. Scott Quimby said that there is a future plan for the softball fields. Corinne Novak asked who has the expertise to do the work and knows the future plans? Scott Quimby stated that if they raised \$200,000 what would be the process of going to the City of Waterloo? Haberkorn stated he wouldn't turn down \$200,000 but it still has to go through the planning process with the City of Waterloo. Quimby asked if that happened, could you designate the field for HS Softball only? Haberkorn stated that he could not as this is a public park and that other organizations depend on that field for their leagues. Corinne Novak asked why we couldn't do that since we already do that for Skalitzky Field. Haberkorn stated that Skalitzky Field is designated for baseball, but it is utilized by 6 different teams of different leagues. Scott Quimby stated that if you raised that much money, why wouldn't you just build a field at the High

School. Haberkorn asked again if they did the clay brick and resurfaced the infield would it be sufficed for the softball program. Deb Braatz then asked Haberkorn if he would allow his own kids to play on the fields if this is the route the parks department decides to go? Haberkorn said yes, he would. Deb Braatz asked how he would know who was on the field last. Quimby asked if putting in the brick was a volunteer item or labor from the city departments. Haberkorn stated that it would be City of Waterloo Parks and DPW. Yerges stated that we would do the work ourselves to make sure it is done to our specific needs and wants. Discussion. MOTION: Moved by Crave to go with skinning and brick clay on the softball fields, seconded by Weihert. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Policy Changes for Park Space Usage: Haberkorn spoke on the new policy changes to park space usage. Haberkorn explained the new policies. Weihert asked for amendments to the wording to make sure Field(s) and Facilities are kept throughout the document. Discussion. MOTION: Moved by Weihert to send with amendments to the City of Waterloo Attorney for review and clarifications. Seconded by Vieth. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0
- b. WYSO Batting Cages: Haberkorn spoke on the Batting Cages in the park and a project for WYSO. WYSO wants to upgrade the batting cages with concrete and replace the existing batting cages. Discussion. MOTION: Moved by Crave to approve WYSO batting cages with specifications approval by the City of Waterloo DPW Director. Seconded by Vieth. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0
- c. Park Budget: Haberkorn spoke on the Budget Amendments for 2024 with additions and subtractions. Discussion. MOTION: Moved by Setz to approve Budget Amendments to the Finance Committee. Seconded by Weihert. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0

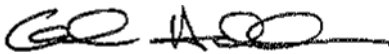
7. INFORMATION:

- a. Summer Concert: September 7
- b. W&K Day/Weekend – September 8 & 9

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND NEXT MEETING.

- a. Next Meeting: November 1, 2023, at 5:00 pm

9. ADJOURNMENT. MOTION: Moved by Kegler to adjourn, seconded by Setz. VOICE VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0
Approximate time: 6:45 pm



Gabe Haberkorn
Park Coordinator