City of Breezy Point Parks and Recreation Committee February 13, 2025 – 5:00 pm Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Works Supervisor Joe Zierden conducted roll call with members Gail Arne, Jody Miller, Kimberly Slipy, Bill Toft, and Diane Williams in attendance. Staff present included Public Works Supervisor Joe Zierden and Jerry Bohnsack Interim City Administrator. Deanne Trottier and Megan Zierden were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

The committee stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

January 9, 2025 Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

A motion was made to approve minutes from January 9, 2025.

Motion to approve January 9, 2025 Minutes: Miller Seconded by: Williams

The motion passed unanimously.

Pickleball

The committee discussed the potential development of pickleball courts. They explored various aspects including location, funding options, and maintenance considerations. The discussion touched on the possibility of using the area near City Hall for the courts, with concerns raised about accessibility.

The committee also considered parking needs, especially for tournaments. They discussed using the dirt parking lot as overflow parking. Funding options were explored, including grants, budget allocations, fundraisers, and donations. The committee learned about Cross Lake's successful pickleball association that raised significant funds through fundraising efforts.

Bill Toft volunteered to take the lead on gathering a group of enthusiasts to explore fundraising options and gauge community interest. The committee emphasized the importance of presenting a comprehensive plan to the council, including funding sources, maintenance plans, and community support.

The discussion also touched on the need for a master plan for the entire park area, as suggested by Jerry Bohnsack. He emphasized the importance of having a professional plan to aid in securing grants and private contributions.

City Logos

The committee reviewed potential new city logo designs that could be used for various signs throughout the city. The designs incorporated city features and aimed to create a more uniform look across different signs. The committee discussed different sign materials, including wood and metal options, and their associated costs.

The proposed designs included space for QR codes and donor recognition. The committee expressed a preference for the oval-shaped design over the squared-off bottom, which some felt resembled a tombstone.

The discussion also touched on the need for better communication about city amenities and events, with suggestions to have booths at community events to share information about new developments in the city.

Parks Updates

Zierden reported that the snowshoe route had been signed and flagged. Regarding the designation of sliding hills, it was noted that people were naturally using the available hills without the need for formal designation. The staff also mentioned that many residents were unaware of certain city amenities, such as the ability to use the resort area or certain hills for sledding.

Community Garden

Zierden provided an update on the community garden project. They reported that most items had been acquired, with some remaining items to be purchased or sourced, including compost bins, hoses, and plot markers. The garden group was working on acquiring some of these items to minimize budget impact.

The staff noted that over half of the garden plots had been reserved, exceeding initial expectations. The community showed significant enthusiasm for the project. An advertisement for the garden had been created and was being distributed around town.

The committee discussed plans for a mandatory meeting for plot holders to review rules and provide information. They also planned to offer seminars on topics such as soil amendments and fertilizers.

Committee Member Reports

Gail Arne shared information about a bike park project at the Arboretum in Brainerd, noting it as an example of similar recreational developments in the area.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:01 pm. made by Williams, seconded by Toft. All in favor.