



**PARKS COMMITTEE
MEETING Minutes
August 21, 2023**

1. ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Mayor Scott Korthuis, Councilors; Ron DeValois, and Nick Laninga

Staff Present: City Administrator; John Williams, Parks Director Brent DeRuyter, and Parks Admin. Assistant Nancy Norris.

Guest: Park & Rec. Commissioner Bob Johnson

2. ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of Parks Committee Minutes- July 17, 2023

Laninga motioned to approve the July 17, 2023, minutes DeValois approved the motion.

Action: The Parks Committee Minutes from July 17, 2023, were approved.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. SHKS Information on Benson Barn

Made final decisions on scope and are awaiting modified plans. As of today, there has been no response from SHKS.

B. Updates on Parks and Trails projects

- Benson Park

SCJ Alliance has provided an updated graphic, but no numbers to this point. Preliminary bridge work is complete in the barn. Windmill -windows have been redone and the electrical is done.

- Schoolyard

Awaiting architectural plans for buildings and have ordered new water meter.

- Trails

Depot-8th St. construction is ahead of original schedule, modification needed for small section further upstream.

Temporary security fencing is installed on back of VGL property.

C. Civic Rec

Training/Data Entry continues as fall season approaches

Official Launch date has been pushed back until financial extract is complete.



D. Dickinson and Berthusen Property Upgrades

Berthusen House

Renovations are complete and outside party is preparing documentation to move into the Berthusen house. No further interest from City Employees to rent the Berthusen House.

Dickinson House

The staff has completed the rear stairway improvements at Dickinson house.

E. New Staff Update

Seasonal staff are starting to head back to college. Hopeful 3 out of 4 will return in 2024.

F. Budget Discussion

Director DeRuyter presented to the Parks Committee the Parks Dept needs for 2024,

Projects:

Dickinson trails and signage on the upper section, City Park Road upgrades, City Park storage shed and Berthusen Park 2nd restroom. Outfield fence upgrades at Bender. Looking to replace the water meter with a 2nd line at Bender to increase watering times longer. Some bond money could be used for some projects and possible grant money for other projects.

Equipment needs: 1-ton pickup with hydraulic lift, new gator to replace the oldest on the fleet, and replace the oldest Tractor on the fleet.

Parks is pushing for Grant money for:

Park Maintenance – Grant (1-time no match) Max of \$100,000

COAF (Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities) Grant – Field Construction for Benson (1.2 million no match)

4. ITEMS ADDED

Meeting Adjourned: 4:58 PM.

NEXT MEETING-Monday, September 18, 2023