



PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

BUCKHAM WEST

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23,
2022**

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Swear In and Welcome Board Members
3. Approval of the Minutes - January 26, 2022
4. Presentation - Farmers' Market
5. Board Elections
6. Director's Report
7. Requests to be Heard
8. Old Business
 - A. Mill Towns Trail/Northern Links Trail Update
 - B. Lyndale Trail Update
9. New Business
 - A. Large Chair Location
 - B. Arts Council and SEMAC Grants for Concerts in the Park
 - C. Playground Update at Waupacuta Park
 - D. Viaduct Park - Committee Member
10. Other
11. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2022
12. Adjournment

FARIBAULT PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR JANUARY 26, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lola Brand, Sara Caron, Sally Kramer, Chad Kreager, Mike Ross, Henry Schonebaum, Elsie Slinger and Troy Temple. STAFF PRESENT: Director Paul Peanasky and Administrative Assistant Denise Hansen. GUESTS: Biz Buffington, Faribault BMX Board Member, and Stuart Mahowald, Faribault BMX Track Operator.

- 1) Meeting was called to order by Chad at 6:01 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Sally, seconded by Troy to approve minutes of October 27, 2021, as corrected. Motion passed.
- 3) Recognize Outgoing Board Member: Paul presented Elsie with a blanket and thanked her for 17 years of service on the Parks and Recreation Board. Mark Fuchs will be the new board member starting next month.
- 4) BMX Presentation: Biz Buffington, Faribault BMX Board Member, presented reports for the 2021 BMX season. Revenues in 2021 were much higher than the last few years because of the gold state qualifier races. There were four dates of racing with about 400 racers each day. They estimated attendance at approximately 1,200 people. The last time Faribault held this race was in 2016. Biz stated that people really like coming to Faribault for the races because of the adjacent beautiful park for camping, the cleanliness and the town. Paul stated there are many ash trees around the track and with the ash borer in the park, they may lose some shade trees. The City will replace trees but it will take some time for them to grow and provide shade. Biz asked if they could plant some trees as well and Paul indicated that would be fine but inform the Parks Department so the number of trees can be recorded. In 2022, the BMX is offering new clinics and training as well as involving some new people. They also plan to try using some different dirt glue in 2022 as well as changing the asphalt turns. Board asked about average number of riders. Biz stated they have 45-60 riders on a Thursday night. Also, there is a drop in the number of riders at about age 16 and then they come back around age 19-20. The largest age group is the 5 to 7 year olds. Board thanked them for all they do for Faribault BMX and complimented them on running such great state qualifier races.
- 5) Director's Report:
 - a) Prairie Park Playground: The Prairie Park playground equipment was ordered in early October but delivery has been delayed until July 28.
 - b) Library and Community Center Roof Replacement: City Council approved replacing the roof on the library and Community Center in 2022 at a cost of \$1.7 million.
 - c) Doug Knutson: Doug Knutson is retiring on February 9 after 41 years of employment with the City of Faribault.
 - d) Jefferson Park: Paul met with school employees and Mark Duchene to discuss plans to improve traffic flow for dropping off and picking up students at Jefferson Elementary as well as creating an outdoor classroom and changing some of the playground.
 - e) CIP Projects: Paul handed out reports showing the five-year capital improvement plan and improvements for parks, facilities and equipment through 2030. Discussion of a

new community center may begin this spring. Approximate cost of a new community center is \$40 million. Board can review the reports and discuss at next meeting as needed.

6) Requests to be Heard: None.

7) Old Business:

- a) Update on Mill Towns Trail/Northern Links Trail: Paul stated a request was made to the state legislature for approximately \$405,000 to help fund the completion of the trail from North Alexander Park to Hulett Avenue along Highway 3. Plans are to construct the trail the summer of 2023.
- b) Fleckenstein Bluffs Park: Paul indicated he spoke with someone who thought the Fleckenstein family would attend the grand opening of the park this summer.
- c) Parkland Dedication Changes Approved in December: In December, City Council approved the parkland dedication changes. However, the proposed schedule increase to allow for inflation each year was not included. City staff will review the ordinance after a year or two to amend as necessary.
- d) Update on Hometown Hero Banners: Twenty hometown hero banners have been hung. There are as many as 40 new banners to be hung in May. Council approved removing more city banners to install hero banners as needed. Virginia von Sluis is organizing the banners and keeping a list of their location.

8) New Business:

- a) Elections in February: Paul reminded board members that elections for officers will be held at the February meeting.
- b) Playground Upgrade at Waupacuta Park: The Waupacuta Park playground updates are included in the 2022 CIP. Paul reported that the City is not able to keep any of the current equipment due to safety and age issues. Plans are to replace the entire playground. Paul will bring proposals to a future meeting for review.
- c) Holiday Decorations: New snowflakes and red banners which are displayed on the City light poles were ordered in December. Cost was approximately \$50,000. Old snowflakes and banners will be sold online.
- d) Roof Replacement on Buckham Center: Previously reported.

8) Other:

- a) Pickleball Courts Request: Sally indicated she had been contacted regarding the status of the pickleball courts request. Per the last meeting, the citizens/players were directed to organize a committee and return to the Board with plans.
- b) Forest Park Playground. Sally asked when the playground equipment at Forest Park will be replaced. Paul will check the schedule and let Sally know.
- c) Inclusive Playground: Lola asked about the City building an inclusive playground like they build other parks in the city rather than having to fundraise to pay for it. Paul stated the city continues to put one or two pieces of inclusive playground equipment in the city parks and that is paid by the city. Paul indicated the need to form a committee again to pursue building an all-inclusive playground if that is desired.

d) Viaduct Park Committee: Lola asked if there is someone with a landscaping background on the Viaduct Park Committee. Paul and Elsie stated there is not. Board reviewed some of the amenities being suggested for the park. Committee members will report to the Board after their next meeting. Elsie indicated her desire to stay on this committee if possible even though she will no longer be on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Paul will research and let Elsie know.

10) Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, at Buckham West.

11) Motion was made by Elsie, seconded by Henry to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Hansen, Administrative Assistant