

The January 21, 2021 meeting of the Glenwood Park Board was called to order by Chairman Randy Romens.

Roll Call: Mayor Ron Kohn, Park Superintendent Ron Mattox, Stephen Hunt, Jim Henderson, Vanessa Covington, Dan McComb (remote) and Angie Winqvist (remote).

Motion by Henderson, 2nd by Covington to approve the agenda, claims and minutes of the December 17, 2020 meeting. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Malcolm McCue joined the meeting (remote).

Superintendent Report: The shop heater has been installed but still need the gas meter to be installed. They have been trimming trees, sealed cracks in the shop building and taking an inventory of tools. The new restroom and shelter signs have been installed. We are still waiting on Konfrst (and equipment availability) for the lake tree removal. Mattox stated that he is working on three grants. One is a \$1000 mini grant for new bases. Second is the Paint Iowa Beautiful grant for bathroom paint. Third is the Mills County Grant for repairs to shelter floors and new picnic tables. Mattox also mentioned that both he and Peverill would be taking Thursdays and Fridays off during the winter. Mayor Kohn mentioned that Public Works can help with some of the tree trimming and removal around the park.

Police Chief Johansen joined the meeting to discuss cameras and security at Hiley Park. There has been some fairly recent vandalism at the park (fireworks and a fire/Molotov cocktail). There is no wifi for cameras at Hiley Park and even the city and parks current cameras are not working properly. Johansen spoke to US Cellular about their ARLO camera system for Hiley. It would be \$22/month per camera. It was suggested that we ask US Cellular if we could trial one of the cameras to see if it would meet our needs before committing to a contract. After a lengthy discussion of the city's current camera situation, McCue stated that he felt the camera discussion was futile and suggested we needed more police patrols in the area of Hiley Park. Mattox suggested that police walk in from the bridge instead of driving into the park when there is a report of suspicious activity. Mayor Kohn suggested forming a committee to further explore the camera options. The committee will be Henderson, Hunt, Romens and Mattox and will also include Chief Johansen.

Winqvist reported that Todd Peverill, park employee, will be retiring on March 31. She suggests that his fulltime position not be replaced, and instead, beef up the part time employment to 3 or 4 seasonal employees. Covington asked for clarification that part of the year Mattox would be the only employee and Winqvist stated this is correct. Covington mentioned some concern about this and also the concern of not even having enough applicants to fill the positions. Mattox also stated he had concerns regarding this plan. He feels he would be spending a lot of time training new people and essentially "babysitting" while they learned the job. This is a problem especially since it is the busy season at the park. He also mentioned that part time employees are often not as dedicated to the job. Hunt mentioned that Atlantic has three older gentlemen who are part time just to mow. Covington asked how much it would save the city by doing this and Winqvist stated there really isn't a cost savings. After some discussion Romens suggested that we have a committee meet for further discussion and to talk to Mattox more about his thoughts. Mattox, Romens, Hunt and Covington will meet as soon as possible to decide on a recommendation to the city.

Winqvist left the meeting.

Mattox asked about the possibility of having water run to the new shop. As stated by Mattox and Romens, this is a matter of health and safety. At the very least, there needs to be an eye washing station in the building. The board asked that Mattox further explore what it would take to make this possible.

Mayor Kohn presented an updated job description for the park superintendent. The city is trying to get all the job descriptions updated and to a similar format. After a brief discussion and some minor changes, motion by Hunt and 2nd by Henderson to present the job description back to the city council. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

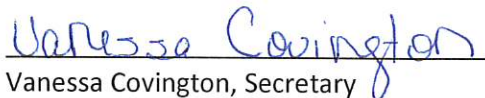
Covington asked about the possibility of allowing high school students to do service learning hours at the park. Hunt said it has been tried before but has not been successful. Covington said she thought we could at least present it as an option and she would be willing to be the contact person between the school/students and Mattox. The board stated that it was fine for Covington to move ahead with this idea. She will visit with Winquist regarding liability waivers.

Mayor Kohn stated that in the past, Mills County has given the park board \$5000 each year but we have not gotten it since 2017. He said it was just a matter of asking and presenting what the money was to be used for. Mattox remembered that in 2017 they actually gave us \$10,000 towards the lake road repairs. We need to make sure to use this opportunity for funds by getting Mattox and a board member on the Mills County agenda. Some suggestions for use of the funds were gravel for soccer complex, baseball fields, etc., old park restroom restoration and lake restoration. Hunt and Covington agreed that lake restoration should be a priority.

No committee reports.

Chairman Report: Romens said the only thing he has to report was that the bridge that Mills County Trail Board purchased has arrived. It will take some work before it can be installed.

Motion by Covington, 2nd by Henderson to adjourn the meeting. Ayes 5, Nays 0.


Vanessa Covington, Secretary


Randy Romens, Chairperson