

The March 18, 2021 meeting of the Glenwood Park Board was called to order by Chairman Randy Romens.

Roll Call: Randy Romens, Jim Henderson, Stephen Hunt, Vanessa Covington, Malcolm McCue, Park Superintendent Ron Mattox, Mayor Ron Kuhn, Dan McComb.

Motion by Covington, 2nd by Hunt to approve the agenda, claims and minutes of the February 18, 2021 meeting. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Andy Kellner of DNR joined the meeting remotely to talk about geese mitigation. Mattox stated that the geese are starting to pair up and nest on the island. Kellner asked how the native plants were working along the lake. Covington stated her ongoing concerns with this: while the plants look nice during a brief blooming period, the rest of the time they look like overgrown weeds. The park receives complaints about mowing. The plants also block the view of the lake and access to the lake from the road. Mattox mentioned that, while the plants may keep the geese from making a mess on that part of the sidewalk, they just move to another part. McCue also agreed that the native plants don't look good and don't do a good job. Kellner reminded us that even if we were to get rid of all the geese, eventually more will arrive because we have an open body of water. Also, the island seems to be a huge draw to the geese and it may help to remove it. We also know that the geese nest down at Keg Creek and possibly the nearby golf course. Kellner suggested that they can come in and do "nest manipulation" and remove the eggs. Hunt asked about fencing off the island and Kellner said that would help block them from their nesting spot. We would also need to do some fencing at Keg Creek. Mattox says he knows where the nesting spots are along the creek. Romens asked what actions we needed to take to move forward with the nest manipulation. Kellner stated that with our signed agreement with the DNR we can go ahead with that. He mentioned that if we wanted to do a more extensive geese removal they would need advanced written notice. This is done during late June/early July. The goslings are taken outside of the area and dropped off. The adults are taken to a local locker and the meat is then donated to local foodbanks. The city is responsible for the processing fees with this. Hunt asked about the use of strobe lights to deter the geese. Kellner said they really do not work, but red or green lasers do sometimes keep them away during migration. Kellner left the meeting.

Continuing the geese mitigation discussion, it was decided that we would move forward with the "nest manipulation" and also the geese removal. Mattox will call DNR to get this moving. Covington asked if we could get rid of the native plants since they really aren't working. Hunt said that it was one of the suggestions in our agreement with the DNR and, therefore, we had to keep them. He also stated that he would send Covington a picture of the lake if she really wanted to see it. Covington asked Mattox to please discuss this further with DNR when he calls.

The user agreements for soccer, Lil Rams, softball/baseball need to be sent out and signed. As per a previous decision, the fees will remain the same.

Superintendent Report:

Current Projects – install new benches, clean up trash, blow out leaves from shelters, get baseball fields ready, open restrooms.

Completed Projects – worked on road at baseball fields and it really needs gravel. He will check with the county to see if they can come in and scarify it. (The city doesn't have the equipment.) He also removed the dead fish from the lake, burned the old picnic tables and serviced vehicles.

Tree Removal – Mattox continues to ask Konfrst when the tree removal can happen and Konfrst seems to be getting a bit frustrated. He says that the weather has been a factor and there are other projects ahead of ours. Mattox asked him about taking the trees down and then removing them from the park at a later time. Konfrst said that would be at an extra cost. We really need to get the trees down before they become more of a safety hazard and so Mattox can get the rest of the rip rap put along the shore. This is one of the reason why Mattox has not started pumping more water into the lake yet. It was decided that we would give Konfrst until April 15 to have the trees removed before we start looking for another company to do the job.

Basketball Court Resurfacing – Mattox stated that it is difficult to get the resurfacing company to come out and get this done. Hunt stated that it was a breakdown in communication and the company was never contacted. The Optimists were to pay half of this and McCue had stated he would pay the other half, but since we are into a new year now McCue said he cannot pay for it. It's likely the Optimists may not be able to either due to lack of fundraising in the past year. Also, Mattox stated the tennis court is actually in worse shape than the basketball court.

Fish Kill – The DNR believes it was a total kill due to the very thick ice and snow that caused a lack of oxygen, then as fish die they let off toxins that continue to kill the rest of the fish. DNR will come out in April to shock the lake and determine for sure if it was a total kill. Then they will restock the lake with bluegill and bass. Later in the summer they will restock with catfish. Hunt stated that the reason for the fish kill was the low water levels. He said the lake is lower than it has ever been and something needs to be done. He said the lake can't be restocked with water levels this low. Covington stated that DNR would obviously tell us this if it was a concern. Mattox stated that if we raise the water level to where it was for years then it causes more and more shore erosion. Hunt continued to state his concerns for the lake levels and for other things he feels have been neglected at the park. Romens voiced his frustrations and excused himself from the meeting. Hunt continued his heated complaints and then resigned from his board position and left the meeting.

Mayor Kohn conducted the rest of the board meeting.

Superintendent Report continued:

Campground update – Mattox said, weather permitting, he should have the campground opened by April 1.

Removal of trees from baseball field – This is in regards to some ash trees that need to be removed. Mayor Kohn will talk to Shaun Koehler about this. The baseball club has an arborist who has stated that he would remove the trees.

Easter Egg Hunt – the park will be ready for the egg hunt. Mattox stated that he needs to rent a yard rake to go over all the grass in the park and baseball fields. This will help remove sticks, branches, etc. The cost would be approximately \$250. Motion by Covington, 2nd by Henderson to allow Mattox to rent the yard rake. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Funds from Mills County Community Foundation – We did receive the \$11,000 to purchase more new picnic tables and repair the cracks in the shelters. Hunt had previously proved a bid from Thrasher of \$5855 for the repairs. Mayor Kohn asked Mattox to get two more bids for this project before moving forward.

Discussion on a new sign at the entrance of the park was put on hold.

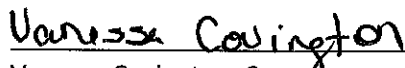
Mattox reported that he and Romens had attended the Mills County Board of Supervisors meeting and requested money for sewer lines at the park. The BOS agreed to give up to \$12,000 in matching funds for this project. This project would allow us to open the old bathroom building (currently on an unusable septic) and add water/sewer to the new shop building. We will need to match the funds on this and will not have the money in this year's budget. McComb stated that the city may be able to help with this. We also need to ask Angie about the projected budget for next year. Mayor Kohn asked about taking the project a step further and putting the current bathroom building on the sewer line. Mattox was asked to get bids for the entire project and have them at the next meeting.

Discussion of a work session for the 1-3-5-10 year plan was put on hold.

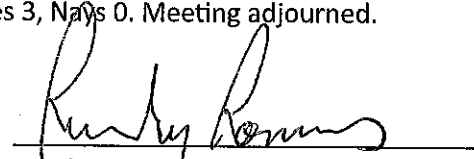
Discussion of the Board Calendar was put on hold. This was an item added by Hunt and no one else knows what it is referring to.

Mattox stated that he, Romens and Covington had conducted interviews for the assistant park position. Two individuals were interviewed and both seemed capable of performing the job. Mattox stated that he would like to recommend Jon Schoening for the position. Motion by Covington, 2nd by Henderson to make a recommendation to City Council to hire Jon Schoening. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Motion by Henderson, 2nd by Mcue to adjourn the meeting. Ayes 3, Nays 0. Meeting adjourned.



Vanessa Covington, Secretary



Randy Romens, Chairperson