

The January 18, 2024 of the Glenwood Park Board was called to order by Chairman Randy Romens.

Roll Call: Chairman Randy Romens, Malcolm McCue, Jim Henderson, Vanessa Covington, Chelsey Mass, Devin Tadin, Mayor Angie Winquest

Motion by Henderson, 2nd by McCue to approve the agenda, claims, and minutes of the December 20, 2023 meeting. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Michelle Wright of the Glenwood Kiwanis joined the meeting to update the board on the Hiley Park improvement project. As previously discussed, this project includes replacing the retaining wall, installing an accessible pour-in-place playground surface and improving the parking. Wright stated that they have submitted an Iowa West Foundation grant in the amount of \$50,000. They are also applying for \$5000 through the Mills County Community Foundation Grant that is due on February 1 and will also apply for the DNR Land & Water Conservation Grant in the amount of \$87,500. The DNR grant requires a resolution from the City Council and a letter from the mayor and would also require some financial support from the city in the 2025 budget. The City Council has already approved these grants. No action is needed from the Park Board. Wright stated she just wants to keep us informed of the process. The board thanked her and the Kiwanis for the ongoing work to improve Hiley Park.

The Ray Thomas Trust fund request is due by January 22. Mayor Winquist said we need to provide them with a list of projects that we hope to complete. Romens had visited with Mattox about this and they feel that lights around the lake should be top on the list. Romens has been doing some research on the cost of electric v. solar. The board feels like solar would be much better than having to run electricity. Covington showed an example of solar lights on a walking trail in Colorado. They work very well and after ten years they had only had to replace a few batteries. Henderson wondered if these tall lights would detract from the beauty of the park. McCue wondered about putting in lights lower to the ground. Romens said he and Mattox had discussed this and they feel like this would be more of a possibility of vandalism to these lights. Romens said he would estimate this project at \$35,000. Other projects he will add to the fund request are: Skate Park improvements - \$5000 and Donated Playground installation at \$7500. Winquist asked if there were any more projects and Romens said he could provide the list from our 1/3/5 year plans.

Covington gave an update on Disc Golf. A meeting was held on January 15. Covington stated that they are a lot of people very excited about this project. Romens added that former mayor Ron Kohn's memorials will go towards the disc golf project. Mrs. Kohn attended the meeting and enjoyed seeing the enthusiasm from everyone. Covington stated that the plan is to start with a 9 hole course on the cross country/nature trail with hopes of future expansion to the more rugged back trails. A course designer from Omaha feels this would be the best way to proceed. The back 9 will take extra work to construct and also to maintain. At the next Disc Golf meeting we will officially form a Disc Golf club and move on from there.

The board discussed more of our 1/3/5 year plans/projects.

A. New Shop Building – Romens stated we would like to start planning for a new park shop. Mayor Winquist asked why this was necessary when we had just moved into the new building a few years ago. The board discussed several reasons for this. It would be good to have our own building and not one that

is shared with the museum. Romens stated that a good location could possibly be down at the baseball complex where the old concession building is currently. One big concern of the current shop building is no running water or restrooms. Winqvist asked why we don't just add water to the current building. Covington told her that we had done some extensive research on this a couple years ago and it was not feasible due to location, cost, etc. Romens stated that it is unreasonable for our park employees to work without restrooms and running water. Tadin said it would be really nice to be able to wash their hands and that they need an eyewash station for emergencies. Covington stated that during the warm months they use the park restrooms. During the winter they use the portable restroom and there really is no way to wash hands. Romens said that all of this is unacceptable for any city employee. Other reasons for a new building are better visibility and more storage. Currently we have supplies and equipment stored in several different locations. There is also no internet service at the current shop.

B. SkatePark Improvements – The condition of the current skate park ramp is very poor and either needs to be removed, repaired or replaced. Romens said to replace the ramp would probably be between \$3500-\$5000.

C. Donated Playground Equipment – The City Council has asked again why this equipment has not been installed. Chris Abbott was the one who helped get this equipment donated from Bellevue and they would like to see the project done in his memory. The park board understands wanting to honor Officer Abbott, but there are some issues with this project. All of the main support poles were damaged when the equipment was removed. ICAP (insurance) has stated that we cannot use the equipment without replacing the damaged parts with parts from the original company (Gametime). Besides the damaged parts, we don't know if there are other missing/damaged parts. We do not know exactly how old the equipment is and have no name/model number. Without this, the company cannot supply us with parts. Mattox will need to contact Bellevue Parks and Rec to see if they can provide us any information on this. Right now we don't even have a picture of the installed equipment. Another consideration on this project is coming up with the money for the safety surface underneath. We will continue to research this for a bit longer, but there is a good possibility that we will have to inform the Abbot family that the equipment cannot be used. More than one board member suggested that we may need to have a policy of not accepting donated equipment.

As a side note to the equipment discussion, Romens stated that the company who donated the "selfie swing" to the park has another used one for sale. He said we could maybe consider purchasing it to install at Hiley.

Superintendent Report – Tadin said they have been working on painting the campground bathrooms. The men's restroom was not kept clean by the campground hosts and there is a lot of mold growth. They have been working on putting together the new dock so it will be ready for installation in the spring. Tadin said he would like to replace the light fixtures in the bathrooms and upgrade to LED which provide better light and are more efficient. There was some discussion about the batting cages at the ball fields and whether or not they could be removed. It seems they are used very little and one of them doesn't have a net. We probably need to ask the baseball club about this.

Committee Reports – Covington asked about the tree removal. Tadin said it still has not been done and as far as he knows we are still waiting for Konfrst. Romens stated that we may just need to hire someone else. He will try to contact Kanseville out of CB to see what they can do. Covington also mentioned that in almost every park board meeting the phrase "if we had a skid loader" comes up at least once.

Chairman Report – Romens said the Mills County Trails Board is still working on getting the bridges installed. Covington asked what was going to happen with the old green bridge. She wondered if it could somehow be utilized in the disc golf course on the back trails.

Before adjourning the meeting there was some discussion of items for next month's agenda. These include: Small Lake grass seeding, Location for the new dock, Campground fees and campground host, Change of Park Board meeting time.

The meeting was adjourned.

Vanessa Covington

Vanessa Covington, Secretary

Randy Romens

Randy Romens, Chairperson