

Parks Committee Meeting
March 20, 2017
5:30 p.m.

The Village of Colfax Parks Committee met on March 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. Members present: Chair Halpin, Trustee Davis and President Gunnufson. Also present: Pat Eggert, Mark Mosey, Jeff Prince-Softball Association, and LeAnn Ralph with the Messenger, Public Works Director Bates and Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer Niggemann.

Cemetery

Spreading Garden – Niggemann explained a vision which has been briefly discussed as a possible design for the spreading garden which included a blue granite type path through the middle with two stone benches placed in the middle of each of the two halves. The space would be fenced in and include landscaping that would be low maintenance. There could also be a possible display which would allow for the names and date of birth and date of death to be displayed for anyone spread in the garden. Mark Mosey expressed that Brianna Buchannan, a grad student in Ms. Neuberg’s class has a landscaping project which would allow her to design and present a draft to the Parks Committee. Once there is an approved design, Mosey thought that one of his classes could most likely help in getting the project complete. A motion was made by Gunnufson and seconded by Davis to have Mosey present the project to Ms. Neuberg and Ms. Buchannan to see if the project will fulfill the class requirement. Voting For: Gunnufson, Davis and Halpin. Voting Against: none. Motion carried: none.

Any additional ideas on fees/regulations – Niggemann will reach out to Dan Duffenbach in regards to whether he is familiar with any fees or regulations in surrounding communities for spreading gardens.

Fence at the entrance of cemetery – The fence at the front of the cemetery is in need of some repairs. The thought is that the picket points be cut flat and the fence should be repainted. Mosey mentioned that he could ask Buchholz, who teaches the woods class, if this would be a project that he might be interested in. Mosey will be in touch with Niggemann.

Parks

Tom Prince Memorial Park – 6 month license – The Colfax Softball Association would like the Board to consider issuing a 6 month Class “B” license to them for the summer events. The license would allow the club to have six licensed operators, the Board members and each league representative. This allows the Softball Association more flexibility and more availability for tournament workers. The State of Wisconsin allows this with established organizations/clubs. A motion was made by Gunnufson and seconded by Davis to recommend to the Village Board approval of the six month Class “B” licenses on a case by case basis. Voting For: Davis, Gunnufson and Halpin. Voting Against: none. Motion carried.

Rihn Construction provided an estimate with the labor broken out for the concessions and the warming shed. The concessions would be materials of \$3,680 and the warming shed would be \$1,285. Prince will discuss the Village doing a direct purchase to reduce the cost by the sales tax.

Tower Park

Tree trimming- Pat Eggert, representing the Women's Club, mentioned that they would prefer that the Basswood tree to be trimmed in the fall. The Arborist mentioned that trimming a tree is considered an injury and the tree is most likely still trying to repair from the construction disturbance. It would be healthier to wait until the fall to see if there are any branches that were not able to withstand the construction prior to trimming the tree. Eggert would like the Village to consider holding off on the tree trimming. The Women's Club would then be able to work this summer on raising money to assist with cost to hire an arborist to consult and trim the tree later this year.

The Committee felt that the Eggert's request was reasonable and the Village will hold off on any tree trimming in Tower Park.

Grass – ABreeze Construction will be stopping in the spring to consult the Village on restoring the grass in Tower Park.

Gazebo Roof – After the Basswood tree discussion, it is reasonable to hold off on doing any repairs to the gazebo roof until 2018 after the tree is evaluated.

Iverson Park – Bates is working on keeping the parks wood vegetation removed. Bates also mentioned that there is a birdhouse at the bottom of the hill near the creek. The birdhouse is in terrible shape and needs repairs or should come down. Bates is not sure if the birdhouse was installed by someone that should be contacted of repairs needed or if it is something that the Village can assume responsibility of. Niggemann will contact Mark Mosey to see if he is aware of how the birdhouse came to be.

The walking trail and foot bridges were brought up. This is a project that the Village is still considering, but we are only in the planning stages and hope to continue moving forward on this project.

Stuart Park – Bates indicated that the entry washes away each year. Gravel will be added as needed to keep the entry suitable for an entrance.

Fairgrounds – Bates plans to seed the area where the drain was installed in 2016. The area between the driveway by the bathrooms and the water drain has been used as a parking area. Bates plans to install posts to deter people from parking in that space. There is some normal maintenance such as tree trimming and grating to be done.

Other discussion items included camping, electric at the beer tent, recommend camping by the water, get pricing for the roof of the silver building and new costs for beer tent fencing. In 2018, the Village should plan to get costs to redo the siding of the silver building. The 1898 Fire Bell is currently being stored at Mike Morgen's shop. The Village should start thinking of location for the Bell. Bates is going to get a cost to redo the bell in hopes that it can be displayed at one of the parks, possibly the Fairgrounds.

JD Simons Memorial Park

Steps – The steps should be looked at and repairs made if they are becoming difficult to walk up and down. The steps are believed to have been installed by Mark Mosey’s class originally.

Tree clean up – the trail needs to be cleaned of the fallen trees from all the wind that we have had.

Concessions – Prince mentioned that the Colfax Softball Association is looking into purchasing a pop machine which would be stocked and taken care of by their Association. If the concessions are open, they would be able to secure the machine to require purchases from the concessions.

Any other Park business – Tony Braaten currently works for the Village as a season employee. He handles everything with the cemetery and has been doing the majority of the lawn mowing throughout the Village. During a meeting with Bates and Niggemann, he has given the Village notice that he would prefer to just continue taking care of the Cemetery. He will work with the Village until we find someone to replace him for the mowing. Bates and Niggemann will begin to search for a replacement.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Davis and seconded by Gunnufson to adjourn the Parks Committee meeting at 6:50 p.m. A voice vote was taken with all members voting yes. Motion carried.

Mark Halpin, Trustee