

**VILLAGE OF MARSHALL  
PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

Members present: Lemke, Diedrick, Tweed, Arnold, Cripps and Hensler. Stransky was absent.  
Others Present: Recreation Director Matt Hendricks, Boyd Pierce-Fireman's Park Board member, Dan Timpel-Fire Dept President and Sue Peck-Village Administrator.

1. Planning session with Marshall Fire Department regarding Fireman's Park.

Assets - 12 acre park, on the water, in a thriving neighborhood, number of people using the park in a given year is high – thousands have used the park on an annual basis. Location in our community is great, heart of community-two blocks off Main Street. Ball field is in good condition.

Challenges – layout, buildings have seemed to be installed on an as needed basis, many are singular and limited use. Example tractor pull area, takes a lot of area up for a single use. Want to have areas that are multi-use. There are some old power poles along with pieces of concrete that aren't necessarily utilized. Older park starting to show it's age. We have a park now. We don't have a vision for the community to get them to buy in. There is nothing with a plan. Management of the park – it is village owned and operated by the Firemen. The management of the park is a very unusual situation in parks world, it can work just it is uncommon.

How do we accomplish: Define how the park will be managed into the future, as is or changed. If changed what does that look like? Create a team who is dedicated to create change. Utilize a recreation plan as a starting point which would include additional community input. Create a plan, project cost, prioritize projects and how they would be phased in, fundraiser and installation.

Discussion:

Mr. Diedrick stated a big concern is the age, when Parks start aging people don't want to use as much, people gravitate to new things.

Mr. Timpel said one of the needs is bathroom by the ball diamond. Main pavilion has some rotting. He thinks most of the Firemen they like the way it is and don't necessarily want to spend any money making changes.

Mr. Hendricks noted the items that came up in the newly adopted Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Barb Arnold said when you come up with a plan there is the opportunity to apply for grants. Mr. Hendricks stated there are grants such as the Dane County Grant if you can show regional impact there may be funds available. Mr. Hendricks said he sees this as a 5-8 year phased plan. There are small things that can be done. An example would be to identify the ash trees. Make it more of a public awareness.

Mr. Hensler said the fact is that the park has been laid out for the festival. If the festival isn't that productive as it was at one time and it no longer is maybe we should gear it more to a family park. There is a definite need for a revenue source for the park. He feels we need to know up front that they will commit to a festival forever.

Mr. Timpel said it's also a changed Fire Department. They do vote every year if they are going to have a festival, its part of the Fireman's heritage and they do it for the community more than anything else. They don't always make a lot. He doesn't want to make it harder to have the festival either.

Mr. Hendricks said what would be done is a group of 5-6 people would sit down and develop a master plan. We can bring 95% of what we think to a consultant to do a final plan. How do we manage the park? There is a nationwide rich tradition with Firemen's parks; civic pride. How do we see it being managed in the future?

Mr. Diedrick asked how do you get the pride back, what is the passion to get the Fireman to have that park, what gets that pride factor. Mr. Hendricks suggested a historical dedication to the Fireman could be used.

Mr. Hendricks said he would find some examples, existing agreement, preliminary proposal as to what other communities are doing for managing their parks.

Mr. Diedrick said we need a plan. We have to look to the future.

Mr. Hendricks stated goals describe outcomes. He suggested starting with an inventory of what we have, condition of it, project costs to fix. Determine if it is worth bring back to standard. Get public involved. Listening sessions, surveys. Demands and needs – what we need versus what we can do. Prioritize projects. Capital Improvement plans. Adopt the plan. Put a team of five to eight people on it. He presented a proposed timeline. He would like to see a master plan completed by early fall of 2014. The outdoor recreation plan has a bigger picture.

Mr. Timpel requested some examples of other park relationships by their Fire Department meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Mr. Hendricks will put together examples of park management group. The Firemen are to identify the 4-5 key players they want involved. Set up a meeting shortly after March 3<sup>rd</sup> Fireman's meeting.

Major challengers – key players we need to be aware of?

Tentative meeting on 3/10. 7 pm, Municipal Building. (Arnold and Tweed would like to participate in group)

## 2. Recreation Director Update.

-Matt updated the 2014 action plan after last meeting. See attachment.

-The Village Board will have discussion on Riley-Deppe Park; dog park plan proposal; presentation on Warren Myers on street project for Converse Park at their February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Having no further business a motion was made by Tweed and second by Diedrick to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Peck  
Village Administrator.