

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Thursday, April 2, 2015
Room 204, Government Center

Members Present: Gerald Olson, Gene Rosburg, Tom Wondolkowski, and Mike Herrick

Excused: Betty Renko

Absent: Keith Kern, Terry Massoglia

Also Present: Mary Morgan, Katelyn Baumann, Stacey Minter, Cary Breitlow, Mike Johnston, Shelley Nelson

Gene Rosburg called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Approval of January 8, 2015, minutes.

MOTION by Gerald Olson, seconded by Mike Herrick, and carried to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes of January 8, 2015.

2. Referral from 3/17/15 Common Council meeting: Katelyn Baumann, Academic Service-Learning Specialist, as part of this year's Leadership Superior/Douglas County class, is requesting to present their idea to create a Children's Memorial Park in Superior.

Katelyn Baumann, Stacey Minter, Cary Breitlow and Mike Johnston of the Leadership Superior/Douglas County Program gave a presentation and discussed their idea to create a Children's Memorial Garden within Billings Park proper. Their goal is for the garden to provide a space for hope, healing and peace for those who have experienced the tragic loss of a child. The group indicated they have a lot of community support already and they have started a Facebook page (Children's Memorial Garden of Douglas County) that has garnered 440 likes in just two weeks. The area the group is considering within Billings Park is near the end of the first point.

Phase One of the project would include:

- Bench/swing
- Tree
- Two raised garden beds with 70% perennials
- Plaque

Phase Two would include:

- Stone pathway with names engraved
- Potential for a memorial statue/sculpture (with help from the Superior Area Council for the Arts).

The group presented their ideas for plant, flower and tree choices, along with their budget, which is \$2200.00, materials only. Funding ideas include private donations through a "gofundme" account, business/service club sponsorships and in-kind donations. The group has been able to coordinate with another non-profit group to hold their funds at this point, as they do not yet have a non-profit status.

Future maintenance and ongoing care of the garden is a challenge that the group continues to work on. Those expressing interest thus far are the Parent Teacher Association Council, Master Gardeners and an area greenhouse (Missine's). The timeline for the project would be unveiling and official dedication by the end of August 2015.

Committee members expressed concern with the group's choice of first point for the location of the garden as they felt it may lack privacy and be too busy in that area. They suggested to the group that they explore second point, which would be quieter and perhaps provide a better space for reflection. The only downside to this area might be an increased chance of vandalism. The group was open to and agreed to explore second point as a potential site for the garden.

MOTION by Olson, seconded by Wondolkowski, and carried to recommend to the City Council that the Superior/Douglas County leadership group be allowed to move forward with a Children's Memorial Garden in Billings Park.

Mary Morgan, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry indicated that this would be presented to the City Council at their April 21st meeting, with the leadership group choosing the site within Billings Park.

MOTION by Herrick, seconded by Olson, and carried, meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

The next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2015, 5:00 p.m., Room 204 of the Government Center.

Minutes submitted to the Council Meeting of April 21, 2015.