

Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes October 19, 2020

Zoom meeting – virtual attendance

Call to Order & Attendance: 3:05pm

Present:

Matt Withers
Dave Hall
Gordon Bell

Gordy Holmes
Lisa Bruce
Rick Hawkins

Staff:

Carly Ruacho
Sara Robinson

Absent: David Moynahan

Also known to be present: Deb Bell

Citizen Comments:

Lisa Bruce presented some questions on behalf of the community regarding Church Creek Park.

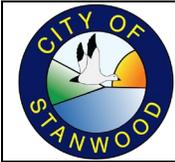
- Are there any plans to eventually add a splash park at Church Creek Park? Carly Ruacho explained there are no formal plans to add a splash park to any of the current parks, but it could be something to consider. There was some discussion previously about locating a splash park in the lot next to City Hall, but no plans were formalized.
- Any possible expansion of the current skate park at Heritage Park? Lisa commented that the current area of the skate park is fairly small and at a recent outing there were upwards of 20+ kids present and it seemed pretty crowded. Carly expressed there isn't any plans at this time for expanding the skate park, but it could be considered as Heritage Park is improved and expanded.

Approval of Minutes:

Gordon Bell made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2020 meeting. Lisa Bruce seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Interpretive Signage:

- **Style**
 - Looking at many design options in the hopes to pick out a more modern style that would reflect the style and color schemes the City of Stanwood want to use going forward. The Commission is in agreement the City needs not only better signage, but more signage as well in our Parks and Trails.
 - Skagit Wildlife Area has a kiosk at their Leque Island Eide Rd. trail that the Commission is in favor of. The Commission is also in favor of one that is similar to Iverson Point's on Camano Island but prefer it with a metal roof.
- **Location**
 - Hamilton Park
 - Two interpretive signs will be along the river frontage at Hamilton Park. One by the smokestack, and one along the trail by the viewing benches. The "Kiosk" sign will be closer to the parking area.
 - Port Susan Trail
 - Lisa Bruce thinks having a sign at the four main corners/view points of the "lagoon area" would be beneficial.
 - Dave Hall also likes the four main view point areas for signs as well as a sign up on the newly built berm explaining something about why the floods can hurt and help the



Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes October 19, 2020

Stanwood area and how having the berm in place will help prevented flooding in downtown.

- Carly thinks a good location for an interpretive sign showing a map of the trail would be at the park & ride.
- **Design/Content**
 - The Commission prefers the frames to be in black and keep the color scheme in neutral tones. They really like the one designed by JA Brennan as it has a lot of photos and colorful mapping along with the clear legend that shows what it is you're looking at on the trail.

Hamilton Park

- Dave recommends doing one sign near the smokestack and the historical purpose it served during the time it was running, include some older photos perhaps to explain the history of the smokestack. Then have another sign talking about the river itself and the environment. The Larger Kiosk would be used as a "landing spot" of information.
- Lisa Bruce wants to have a sign or an area that children could use interactively to keep them engaged in the park.
- Gordon Bell likes the idea of incorporating historical information on the signs at Hamilton Park.

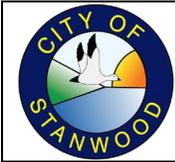
Port Susan Trail

- Gordy Holmes likes the idea of having one with maps to show you where you are going and what you'll see along the trail.
- Gordon Bell & Lisa Bruce want something mentioned as to what the lagoon is and perhaps explain what a wastewater treatment plant does.

Church Creek Park Walk Through Results:

- Recently Carly, Gordy and Gordon went to Church Creek Park to determine where the tees and baskets were for the disc golf course. It was pretty difficult finding each tee and basket per the map we currently have. Part of the reason we couldn't find many of them is due to some of the "holes" still being under construction or haven't even been started on yet. With this walk through, it took away some of the worry about moving the golf tees in order to upgrade trails and add new trails as many of the tees still need to be constructed. This will make it somewhat easier to realign the disc golf holes in order to accommodate the new trail plan. Gordon requests a forestry or other resource agency representative to do a walk through to perform an impact on the disc golf and the existing tree condition.
To do our trail plan justice, we will likely need to budget in some funds for someone to GPS the trails/disc golf course. The current map is not accurate. We want to design a trail with the least amount of crossings through the disc golf fairways as possible.
- We looked over the proposed pickle ball court area and measured to see if we could fit two pickle ball courts where the existing basketball court is, and it is a feasible option. The other option is having one court in the current basketball area and the other one in the alternative location in the field area. Once we get closer to doing that project, we can make a decision.

Comments/Concerns Include:



Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes October 19, 2020

- Gordy was glad to have toured Church Creek Park and feels the disc golf course people need to have a much better map showing where the course actually is. He also feels the Park needs many of the lower hanging branches trimmed up and some underbrush removed to “lighten up” the feel of the park and bring in more natural light and make it more hospitable to park goers.
- Gordon agrees some branches and underbrush in the more developed areas should be cleaned up, but keeping more of the undeveloped areas of the park as it is to preserve the natural habitat. He also believes the disc golf course shouldn’t have access so close to the creek to build or play golf as he believes they are contributing to some of the erosion. Gordon also requests a Rep to go to Church Creek Park and do a walk through.
- Lisa Bruce feels the visibility needs to be greatly improved at Church Creek Park and definitely sees the need to lighten up the park by removing many of the tree limbs up to a height that allows greater visibility and light.

Park Updates:

Church Creek Park Playground Equipment

Recently there was a power issue due to a power getting cut, and there wasn’t power to the picnic shelter or the sprinkler system at the baseball field. We reached out to the contractors and they said they didn’t feel they were responsible for the power loss as they hand dug near any power locates. The City did the investigation as to where the power was cut at and found it was a slice in the wire that was buried in the ground right below one of the posts installed in the new playground. After receiving photo evidence of the location of the cut wire, the contractor took responsibility and agreed to pay/reimburse the City to fix the power loss issue.

Heritage Park – Baseball Field Renovation

The consultants went to the Park to dig holes for the cultural resources (historical artifact) survey. The report was made and turned in a short time afterwards to the State and we are still waiting to hear back.

Originally we had the option to either sod or seed the outfields. With the sod option it would have allowed us to get the fields ready in time for the next season’s field usage. The City Council liked the option of putting sod down however with the delay to the dirt work getting done in the fields, putting sod down is now no longer an option. The sod wouldn’t have enough time to establish and be ready to play on in time. So we are back to the seeding option. The good news is the same contractor who would have laid the sod, also does a lot of paving. So they provided a bid for redoing the parking lot in exchange for doing the sod and their bid came in around \$300,000. About \$135,000 of that would have been the cost for sod, so it was way less than we anticipated the parking lot would cost to redo. There is support at the PW Committee level and it will now go to Council for approval.

- Lisa Bruce wants to get the soccer fields fixed as soon as possible as she feels it’s a safety issue.

Hamilton Park – Park/Boat Launch Projects

The pump house was worked on which required work in the slough and use of most of the park. While under construction there was a lot of dirt work done causing some of the vegetation to be lost which is why this was done first and we pushed back building Hamilton Park. The area is now put back to original grade.



Parks and Trails Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes October 19, 2020

- Gordon is wondering who applied for the permits on the park/boat launch project, the City of Stanwood or the WDFW did? Carly explained both agencies did.

There have been mitigations and discussions for the impact of building the boat launch. The Dept. of Fish & Wildlife were going to remove all of the creosote pilings where the old dock used to be. The Dept. of Ecology was only going to give approximately 2sq. ft. per piling mitigation credit and no habitat credits whatsoever. With this decision Fish & Wildlife pulled the plan to remove the pilings. Due to the mitigation costs being over budget Fish & Wildlife indicated that they may not be able to move forward with the project, however, after much discussion it appears there may be a workable solution and we are back on track and hopeful to keep moving both projects forward.

Next Meeting: November 16, 2020 @ 3:00pm.

PTAC committee takes place on the third Monday of the month.

Until Stanwood moves into Phase 3, City Hall remains closed to the public. This means remote meetings will continue until that happens.

Adjourn – 5:03pm