

MINUTES

City of Norwich, Parks Commission

June 27, 2020

Present; Chairman C. Sprague, Comm. OJ Levesque, Comm. M. Genung, Comm. K. Thompson, Comm. B. McCracken

Absent; Comm. S. Sutton, Comm. T. French

Also Present; E. Pepe

The meeting was opened by Chairman C. Sprague at 7:00 pm. It was held at S. Broad St Park.

Motion to approve minutes of May 2020 Parks meeting was made by Comm. B. McCracken, seconded by Comm. K. Thompson, all ayes approve contingent the spelling error of Baker Dog Park is corrected.

Visitors; None

Correspondence; None

Old Business;

Auburn Park Name – The Commission discussed the proposed name change of Auburn Park to Carnrike Park. They said that this name change was approved by the Parks Commission previously under the understanding that a parcel of land from George Carnrike would be donated to the park. However, the proposed land transfer has never happened and no one is aware of any plans that it will happen. Therefore, based on past precedent of naming parks after donators, and in order to maintain historical relevance to the Auburn railroad that operated nearby, the Parks Commission made a motion to recommend not changing the name to Carnrike Park, and keeping the name Auburn Park.

Comm. M. Genung made the motion as stated above, Comm. OJ Levesque seconded, all ayes approve.

Park Signs – The Commission continued the discussion regarding replacement and/or rehabilitation of the Park name signs. The commission discussed different materials along with cost such as wood, foam, PVC/acrylic, etc. DPW mentioned they could try to repair the existing signs. No recommendations have been made yet.

Greenway Playground – The Commission discussed timing of the playground build at Greenway. DPW needs to take down a large tree and prep the ground. Getting volunteers is still on hold during the coronavirus. An end of the summer timeframe was proposed but things are in a bit of a wait and see mode due to Covid 19.

New Business;

Design Connect Grant - Chairman C. Sprague discussed the meeting he had with the Design Connect Grant team at Cornell University, Lorraine Keckeisen (Grants Coordinator), and Supt. Pepe. The meeting was introductory in nature. The Cornell students emphasized that they could only work on one park. After some discussion, it was decided to focus the redesign on Kurt Beyer instead of S. Broad St Park for the following reasons.

S. Broad St. Park is subject to flooding

Kurt Beyer is a more popular park.

Rotary Park can potentially be included in the redesign

Kurt Beyer seems to have more potential

Superintendents Report;

S. Broad St. Park – The park flooded on Nov. 1, 2019. Repairs to the basketball court, and playground are required. The basketball court and playgrounds got covered in silt. It needs to be cleaned off the basketball court. The playgrounds peastone is no longer meets standards and needs to be removed and new peastone added back in.

Kurt Beyer– DPW has hired an electrical contractor to repair the lights. We are doing misc. painting around the park. We will be replacing an isolation valve for the pool. We will be replacing coping around the pool. We will be doing some crack repair. We will be removing a tree that was damaged in a storm. We will be replacing a start/stop switch at the kiddie pool pump.

Baker Dog Park – Supt. Pepe discussed the parking issue is the main concern at the dog park. One of the most requested solutions is to add designated parking on the northbound lane of River along the dog park fence. Supt. Pepe also mentioned that grass seed was planted while the park was closed due to the coronavirus.

Picnic tables – We have been painting tables at all parks.

Commissioner's Reports; None

Budget; No updates

Adjournment; Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.