

**VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**  
Minutes of December 15, 2020 - 6:00pm | Zoom Meeting

Roll Call: Terry Parker (Chairman), William Warden, Brad Scholtz, Dennis Brudney, Liz Elden, Kate Repola, Jeff Keck

*Also, Present:* Chad Kuhns, RECREATION DIRECTOR; Marc Weisenberger, PARKS SUPERVISOR; Tony Valerius, SERVICE DIRECTOR; Brian Holmes, COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

*Guests:* Mayor Forthofer

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Terry Parker, Chairman called the December 15, 2020 meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**B. Scholtz MOVED**, B. Warden seconded to approve the meeting minutes of November 17, 2020. Roll Call Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**COMMUNITY EVENT GROUP USE PERMITS:**

- Main Street Vermilion – Hot Diggity Dog Day – Sept. 18, 2021 (Tentative) – 8am – 2pm (Main St. Beach & Pkg. N. of Huron)
- Main Street Vermilion – Light up Vermilion – December 2, 2021 – 3pm – 9pm (Exchange & East/Friendship)
- Main Street Vermilion – Chalk it Up – August 7, 2021 – 9am – 4pm (Exchange Park)
- Main Street Vermilion – All Washed Up – July 17, 2021 – 8am – 4pm (Exchange Park)

H. Taft mentioned the Hot Diggity Dog Day is on September 11, which Main Street should consider rescheduling because this is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11. M. Suszko said they would consider rescheduling it to September 18 as a tentative date. She will email T. Parker and G. Fisher once she confirms this date.

K. Repola asked for an explanation of what magnet fishing entails. M. Suszko explained it is a magnet of different strengths and people can fish off their kayak, canoe, paddle board, or a dock if permitted, and you snag items in the river that attach to your magnet.

**L. Elden MOVED;** B. Warden seconded to approve the Community Use Group Permits as presented. Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Chad Kuhns reported they are working on basketball and he spoke with the Lakeview Baptist Church again to confirm dates. He did not receive a firm answer, but Friday's and Saturday's are a possibility, and it is a work in progress.

He said they had a meeting regarding holding football in the spring and they are looking at a start date of March 15 for practices with games starting the week after Easter.

**SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

T. Valerius reported the Showse Park Revetment Project has been completed. It involved expanding the walkway to the pier up into the embankment. Two rows of concrete stones were used and topped off with 8' of poured concrete to create a nice walkway to the pier. Anchor stones were installed from the western border of the park to about 40' east of the pier and the hillside was graded down and reseeded. He said it was a beautiful job.

B. Scholtz said he noticed a couple steps were installed at the end of the pier and asked if this was intentional because it seems they lost ADA accessibility. T. Valerius said in speaking with the contractor and because of how far he had to come to the walkway inside of the hill, even if they would have taken the steps out it would not have met ADA compliance, plus the hillside does not meet ADA with the slope. The tractor can easily drive over the steps. They talked about making it more accessible for the tractor, but with the high water they were not able to do this. B. Warden said with the high water there is no sand, so it is irrelevant at this point. T. Parker mentioned that resident John Landoll was very pleased with the city's job and how it tied in with his project to the west. He noted that Justin Miller did a nice job on the project.

**PARK'S SUPERVISOR REPORT:**

M. Weisenberger reported the two oak trees on the lakefront at Sherod park were moved this past Friday to the west side of the park.

He said on the west end of Main Street Beach where they have placed three memorial benches, they put in three sandstone bench pads to mount the benches.

B. Warden asked what was going on with the former ice rink at Showse park. M. Weisenberger said some of the soil they excavated from the bank was taken to the rink to level it off if they decide to do a playground or shelter. B. Warden asked who decided to level this off. M. Weisenberger said he had spoken with Dana Corogin and Tim Costello because over the years it has not held water and if they were going to get back into skating, they would look at West Breeze park to get out of the wind. He said Justin Miller will help finish the leveling with additional material.

B. Scholtz told the parks department they did a great job on the Christmas lights. M. Weisenberger said David deserves most of the credit for this.

Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report:

B. Scholtz stated the subcommittee met on December 4 to recommend the following:

1. Subcommittee recommends encumbering an additional \$60,000 to the Main Street Beach Revitalization/Restroom project (would bring total commitment to \$180K).

-has been accounted for in the budget

2. Discussed the idea of potentially borrowing against our Capital levy, as our \$47,500 obligation to the Sailorway ballfields expires this month.

-If we took on the same obligation as Sailorway, we could borrow \$575,000 for 15 years at 1.7%

-would allow us to tackle additional parks projects

-it is unlikely that interest rates will ever be lower

-Amy Hendricks has been involved with the new loan idea and is in support

-would require City Council approval (*G. Fisher said legislation would need to be prepared and this would require A. Hendricks working with bond counsel on preparing this.*)

\*The finance subcommittee recommends proceeding with the loan

3. Assuming the board is in support of the “new loan” idea:

-The subcommittee recommends committing an additional \$320,000 to the Main Street Beach Revitalization Project (Bringing our total commitment to \$500K)

-This would leave approximately \$255K of the new loan available to take on additional projects that we would not otherwise be able to do for several years. Our capital levy brings in approximately \$150K/year, plus any carryovers from previous years.

Community Relations/Publicity: No report.

Erosion:

Bill Warden said concerns about tapering the bank have been abated because there is now more usable grass area than there was previously. Once the grass grows, it should provide

more accessibility to the lake. He said it is an attractive solution and big improvement. He too is concerned about the ADA accessibility to the pier but understands the angle would be a problem regardless. It may have to be addressed in the future.

Main Street Beach Revitalization Project:

B. Scholtz explained the Main Street Beach Revitalization project has hit a point where they think they may be able to start moving forward. They presented the project to City Council on December 14 to understand the overall plan. The Western Reserve Land Conservancy is the general contractor on this project who presented the timeline to Council.

Mayor Forthofer said they have talked about this project for a long time and funds are seemingly lining up in the form of grants and private donations that may start making this project a reality. This property is city-owned, and council must be in tune with what is going on. He said the presentation was excellent and a Resolution will be presented at the next council meeting as Council gave their consensus in supporting the project. He said this project falls under the Parks and Recreation Board.

T. Parker asked the mayor if Western Reserve could send the Parks Board the power point presentation, so they can share it with the entire board, so they have a sense of what they are doing.

B. Holmes said it was exciting to hear the plan and see the drawings, and Council is ready to move forward.

Recreation and School Relations: No report.

Sherod Playground: No report.

Vermilion Community Pool:

D. Brudney explained the issues they had with the survey which was opened to the public on November 19. He said they found a couple problems on November 20 with the survey as the URL was not working on the school and city websites. They addressed and fixed the problems accordingly. He said they extended the survey to December 20. They verified the survey is now working fine on the city website. They had a couple people who did not have access via phone or computer, so paper copies were delivered to their homes, so their voices were heard. As of today, 518 surveys were taken so this is over 10% of Vermilion's population. They have another five days until the survey closes. He said next week they will have a zoom meeting to discuss where they will go from here and what direction they will go once they receive all the data. He noted that 200 people have requested to be a part of the Focus

Groups. M. Weisenberger thanked Dennis for all his time and effort that he has put into the survey.

B. Scholtz asked how long it will take for them to start seeing some of the survey data. D. Brudney said it should take a couple days once the survey is closed for the intern to compile the data. M. Weisenberger said it may take a few weeks to put the survey into final form of a spreadsheet. This will be shared once it is completed with the Pool Subcommittee then the Parks Board.

B. Holmes encouraged all the residents to complete the survey.

### **OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE:**

Homer Taft of 3972 Edgewater Drive thanked the board for the open to the audience format. He addressed the pool survey as he had trouble completing it when it came to four different parts of a question as it locked up on him. As to Main Street Beach and the borrowing he supports the idea of Main Street Beach, but he thought they had some other priorities, so he would hope the board would hold off for at least a month and engage discussion about borrowing. He said City Council had a presentation on Special Improvement Districts and there are ways the city and Parks board could borrow money to do projects. He thought the most important thing is to stop losing land. He spoke with Bill Warden about the fact that he would like to put together an idea for the board to put together a plan for the next two or three years relative to borrowing to not only protect the parks from further loss, but to restore some of the losses, and to restore a beach at Showse, Nokomis or other places. With respect to Main Street, the board may want to consider some offshore breakwaters, but the western portion of that property in front of and to the west of the lighthouse appears to have had the beach filled at some point and the board may want to discuss revetment. He thought there might be ways to design something with breakwaters and sand, and frankly with the SID, there is only one property between there, and Washington and they might be able to design something involving that owner and have a much more improved lakefront. He would like to address this with the board, but it will take him some time to get it to the board for review. As far as borrowing, he is sure Mr. Scholtz's figures are correct, but if they go 20 years with a little more money than they could probably borrow a million. He said there is Showse Park, Main Street, Nokomis, Sherod, and other things, so before spending the money, they should look at all the priorities better. However, with the high water they should look at stopping to lose land and to restore the property they are losing. With regards to revetment on Main Street, he would hate to see them just pile rock. He thought it was sad that they must tear down the Wakefield Mansion, but there is a way to cut the cost and reuse the material to retain its historic connection to some point because the entire building is made of concrete and the concrete could be used in any improvements as fill. There is way to repurpose and save

money and keep some of the history. He hoped in January the board could have more discussion on these things.

T. Parker said regarding the repurposing of the concrete, they discussed this in their subcommittee and a contractor would be willing to explore this, which would bring the cost of the demolition down because he would not have to haul concrete away.

### **OLD & NEW BUSINESS:**

T. Parker said there is nothing new to report on the Dog Park as it is still in progress, and it may not go forward on Park property.

**L. Elden MOVED;** K. Repola seconded to recommend encumbering an additional \$60,000 towards the Main Street Beach Revitalization project. Roll Call Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

T. Parker said the payment for the borrowing would not take any more out of their revenue stream than what they have been currently paying off on the Sailorway note and they still would have approximately \$100,000 of revenue every year outside of this payment in the capital levy. They also have a decent balance at this point, and they projected a good carryover, so they are not hamstringing themselves at this level of payment, and it is a question of how many years in the future they want to obligate themselves. Mayor Forthofer said they had this conversation with Amy Hendricks, and he believed she thought it was feasible and it worked within their budget.

**K. Repola MOVED;** J. Keck seconded to recommend to City Council to have legislation prepared to borrow against the capital levy the amount of \$575,000 for 15 years at 1.7%, in which \$320,000 will be used towards the Main Street Beach Revitalization project and the remaining amount will go towards other projects. Discussion: H. Taft pointed out that if they do an ordinance it will have to specify an amount and period of years. He asked if it would cost them the opportunity in a month or two to take a more careful look at this, particularly with the pool survey coming in and other items he would like to present to the board. B. Scholtz mentioned the finance director also looked at this using the same \$47,000, but only doing a 10-year borrow which would give them a 1.3% rate, but they can only borrow \$400,000, so adding the five years gives them another \$175,000 with the same obligation. He said the logic of the 15 years was to not saddle the board too long. L. Elden said the way they doctored the numbers, the 15 years seemed like a manageable timeline with a good interest rate to move forward on the Main Street project, so she was in favor of the numbers the way they worked through them. K. Repola said the numbers seem to make sense and she would like to see some forward movement. Roll Call Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Forthofer said he would speak with the finance director to authorize her to contact bond counsel to prepare the borrowing legislation.

**B. Scholtz MOVED**; B. Warden seconded to commit an additional \$320,000 to the Main Street Beach Revitalization Project (Bringing the parks board total commitment to \$500K). Roll Call Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**B. Scholtz MOVED**, D. Brudney seconded to adjourn the meeting. Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday – January 19, 2021 @ **6:00 pm**  
via ZOOM

*~Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk  
Vermilion City Council/Boards and Commissions*