

City of Winsted
Park Commission Work Session
Lewis Room
January 11, 2016
5:00 p.m.

Present: Steve Ebert
Evelyn Fowler
Tim Fury
Petie Littfin
Cindy Racette
Bonnie Quast (Council Liaison)

Staff Present: Daniel Tienter, City Administrator
Raquel Kirchoff, Administrative Assistant

1) Call the Meeting to Order

Mr. Ebert called the Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

2) Park System Master Planning Process

Mr. Tienter stated that the Park Commission would continue the Goal Setting exercise that they have been working on over the last several months at tonight's Work Session, but before they started that process, he explained that the City's Commissions annually recommend a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Commission to the City Council at one of their regular meetings. Mr. Tienter stated that currently, the Park Commission is proceeding with Work Sessions, but when the next regular meeting is scheduled, the Park Commission would recommend a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Tienter provided a document entitled "Park System Master Plan Priorities and Strategies", and explained that he organized the information from the snow card exercise from the previous Work Session into this document. The document includes five (5) priorities as follow:

- Refine park development maintenance practices of the Winsted Park System
- Expand event and programming efforts for the Winsted Community
- Protect the natural resources of the Winsted Park System
- Enhance and improve the Winsted Park System user experience
- Improve connectivity of the Winsted Park System

Mr. Tienter stated that each priority has various strategies and that he also included information under a category of Other Considerations.

Mr. Tienter divided the priorities between the Park Commission members to review.

Mr. Tienter explained that he would create project worksheets for the individual park units and develop multi-year phasing for capital improvements for the parks based on the ideas developed thus far in the Par Commission Work Sessions for a future meeting.

Comments from the Park Commission members regarding the five (5) priorities were as follow:

- Add wording to Strategy No.1-2 to develop a sponsorship/gratuity program for the business donations that enhance the park system as a thank you to the business.
- In regards to Strategy No. 2-2:
 - A sign could be placed on McLeod County Road One (1) that lists the parks of Winsted with a picture to describe what type of park it is.
 - More existing Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted Community Education programs need to occur in the City of Winsted. Most occur in the City of Howard Lake.
- Regarding Strategy No. 3-1;
 - Consider taking advantage of grants or free services/incentives of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the University of Minnesota, etcetera.
 - Solicit organizations to volunteer to adopt an area to maintain in Winsted.
- Regarding Strategy No. 3-2, add language to protect from insects

- Regarding Strategy No. 3-4, add language to treat trees before they are at the dying point.
- Regarding Priority No. 3, under Other Considerations, form language to repair the current rain garden so it works well to include raising the drain to a level higher than the street, adding grasses around the drain to filter before the water hits the drain, and placing items, for example large boulders, to the area where a section of the rain garden was removed deter large snow pile storage being placed here.
- Regarding Strategy 4-5, the preference is to improve both the view of Winsted Lake by removing Lake Bank vegetation but being careful to not remove too much to damage lakeshore stabilization. A balanced statement should be written regarding selective pruning to create and enjoyable view while protecting natural resources.
- Regarding Strategy 4-6, no new permanent restrooms should be constructed because of vandalism and cost; however, current permanent restrooms should be renovated. The preference for any new restroom additions is to use mini biffs.
- Regarding Priority No. 5
 - Add a strategy to create a trail connection from Winsted to the Dakota Trail in Lester Prairie.
 - Placement of a very noticeable sign, between McLeod County Road Nine (9) and McLeod County Road One (1), near Baker Avenue, that lists the businesses available in Winsted.

3) Adjourn

The Work Session adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Daniel Tienter

City Administrator
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

Raquel Kirchoff

Raquel Kirchoff,
Administrative Assistant
City of Winsted