

## Cloquet City Council Work Session

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

- Present:** A. Bailey, D. Bjerkness, K. Kolodge, S. Langley, R. Maki, J. Rock, Mayor Hallback
- Absent:** None
- Staff:** J. Barclay, N. Klassen, A. Cottingham, H. Hansen, C. Peterson, J. Anderson
- Other:** J. Badger, J. Fryck, T. Krohn, C. Martinson and T. Urbanski of the Parks Commission; J. Peterson, Pine Journal

### Joint Meeting with Parks Commission

Introductions were made by everyone in attendance. City Engineer Peterson stated that the Council and Parks Commission meet annually to discuss the year's activities, ongoing and upcoming projects. Mr. Peterson commented that the Veteran's Park project and granite memorial wall was the most notable and received the most attention from the community. Other park projects discussed were:

- The addition of a playground, disc golf course, and parking at Hilltop Park. Much of this project was completed by City crews.
- The Broadway Street corridor and Riverfront park are ongoing projects with the warming house and skating ribbon both being used this winter. Landscaping and final playground needs and inspection will be completed this spring along with the Broadway corridor paving, snowmobile trail and ATV trail repair taking place below the Chamber building.
- The single-track mountain bike trail project at Pine Valley is ready to begin this spring with permits in place and the contractor ready to begin.
- CIP funds have been set aside for improvements of the Pine Valley Chalet and parking lot paving, however, soil exploration in the parking lot show significant soil corrections need to be made before paving.
- Skate Park bids are scheduled to come in on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The bids will go to the Parks Commission and then to Council with a recommendation.
- Other projects that the community has voiced a need for is a dog park and Pickle Ball court, both of which are being considered and potential costs explored. A possible location for the dog park is the previous site of the landfill on Freeman Road and the Pickle Ball courts could be located at the new Sunnyside tennis courts, which is the most financially feasible.

The Parks Department now has a Facebook page and Twitter account which allows for communication to the public on trail conditions, park updates, etc. Both accounts are maintained by the Parks Department.

Other discussion included the status of the bike trail connection between Hwy 61 and Hwy 45 to the Scanlon Park and Ride. Mr. Peterson stated there is a trail connection committee that is working on this project and timeline is for construction in 2019.

Members of the commission commented that they are happy with the direction of the Park Department's 5-year plan which includes projects/improvements that will lead to use for years to come. They also commended the Parks Department employees for their hard work throughout the year.

**Credit Union Building Update**

City Administrator Reeves asked for Council direction after he provided a financial update on the opportunity presented to the City to purchase the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Members Cooperative Credit Union building for Police Department and City Hall use. Mr. Reeves reviewed the preliminary numbers and overview of the proposed renovations prepared by Boldt. Mr. Reeves pointed out the largest expense would be for building a garage for the police department. Interior renovation would be minimal with most of it taking place in the basement and some on the main floor. Mr. Reeves explained that purchasing the building and renovations would total approximately \$3.7 million, almost \$4 million less than the 2014 CIP facility plan of remodeling the existing police department and renovations for City Hall, at approximately \$7.5 million. If the City moves forward with purchasing and renovating the credit union building, the extra \$4 million would be put towards the much needed Public Works facility improvements.


Discussion of 2 buildings left empty if the City proceeds with the credit union building purchase. Mr. Reeves has been in contact with another government agency with interest in the City Hall building. Other options include renting to Carlton County, moving the Sr. Center, or giving the CAFD the option to use as their administrative office or expand by building a garage on the green space. The police department building could be sold or demolished and the property sold.

The Credit Union is ready to start on construction of their new building, making their current building possibly available by the end of 2018.

Council directed Mr. Reeves to move forward on a full appraisal of the credit union building/property and bring back for further discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Aaron Reeves  
City Administrator