

## CLOQUET CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

**Present:** Bjerckness, Kolodge, Langley, Maki, Wilkinson, Rock, Mayor Hallback

**Staff:** Fritsinger, Klassen, C. Peterson

**Other:** Jamie Lund, Pine Journal; Parks Commission Members: Barb Wyman, Amy Louhela, John Badger, Tim Krohn, Tom Urbanski, Rick Stowell, Michael Krick; SEH Representatives Michael Kraemer, Gregg Calpino and Dan Hinzman; Ruth Reeves

### **Joint Meeting with Parks Commission**

Introductions were made by everyone in attendance. Mr. Fritsinger stated that the Council and Parks Commission meet annually to discuss the year's activities and items of mutual interest. Mr. Fritsinger felt it appropriate to include SEH at tonight's meeting to present the preliminary design concepts for Fauley and Veteran's Parks, which are this summer's larger projects.

Gregg Calpino from SEH reviewed the tentative time frame for these park projects. Looking at April/May for contractor bids and for the start of construction in August. Other highlights of the discussion are as follows:

- Review of the 10 guiding principles that were used to create the master plans. Vets Park will primarily be a festival park, looking at the Highway 33 and Cloquet Avenue intersection as a gateway, but being mindful of changes in future years.
- There are 13 elements for the full plan with the main element being connectivity from Cloquet Avenue to Vets Park using walking trails.
- Fauley Park includes more operational items such as addressing ATV trails, using ornamental fencing to positively reinforce where ATVs should go.
- Mr. Peterson and SEH met with local veterans to review what items in phase 1 will go forward and what they would like to see. Options discussed were a water wall south of the memorial circle or a monumental wall. They will reconvene next week to decide what they would like on the wall, art or names. If art is what they would like, the veterans will reach out to artists.
- Mr. Bjerckness questioned how many phases are budgeted for this project? 10 years, with the shelter being the next phase. Utilizing some of the sales tax monies in as many of the parks that are identified for improvements without putting it all into one or two parks.
- Mr. Peterson stated the veterans are doing some of their own fundraising to bring money to the table. One item they feel strongly about is lighting along the path and entry monuments.
- Mr. Fritsinger encouraged both Council and Park Commission that this is the time for project input and to provide feedback.
- Ms. Wyman commented that it's encouraging that the veteran's group wants to work together on this project.
- Fauley Park items identified are lighting on the train, a pedestrian entry, stairway renovation, pedestrian walks, landscaping, ATV route and parking, stormwater and drainage improvements.

- Main consideration of the council was to make this area have the highest visual impact as possible. It has been captured by addressing the centerpiece at Vet's Park and the train on the corner, which achieves this mission.
- Concern regarding the missing component of the stage construction in this phase. Is this a missing link to moving forward for the park being used as that purpose? SEH is confident this is a solid plan even without the stage construction. One thought was the use of a portable stage during this time may help to determine the actual need for a permanent one.
- Ms. Louhela questioned aesthetics vs. function, i.e. bathrooms. SEH noted that bathrooms will come during the second phase and that aesthetics and function are both being considered.
- Mr. Fritsinger commented there is approximately \$50,000 that can go back into the parks from the memorial brick fundraiser.
- Ms. Wyman stressed the importance of the stage.
- Discussion of the possibility of a memorial tree program to help with landscaping. This also would give the City an opportunity to make the community aware we are interested in getting people involved. There never has been a formal program to encourage that.
- The next step is to finalize the plan and come up with the funding.
- Construction will have to be scheduled around the 2 larger events held at Veteran's Park, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the Wood City music festival. Construction can start the day after the concert with an end date depending on weather. Most of it can be completed in the fall.

### **Other Discussion**

- Mr. Peterson stated the skate park needs attention. There are funds set aside to get it done and the City has a fiscal responsibility.
- Mr. Badger said he has met with the skate park group and location is their biggest issue. The group has a designer in mind and they are working on grants. He encouraged them to start a Go Fund account. They also have community support with some of the local businesses.
- Location options are the new Middle School site or Athletic Park.
- The group is getting a Skate Park Board together and are electing officers as well as recently getting a tax ID number.
- Ms. Wilkinson stated we are going to be at an impasse if the City doesn't move forward. Can the City designate Athletic as their space?
- Mr. Peterson stated the City has not been the driving force for this project and has not been directed to move forward. Staff is going to have to step up and push it forward, find space, get designer.
- Mr. Fritsinger commented that two problems the City will come into is that a designer will ask how much is budgeted and base the design on that number, and second, a design concept is needed on paper in order for the group to try for grants.
- Mr. Rock asked how the City donation of \$100,000 was decided? Mr. Fritsinger answered that it was a show of support from the City to the group and the number stuck.
- Mr. Rock stressed the importance of constructing the skate park correctly and making it something to have pride in.
- Mr. Fritsinger reiterated Mr. Peterson's suggestion that the City get back into the driver's seat and get this project moving forward. The question is whether the Council wants to do that or not, but it's time for a commitment.

- Mr. Bjerkness commented that he has never been so impressed other than by youth than this group. They've worked hard and the City needs to work something out for them.
- Mr. Peterson stated the message he's receiving is to step up on this project and get things going. \$250,000 to be used as a starting place, considering amenities will be needed as well. Money will come from sales tax dollars.
- Mr. Kolodge asked if the Planning Commission has been in any part of the conversations, will a Conditional Use permit be needed? There will be opposition to this and many issues to be discussed. Conditions need to be reviewed annually, e., times, noise, fencing, monitoring the park, safety, etc.
- Mr. Peterson said he'll start talking with designers as it sounds like everyone is in agreement on the Athletic Park location.
- Comment made that the City needs to take more ownership in the park from start to finish, this may help with keeping control. We need to always work to make sure it's a safe place for kids and neighbors.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Fritsinger  
City Administrator