

City of West Branch

~A Heritage for Success~

110 N. Poplar Street • PO Box 218 • West Branch, Iowa 52358
(319) 643-5888 • Fax (319) 643-2305 • www.westbranchiowa.org • city@westbranchiowa.org

MINUTES PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION **Thursday, November 20th, 2014 •6:30 p.m.** **West Branch Council Chambers, 110 Poplar Street**

Commission members present: Liz Seydel, Beth Noe, Shane Staker, Angie Miller
Others present: Mayor Mark Worrell, City Administrator Matt Muckler, Park and Rec Director
Melissa Russell, Gregory Norfleet

Minutes approved from September 22nd, 2014

Director Melissa Russell updated the commission on the LOST Vote

- Starting in July the LOST monies will be collected.
- The money can only be spent as it's collected and saved
- It will generate around \$180,000 a year.
- Need to prioritize projects so they can get in the budget

Director Melissa Russell updated on the BOND Vote

- A special election would cost extra money. It will not cost extra to put it on a November election. Next election would be November 2015.

There was much discussion from the commission members on "how we get the vote to pass".

- Satellite voting at 3 school events(volleyball game, football game, and PTO fall festival)
 - Need to approach the school board and get permission
- Independent committee will need to be formed
 - Signs, Specific Targeting, Phone tree
- Update flyers
 - That was a very effective marketing tool

Director Melissa Russell led a discussion of Park Projects priorities based on available funds.

- Director Russell met with HBK and they will prepare a better breakdown of cost per park. It may look a little like a shopping list.
- There is a need to accomplish some things at each of the parks so residents can see progress.
- Possible park projects could be completed in the following order
 - Sand volleyball courts- it would be better if these could be completed prior to the 2015 Harvey Peden sand volleyball league start however this project is not budgeted for FY2015
 - Lions Field. This area gets the most use. The needs at Lions Field are restrooms, water, and accessible walkway to the field.

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Mayor: Mark Worrell • **Council Members:** Jordan Ellyson, Colton Miller, Brian Pierce, Tim Shields, Mary Beth Stevenson

City Administrator/Clerk: Matt Muckler • **Fire Chief:** Kevin Stoolman • **Library Director:** Nick Shimmin

Parks & Rec Director: Melissa Russell • **Police Chief:** Mike Horihan • **Public Works Director:** Matt Goodale

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- Wapsi Creek Park. Some playground equipment would be very nice in this park. Also completing the sidewalks and a restroom facility would be next on the list.
 - Playground equipment may be focused on at fitness component since it will be a trail head. Also there is a need to make the equipment fit the setting.
- The commission would like to continue to work on connecting trails in the community.

Director Russell gave an update on the fall programming.

- Basketball was well attended.
 - May make some changes for the last game. Possibly separating the boys and the girls in 1st/2nd grade league or possibly separating the 1st from the 2nd grade.
 - Director Melissa Russell will not be at the final game, however Kassie Bailey will be there to help supervise.
 - It was a struggle to get coaches. The teams could be broken down smaller if more coaches were available.
- The Youth Running Group was a success. Another running
 - Another running group was suggested, however spring may not be the optimum time for staff. It may become a summer program.
 - 17 children participated and about 12 completed the 5K

Next commission meeting date: December 18th at 6:30pm

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