Committee Chairman Cain called the Holmen Park, Recreation, and Library Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on August 4, 2021 at the Holmen Village Hall.

Present: Brandon Cain, Dawn Kulcinski, Micah Wyss, Scott Heinig, Chris McArdle-Rojo, Mike Brogan
Excused: Chris Geary
Guests: Raine Gardner (MSA), Dan Schmitt (MSA), Patrick Barlow, 3 in audience (did not sign-in)

Motion by Wyss, seconded by Kulcinski to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2021 meeting. Carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Library Director’s monthly report: McArdle-Rojo provided the July 2021 library statistics report and August events flyer. McArdle-Rojo stated story times have been held outside this summer, movies nights will be offered in the fall, there is a hoopla giveaway promotion in progress, and introduced the Do-It-Yourself Media Conversion program.

Park and Recreation Director’s monthly report:
Recreation: Brogan informed the committee that most of the summer programs have ended. Programs ending in August include: youth gymnastics, tennis, horse programs, nature art journaling, cake decorating classes, men’s softball league, adult volleyball League, adult fitness classes, and KornFest men’s and women’s softball tournaments. The fall and winter brochure is being prepared and will be distributed in later August. Fall and winter program registration is beginning, along with hiring of fall recreation staff. Upcoming August Sunday concerts include: August 8th - TUGG, August 15th - Cat and the Fiddle, and August 29th - Remix Band. The summer concert series ends on September 19th.

Parks: Brogan informed the committee that Kornfest will begin setting up on August 15th. Brogan shared pictures of a washout on the remaining sandbag wall on the Halfway Creek Trail. Rybold Excavating will eliminate the sandbag wall and reshape this section of the trail. Heinig stated that he has approved the emergency repair. Rybold’s eliminating and reshaping of the other sandbag walls in the past have solved the problems and been problem free.

Pool: Brogan stated that the Holmen Summer Splash Log Rolling Tournament will be held on August 14th from 9am-12pm. Brogan stated that the pool will close on August 22, 2021.

Dan Schmitt and Raine Gardner from MSA presented the final park designs for McGilvray, Pertzsch, and Seven Bridges parks.

McGilvray Park: Schmitt and Gardner described that McGilvray is a neighborhood park designed to serve the neighborhood and no off-street parking would be provided. There would be two access sidewalks that lead to park amenities. There would be a playground structure (undefined in this plan), two permanent shade structures, basketball court, benches, garbage containers, bike racks, trees, landscaped park sign, irrigation, large open play grass area, and drainage swales in the middle of the park and on the south end of the park. Wyss inquired about parking. Heinig stated no parking is provided, if it is determined later that parking is needed the removal of the islands could be looked at. Wyss brought up the optional shade canopy over the playground bench area and Heinig stated it was felt that it was not needed due to the close vicinity of the other two shade structures. Estimated park cost of $556,218.

Pertzsch Park: Schmitt explained the Pertzsch park design. There would be access sidewalks from the east and west sides of the park leading to a playground for ages 5-12, to playground for ages 2-5, to an open shelter with two family restrooms, and a loop path sidewalk. There would be benches, garbage containers, trees, park sign, bike racks, drinking fountain, landscaping, irrigation, and a large open grass area for soccer fields. Wyss inquired about parking and the need for restrooms. Heinig stated there
should be ample street parking, it will attract more than neighborhood users, due to the quality of the play equipment and shelter, along with programmed soccer use. Gardner also noted its close vicinity to the new Sand Lake bike/walking path which will bring in additional users and provide non-street access to the location. Estimated park cost of $723,875.

Seven Bridges Park: Schmitt presented the plan for Seven Bridges park which is a regional community park with off street parking, a large open shelter with restrooms (men’s, women’s, & family) and enclosed concessions/kitchen room in close vicinity to main park amenities, two drinking fountains, 300’ baseball/softball field (enclosed and fenced with bleachers and dugouts), open grass space/soccer fields, three shade structures, a large age 5-12 destination playground with poured in place surfacing, an age 2-5 playground with poured in place surfacing, double zip lines, asphalt walking path around perimeter of park with lighting, benches, tables, garbage, bike racks, landscaping, and trees. Heinig added that trees will buffer adjacent homes, there will be a camera system, and there will be trail connections to other village areas. The well house will be located in southeast corner, with one bay for park storage. Estimated park cost of $2,534,940.

Tim McGinnis who lives in the southeast corner of the park block inquired about if there would be sidewalk on south edge of park with access ramps. Heinig said no sidewalk will installed along Old Hwy 93 in this project, it is a Town of Holland street, no sidewalk would be added until the street is curbed. When the road is finished for a water line, access from this corner will be considered or as part of the future trail system.

Project total for all three parks is $3,815,033, and project total with 20% contingency is $4,578,039.60. Wyss inquired why the total costs have risen since earlier estimates. Heinig stated it is due to evolution of designs, larger playscape, double zip lines, poured in place surfacing, more accurate pricing, current elevated prices, and a higher contingency. Wyss asked if we should consider delaying the construction due to the current high prices. Heinig stated that he feels that this will be the new economy and it probably won’t go back to the old prices. Brogan stated that there are not currently any parks north of McHugh road and there are already a large number of homes in these areas. Heinig stated that all of the subdivisions involved are mostly completed and residents are expecting the park facilities.

Motion by Wyss, seconded by Kulcinski to recommend to the board the approval of the final park designs from MSA for McGilvray, Pertzsch, and Seven Bridges parks. Carried unanimously.

McCardle-Rojo proposed an update to the Holmen Library Community Room Use Policy (Monday-Thursday use) to address some requests from religious organizations that is currently not addressed in the current policy. McCardle-Rojo proposed adding the following statement to part III. “Religious group use and activities such as services, do not meet the intended use of the community space, but rental options during the week may be considered based on room availability.” Heinig supported the addition. Motion by Kulcinski, seconded by Wyss to approve the update to the Holmen Library Community Room Use Policy as presented. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed preliminary 2022 capital requests and substantial supply items for the Holmen Library. McCardle-Rojo did not have any capital requests, only lower cost supply items. Heinig stated the items presented could be done through department head approved purchases. The committee reviewed preliminary 2022 capital requests for parks, recreation, and aquatics. Brogan presented a list of priorities, contingency/emergency items, community requests, and future needs. Heinig stated that with the current delays in acquiring certain items, Brogan has his approval to immediately pursue certain items that would be vital to operations and may be difficult to obtain. The committee gave approval for staff to remove the old Deer Wood Park dasher boards in 2021.

Motion by Wyss, second by Kulcinski to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. Motion carried.

Mike Brogan
Park & Recreation Director