

**Sleepy Eye Park Board
Minutes
January 13, 2020**

**Attendance: JoAnn S, Pat Starkey, Diane E, Greg T, Randy Z and Steve L.
Absent: Nicole K**

Election was conducted for Chairperson, Greg Tennant and secretary, Diane Evers for calendar year 2020. Motioned passed and approved.

Dog park tentative plans did not pass city council.

Sportsmen's Park construction of 8 additional campsites and road access has been completed. Fire rings have been placed and tables constructed. Total cost of project was about \$61,000. Work continues on Wi-Fi services to the park. Steve is looking into some solar lights to be added to this new area for safety and some new directional signs for entry into this area. Reservations process has been going smoothly at the city offices.

Steve attended Certified Pool operators' class. There were new requirements to sanitizing pools and other items that he will update at the pool.

Park shelter usage numbers remained nearly the same in 2019 at 62.

Steve also reported that the parks department has also worked on the following:

- *Pool umbrellas were taken in for repair at Mankato Tent and Awning.**
- *Christmas Tree removal is nearly completed.**
- *Ice rinks is being maintained with some thought being given to purchasing push button type lighting system to eliminate the need for manual turning On and off the lights.**
- *Two youth have been hired for summer work.**
- *JoAnn S. will work with city employees to begin set up of an online system (Perfect Minds) for camping reservations. This system would eventually be used to reserve other facilities within the city.**
- *Painting is being completed in the shop.**

Next Meeting: February 10, 2020 at 6 PM at the City Garage.

**Sleepy Eye Park Board
February 10, 2020
City Garage
6 PM**

**Attending: Nicole K., Greg T, Pat S, Diane E, JoAnn S, and Steve L.
Absent: Randy Z.**

Steve informed the Board that he had purchased new flooring for the Pine Cabin. It is the same color and type as installed in the Oak Cabin last year. This has held up very well. This will be completed when the weather warms.

Lake oxygen levels have stayed within proper ranges this winter. Ice thickness was 16" last check. The annual fishing contest was again a success. Due to the warm weather, cars and trucks were not allowed on the ice.

Steve researched purchase of an information board for the campgrounds. He was able to construct one at a lower cost. He presented it to the board, who approved it's installation at the campgrounds near the shower/bathroom building. Amanda will maintain it. Others may put items on it and Amanda will monitor for appropriateness.

Steve shared the plans for removal of trees along road/sewer construction routes. The tree removal will begin soon and road work will occur in the spring and summer.

**Misc work included: Painting continues in the shop.
Mowing equipment repair in process.**

Next meeting March 9, 2020 at 6 PM at City Garage.

Park Board Minutes

March 9, 2020

Present: Steve, Randy, Joanne, Pat

Absent: Diane Nichole, Greg

Arbor Day has been set for May 7, with a rain date of May 11. More info to follow at the next meeting.

Sportsman Park Shelter: The Sportsman Club asked Steve if the Board had any upcoming projects that they could help fund. Steve mentioned a new shelter at Sportsman Park. Steve put together a plan that would place the new shelter just east of the new restrooms. This will be discussed at the next City Council meeting.

Dog Park: The Committee for the Dog Park is still moving forward with the hope of having a Dog Park, but has decided to put the idea on hold for a year or two.

ResNexus: This is a new online system to reserve shelters, ball parks and possibly the Community Center. Joann and Bob are researching this system. More information to follow at future meetings.

Recycle Day has been set for May 13 at Eagles Park.

Twins Camp: The Camp is scheduled for June 19 and sponsored by Community Ed. The event will be held at Prairieview Park. Younger kids will meet at 3:00 and older kids will meet at 4:30.

The Parks Department has nearly finished tree-trimming, blowing snow off the ball fields for upcoming practices. It was discussed on how to fix up the Pool Donations sign for the pool. Steve also purchased a new Chief Sleepy sign for the pool. Three new solar lights were purchased for the new campsites at Sportsman Park.

Next Meeting: April 13, 2020. Location to be determined later

Sleepy Eye Park Board
Minutes
May 18, 2020

Attendance:

Greg T., Pat S., Randy Z., Diane E., and Steve L.
Absent: Nicole K. and Joann Schmidt

Summer help:

Park board has one full time summer employee as the second has found other employment.

Pool news:

Opening options still under governor's permission to open.
Some of the fun umbrellas are in for repair. Their completion somewhat delayed due to virus impacting business doing the repair.

Sportsmen Park update:

Campground remains closed due to governor's order.
Have moved fire rings to accommodate opening of awnings on some of the camping vehicles.
New row of sites is open and is called "Back to Nature" area as the naturalness of areas was maintained.
Solar lites have been installed in this area.
Message Board installed near bathroom.
Staff continue to work on the online reservation system

Webinar with MN Department of Health and League of Minnesota Cities

Signs will be posted at all playgrounds and bathrooms that say "Play or use at your own risk as this area is not sanitized"
Beach area will be posted as closed due to Covid 19.
If pool is allowed to open, many of the features will be closed due to inability to sanitize as required.
No summer recreation programs.
Probably no baseball or softball programs.
**All the above is due to the concern that a Covid 19 outbreak could originate at these areas or events.

Other

Tennis nets moved to provide distance for players.
Mowing and trimming are in full swing.
Basketball hoops removed from all parks.
Painted concession stand at Prairieview complex.

Next meeting:

June 8, 2020 at 6 PM at Sportsmen Park

**Sleepy Eye Park Board
Minutes
June 8, 2020
Sportsmen Park**

Attending: Randy Z, Greg T, Pat S, Diane E, Nicole K and Steve L
Absent: Joann Schmidt

Sportsmen Park Campground: It was open this past weekend as governor has “Turned the dial.” Signage in place to encourage social distancing and limits of sanitation to bathroom. July 4 weekend all sites are full. Board toured new sites. They are considered a more “natural area” for the campers who like that type of camping.

Sportsmen Park new shelter: The Sportsman club has donated \$6000+ to assist to build a shelter for the campground use. It will be built just east of the bathrooms and will include a cement patio with fire ring. Steve showed the location to the board.

Pool: Pool could open at 50% ,which is ¹⁹⁰~~124~~ persons, under some lifting of restrictions by governor. Many rules of sanitation and staffing. May include a reservation system. Board has concerns how all the rules can be maintained but city council will make the decision.

Softball and Baseball update: Steve doubtful either sport will be playing due to the difficulty of sanitation rules for this entity also, from no sunflower seeds, social distancing, no spitting and rules about ball handling. Steve has not heard of anyone moving forward.

Miscellaneous: Lawn mowing and trimming are continuous. Staff have been watering trees. Repainting completed at Eagles Park due to spray painting graffiti done by a person in the park. Law enforcement has identified the person and addressed. Discussed litter along edge of lake bordering Highway 4. Park department does pick up on a regular basis during week. Will consider a couple more trash cans but concern in the past is that wind off the lake blows them over. Nicole will discuss some community involvement in maintaining control of litter as a citizen project with the chamber. It is difficult when individuals do not pick up after themselves or take the garbage home with them when receptacles are not handy.

Next meeting: July 13, 2020 at Allison Park

Sleepy Eye Park Board Minutes
July 13, 2020
Allison Park Shelter

Attending: Diane, Greg, Joann (portion of meeting) and Steve
Absent: Pat, Nicole and Randy

Mike Sues of Lights in Motion came to request permission for addition of 4 power outlets for use by Lights in Motion display in Sportsman's Park. He also requested to use new shelter for an area where Lights in Motion could adapt for a warming space for people and a request to consider strengthening patio cement in case they need to drive on it with trucks for reaching a large tree near the shelter. Due to low attendance of park board members, this along with a request to remove and replace some shrubs in the park by Lights in Motion, will be discussed at our next meeting. Steve will also discuss with other members of the city administration.

Steve has had many compliments about secluded sites. Amanda reports people are requesting them.

In an Aquatic Center update, Steve states things are going well. Pool has three 2 hours slots of time that people can chose to come as long as they do not max out over 190 people. There is a half hour break between these sessions for cleaning and sanitation to be done. There are deck monitors that remind people of the social distancing and other rules. There are separate entrances and exits and plexi-glass in place.

Softball and Baseball games have been proceeding. They are scheduled by each coach and there is no food other than package items and beverage sold in the concession stand. The season will end in early August.

Steve informed the board that Matt Schmidt has joined the park board as another employee as of July 13, 2020. He has left the police force.

In other information, the Parks department has been busy with mowing, weeding and spraying. Cleanup after the 4th of July was noted to be easier.

Joann showed the board the new website for reserving campsites. Not up and running as the credit card system is not yet finalized. Of note, there are multiple views of each campsite for people to look at to make a decision regarding the choice of campsite.

Next Meeting: August 10, 2020 at Sportsman's Park at 6 PM.

**Sleepy Eye Park Board Minutes
August 10, 2020**

**Attending: JoAnn S, Greg T, Randy Z. Pat S, Diane E, and Steve L
Absent: Nicole K**

Mike Suess and Andy Pelzel met with the board to share some ideas they have for new landscaping in Sportsman Park. It is a project proposed by Holiday Lites in Motion. The board has no money to contribute if approved. Park board discussion held. Steve will get back to Mike with boards decision.

Steve shared pool statistics for this current season. Attendance was up compared the past 5 years. Revenue was down. Parents commented that they liked the 2 hour time slots. Last day at the pool will be August 22. The slides will be painted on August 24. Wendy will remain on as pool manager next year.

Softball and Baseball seasons have ended. Some talk of Legion baseball activity in September.

The part-time summer staff will be done next week as she returns to college.

Steve shared park shelter rental statistics. They had 19 cancellations due to covid but many parties have booked in 2021.

Steve announced that he would be retiring in October or November. His wife has taken a principal position in Litchfield and they will be moving to Hutchinson.

Next meeting: September 7, 2020 at the pool. (This is Labor Day but all members available to meet so meeting occurs prior to next council meeting that month.)

Sleepy Eye Park Board
Minutes
September 7, 2020
Sleepy Eye Aquatic Center

Attending: Joann, Pat, Greg Diane and Steve
Absent: Nicole and Randy

Rob Brandl gave a presentation regarding a family business he would propose to start at Sportsman Park. It is a vending machine that would contain fishing bait and other small fishing needs. It would provide a more local source of bait for those interested in fishing on shore. It may be of use for campers and someone coming to lake to enjoy that activity that would not have those supplies. It would probably just contain wax worms and nite crawlers as they would be easiest to keep in a refrigerated machine. He would be responsible for all expenses of setting up and maintaining this refrigerated unit. Park Board members were interested and had a few concerns that Steve will take to the city council for their input and further consideration.

Steve presented some rules he proposes for use of the new Lakeview shelter in the campground. He will discuss with city employee who handles these reservations for further input and then have them posted on website.

There has been a request for a set up of Frisbee golf equipment in Allison Park. The interested party has spoken with Steve with a course plan and offered to do some fundraising. The interested party feels there could be potential for tournaments if we had two courses in the city. Steve will discuss more with this party and inform board as plans progress. Steve says there is active use of current course at Sportsman Park. Board noted that business donated to the last course build.

Other news:

Costs coming in for the Lakeview shelter are running a little higher than thought.

Trees and shrubs will be purchased for campground area between camp sites where others have died or been damaged by campers. Steve hopes to complete that this month.

Parks department has been spraying, as mowing has slowed down.

Pool slide repair and painting is in progress.

Steve informed board that our October meeting will be his last

Next meeting:

October 12, 2020 at 6 PM

Location to be determined by weather

Park Board Minutes

October 12, 2020

Present: Steve, Randy, Greg, JoAnn, Matt and Pat

Absent: Diane and Nichole

1. DNR Letter: Grants from the DNR have been received many times, including, 1968, 1979, 1980 and 1990. They were given with the understanding that the parks would be used for recreational use only. The Nuvera poles and the future Bait Shop are being questioned as they would generate income. This may also affect Lights in Motion. Bob is checking into this, but the bottom line may be the wording at the time of grant disbursement.
2. Pool slide: all the work has been completed, for a total of \$46,550. It looks good and should be ready to go next season. The water is shut off, drained and blown out. A water fountain turn on was replaced.
3. Campground: The Park has been busy this fall. The new Lakefield Shelter has been rented a lot, mostly by campers. New trees and shrubs have been planted, including, Aspen, White Lilac, Burning Bush and Blue Muffin.
4. What have we been doing: The ends of the Keifer Shelter have been replaced, chopping leaves and a bench will be placed at the outdoor skating rink.

Next Meeting: November 9

**Sleepy Eye Park Board
Minutes
6 PM
November 9, 2020
City Garage**

**Attending: Greg Tennant, Diane Evers, Nicole Krenz, Randy Zinniel and Matt Schmidt
Absent: Pat Starkey and Joann Schmidt**

As a followup to information provided about the DNR and grant rules, as they apply to Sportsman's Park, at the last meeting, Matt shared that they have not heard further on concerns presented by the DNR.

The docks have been removed from Sleepy Eye Lake. The dock in the far west position needed some repair due to a broken axle. The main dock may need more repair in the coming years.

In pool news, Matt reported that 3 repaired umbrellas were picked up and another brought in for repair in Mankato. Work will be needed to be done on the splash pool in the coming years.

Five year plan ideas were discussed:

- Equipment replacement including pole saw and mowers**
- Work on the splash pool**
- Removal or moving of wooden playground equipment in the parks**
- Thoughts regarding a handi-capped playground**
- Landscaping at the pool**
- Dock improvements**
- Maintaining a parks playground improvements rotation**

Sportsman's Park campground use continues to be good. This year there were 482 campsite reservations and 50 cab reservations. Discussion was had regarding some clean up of the "natural" sites due to the need for more room due to larger campers. Board made the decision to keep daily rates the same, as they are in the range of other local campgrounds.

In other details:

- Matt has taken a course to work with the aerator.**
- Markers for swimming buoys and aerator were GPSed for ease of placement.**
- Tree trimming is being done along the trail and within the city.**
- Leaf clean up completed at the library.**

Matt is looking at using Facebook to give notice of activities of the Parks department that may be of interest or impact the community.

Next meeting: January 11, 2021 at the City Garage.