

## Park and Recreation Commission Minutes

September 23, 2024

Chair Kacie Fahey called the meeting to order. Present were Kacie Fahey, Mark Page, Tanya Borchardt, Amanda Stender, Nicole Bower, Josh Lindgren, Danny Rubio, Dawn McCracken and Charles Seipel-Teng.

Anna Springer, with Bolten-Menk, presented the Empire Parks survey results. She also went over the vision statement and guiding principles which include being accessible, educational, conservation-minded, connected, forward-thinking and resourceful. Anna reviewed the existing amenities and facilities of the current parks and other natural spaces.

The next phase of the park plan will be to

- Develop recommendations in October
- Review recommendations with the Parks and Recreation Committee in November
- Develop a draft Plan November/December
- Final plan review with Parks and Recreation Committee in December
- Council approval- December/January

Jerod and Dawn researched a 12 ft. tree option for the future holiday tree lighting from Green Acres in Hasting. The cost will be \$1,000.00 which is all inclusive. The price will include the planting as well as a 1-year warranty. Green Acres recommended planting either a Balsam Fir or a Norway Spruce. The Committee chose a Balsam Fir. A previous consideration, a White Spruce, was not recommended. The first tree lighting ceremony will be in the winter of 2025.

The Committee chose an inflatable reindeer costume to replace the Frosty costume from last year. Jill has agreed to return in the roll of Mrs. Claus for the Holiday Party.

The STS crew will be returning on Wednesday to do the Fall cleanup of the flower beds and roundabout.

The meeting was adjourned.