

**DIXON PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD RETREAT
1312 WASHINGTON AVENUE DIXON, ILLINOIS
SEPTEMBER 6, 2024, 9:00AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President, Rodney Frey called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM

Roll Call: President, Rodney Frey-Present
 Vice President, Keith Aurand-Present
 Secretary, Anthony Venier-Present
 Commissioner, Autumn Brady-Present
 Commissioner, Nathan McCoy-Present

Staff Present: Duane Long, Executive Director
 Michelle Lawson, Office Administrator
 Seth Nicklaus, Recreation Director
 Michele Kreczmer, Recreation Supervisor

II. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

A. None

III. VISITORS- Josh Shipman-Bow Hunting Coordinator

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. None

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V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 9:00 AM

Load Bus

9:05 AM

Drive-By:

Chula Vista, 801 Chula Vista Drive: Keith Aurand would like to get rid of this property. Duane Long told the board we do not maintain this property any longer. The neighbors do a great job of mowing and trimming. The neighbors also handle the snow removal. This property was given to us by the City of Dixon. The Park District can pursue selling this property if the Board chooses.

Triangle Park, 500 E. Everett St.: Keith Aurand would like to see something done for the Senior Community possibly like Peace Park. He feels adding outdoor games like chess or shuffleboard. He believes adding sunshades would give the space a relaxing area for Seniors. Duane Long added that there are deed restrictions for no structures. This eliminates the sunshade ideas as it is a structure. Duane also noted there are lots of memorials in Triangle Park.

Howell Park, 324 E. Boyd St.: Anthony Venier is looking into future landscaping for this area of the park. It is directly across from the updated Dixon Riverfront and could be enhanced to be a dreamscape space. The cabin across from this property is owned by the State of Illinois. We maintain this property for a yearly fee paid by the State.

Duane Long noted the property is a utility corridor, but we should be able to dig deep enough for trees and landscaping once we have the property julied to dig. One idea that was brought to our attention in the past was adding amphitheater stairs to enhance the riverbank.

Walk Through: Available BoatHouse: This part of the park is the location for our boathouse and boat slip leases. There is one vacant boathouse that the Park District will update and put up for lease. This boathouse will be split into two leases.

Drive-By:

Page Park, Page Park Drive : Duane Long shared the latest plans for the City's revitalization grant. This grant will add changes to Page Park. The Park District is

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looking to add an all green bathroom. The cost is approximately \$120,000 to build. It will be solar powered and use no utilities. Once the work begins on the City's new pathway the High School shot and disc area in Page Park will need to be moved. Duane and Seth are working on alternative spots for the shot and disc field. Several board members are concerned with the public feeding the geese in Page Park. There are two signs to not feed the geese.

Walk Through: E.C. Smith Park-455 W. 7th St.: Nate McCoy wanted to tour E.C. Smith to see what areas the board wanted to improve. Nate also asked about adding parking spaces to the park. Duane Long reported the park was donated to the Park District by Dixon Public Schools. The park currently has a playground also known as Kiddie Koral, a sledding hill, and three tennis courts. Duane gave numbers on the possible cost to repave the three courts that are in bad shape. The approximate cost to repave only is \$80,000. Duane would like to find other uses for the courts. One idea is to leave one tennis court and make the other two courts into something different. Duane and Seth are looking into other recreational activities for the park. Duane would like to see a warming shed on the property for the sledders.

Drive-By:

Ballou Park, 600 E. 7th St.: Rodney Frey wanted to tour Ballou Park to bring notice to the green space and see if there is a possibility of adding something to the park. Seth Nicklaus told the board the ball fields in the park have been updated with a new scoreboard and LED lighting. The fields had 8 loads of aglime added last summer. This park has the best grass in all our parks. The Kiwanis Shelter was added and is a model for any new shelters our parks may get. The basketball courts are on a list to improve. There is also an idea of adding an indoor batting cage to this park. The Dixon Junior Girls Softball program maintains both ball fields in Ballou Park.

Walk Through: Vaile Park-251 Custer Ave.: Duane Long told the board the playground is the newest one in all our parks. The current project is upgrading the basketball courts. The courts are all paved and will be painted next week. The glass backboards will be put up once the painting is complete. There is all new LED lighting and it can be added to in the future if more light is needed. We have two court sponsors, one for each court.

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Trinity Financial and Pest Control Consultants will be the sponsors. The grand opening for the Larry and Louise Basketball Courts is September 17, 2024.

Drive-By:

Lowell Park-2114 Lowell Park Rd.: Rodney Frey wanted to tour Lowell Park to look at the shore line along the Rock River. Rodney would like to see a budget item for rock to be added to the shore to combat erosion. Duane Long told the board that looking at the new kayak launch you can see the rock that was added to the shoreline. The river had flooded this summer and the rock held up very well, but the dirt that was placed on the edge was completely taken by flooding. Duane would like to have a 5 year plan or longer to get started on added erosion control to the bank. If rock was added our maintenance crew will need to spray yearly for weeds. Adding rock would cost approximately \$20,000. We can also look into tri-lock and seawall as other options.. Both are more expensive. Another need is repaving the roads and adding parking spaces. This would cost approximately 1.2 million dollars. On the way out of Lowell Park the board made suggestions for the new outdoor classroom. Anthony Venier suggested possible landscaping ideas. Seth Nicklaus added that interactive play for kids would enhance the area. Lowell Park had the bathrooms completely remodeled last summer by our staff. The new kayak rental system has brought in \$727.00 as of May 2024.

B. 12:30 PM

Lunch at the Facility

C. Bow Hunting

Josh Shipman, Bow Hunting Coordinator proposed two new rules to add to the hunting program. The first rule is use of trail cameras. The update for trail cameras will keep all trail cameras off pathways. Each camera will be tagged to show ownership of the camera. Maximum of two trail cameras per hunter and keep 30 feet away from open pathways. The Park District will take no liability on lost or stolen cameras.

Motion by Anthony Venier to approve trail cameras to the hunting rules with two

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trail cameras per hunter and keeping trail cameras 30 feet off the trails, seconded by Nate McCoy.

Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes; Nathan McCoy-Yes

Motion Carried.

Josh Shipman, Bow Hunting Coordinator proposed two new rules to add to the hunting program. The second rule to allow hunters to hunt the open Park District land along the prison property. This property used to be hunted then was off limits for many years per the former hunting coordinators. Michelle Lawson contacted Dixon Correctional Center to notify them of the area we will add for hunting. New contact information was received on who to call at the correctional center if a deer is shot and passes onto prison property.

Motion by Keith Aurand to approve hunting the open Park District land along the prison property, seconded by Autumn Brady.

Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes; Nathan McCoy-Yes

Motion Carried.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION-None

VII. ADJOURN

Motion by Anthony Venier to Adjourn, seconded by Nate McCoy to Adjourn.

Vote by Roll Call: Keith Aurand-Yes; Rodney Frey-Yes; Autumn Brady-Yes; Anthony Venier-Yes; Nathan McCoy-Yes

Meeting Adjourned at 12:39 PM

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Signatures:

_____ Date: _____
Rodney Frey

_____ Date: _____
Anthony Venier

_____ Date: _____
Autumn Brady

_____ Date: _____
Keith Aurand

_____ Date: _____
Nathan McCoy

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