

e. Vanessa Kuehner asked about impact fees.

Beth Klein W60N758 Jefferson Ave.

Beth Klein stated that she would like to see more beautification of the City's trails.

- a. Beth Klein explained that the interurban trail between Keup and Bobolink looks bare after they cleared many of the trees. She also stated that the interurban trail from Pioneer and into the City does not look inviting or invigorating.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Citizen Discussion on the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)

Adlai Horn Park – Beth Klein asked about the facilities that are at Adlai Horn Park. Administrator Hilvo stated that there are bathroom facilities there along with a walking path.

Behling Field – No Comments

Baehmann Park – There was discussion about the addition of a path from playground to sidewalk on the east end of the park.

Beckmann Park – Chairperson Herold commented about safety with the bluff and mentioned the addition of a fence.

Beechwood Park – Chairperson Herold mentioned that we need to monitor the invasives in this area and try to control the spread.

Cedar Creek Park – No Comments

Boy Scout Park – Brian Draper mentioned that he'd rather not have the building there and would prefer it to be open space. He also stated that he doesn't like that it is only leased out by the Boy Scouts. Administrator Hilvo explained that we rent that area out for other public purposes as well. Beth Klein asked about when we utilize the park for festivals and who maintains the creek for ice skating. Administrator Hilvo explained that the bathrooms are open year-round to the public, but the inside is not accessible to the public unless rented from the City or the Boy Scouts. He also explained that the City plows the creek for ice skating.

Cedar Hedge Park & Trail – Brian Draper stated he thinks it would be great if the trail connected to Highway 60. There was discussion about who owns the open lot on the south end of the trail.

Elizabeth Brennon W62N335 Hanover Ave.

Elizabeth Brennon stated how she likes all of the nature trails and asked how does it get embodied in a smart growth plan so it doesn't get overlooked.

- a. Elizabeth Brennon asked if the park plan includes everything up to Highway 60 and if the public can park on the road.

Cedar Pointe Conservancy – No Comments

Cedar Pointe Park – No Comments

Centennial Park – There was discussion about adding a splash pad to replace the volleyball courts.

City Entrance Park – No Comments

City Hall Lawn – No Comments

Doctors Park – No Comments

E. Stephen Fischer Park - No Comments

Founders Park - No Comments

Georgetown Park – Beth Klein mentioned that keeping the garbage cans there since they were removed a couple of years ago.

Georgetown Walking Path – Brian Draper commented about off of Meadow Ct. a neighbor has landscaped an area that blocks the entrance. Vanessa Kuehner asked if a sign could be posted about where to enter the park.

Harrison Park – No Comments

Highland Bridge Park - No Comments

Hillcrest Park – Elizabeth Brennon stated that it used to have more picnic tables and benches there and each year there are less.

Irma Fischer Park – No Comments

Legion Park – Elizabeth Brennon asked if flowers were planted there for flowering on Memorial Day. Administrator Hilvo stated that perennials were planted there, but now it has become harder to maintain. They have now been replaced with annuals for Memorial Day.

Pioneer Park – No Comments

Prairie View Park - No Comments

Rappold Park - No Comments

Retzlaff Park - No Comments

Wegmann Park/Maple Manor - No Comments

Westlawn Woods Park - No Comments

Willowbrooke Park – Vanessa Kuehner asked about vegetation around the bank of the pond and what the goal is with cutting it. Administrator Hilvo stated that we let the vegetation grow to control the geese population. We also do oiling of the eggs for geese population control.

Woodland Park – There is discussion about the algae that has almost completely overgrown the formerly scenic pond. Vanessa Kuehner mentioned that it looks as if it is becoming wetlands. Beth

Klein mentioned that we hired people to clean things out and they left it a mess.

Wurthman Park – Terry Wagner asked if there were trees removed from the park recently. Director Friess explained that the tree was from a citizen’s backyard.

Zeunert Park – No Comments

Interurban Trail – No Comments

Cedar Creek Walkway – No Comments

Other Comments

There was a comment from the email that proposed that the City can be a good example, by planting native plants in parks, along roadways, the City Hall lawn, etc. and include signage that explains what is planted and why.

There was comment from the email that stated concerns about the state of the pollinators (bees, butterflies, moths, etc.), birds, and other wildlife. They stated that their whole neighborhood consists of a few non-native plants and chemically maintained lawns. They wondered why more people aren’t aware of how they can help pollinators and wildlife and if they are even aware that they need help.

There was a comment from the email that stated they think that there should be a community-wide education blitz to inform citizens of the dangers that pollinators and birds are facing, and what they can do to make a difference in their own yards. They said that the habitat is disappearing due to chemical sprays, development, invasive plants, and climate change. They suggested a well-designed flier to be put in mailboxes or left in downtown businesses could be a starting point.

Discussion and Possible Action of CORP

Administrator Hilvo spoke about some new park ideas that he has for the City. He mentions that behind Galioto’s there is property that needs clean-up. There have been talks between Town and the City about whether it is a joint effort for a new facility to service both of our communities. He also talked about the open land across from Webster Middle School and how developers have looked at that area in the past. As we talk about the smart growth plan, he encourages the City to look at this property as something that could be for the schools and our department to work together on. He went on to discuss the large quarry that this off of Sheboygan Road. He stated that it is currently being filled with clean materials and he would like to create a water feature at this location along with a park. He discussed the area near the North Shore soccer fields and stated that he would like to put a playground there to service that end of the City. He also talked about the land off of Pioneer Road, which is potentially going to be used for the new wastewater treatment plant. He explained how he has had discussions with the County to see if that area could be a County Park or if the City can also help work on it. He stated that this potentially is a site for an indoor recreation facility.

Beth Klein asked about the acreage deficiency and Administrator Hilvo stated that this will be part of the update that Director Friess will be looking into.

Vanessa Keuhner asked if the County ever discusses helping fund for park land. Administrator Hilvo stated that the County does have interest in helping develop park land.

Elizabeth Brennon mentioned that she noticed there is not a lot of nature space and trails. She stated that she currently has to leave the City to go to a nature trail and would like the Board to embrace an increase in nature trails beyond what we have downtown. She also expressed that she thinks the City should do a needs analysis for soccer fields, basketball courts, etc.

Terry Wagner asked about the green space by St. Johns and Madison Ave. and if that space can be used. Administrator Hilvo stated that it can be made into medium residential space. He said that the property has some contamination underneath and is a DNR and EPA site.

No other discussion or action was needed.

REPORTS

Director Friess reported on the ice rink, pickleball and tennis nets, windscreens, resealing the paths this spring for walking paths at Centennial, Cedar Creek and Cedar Pointe parks, and set the next meeting for March 12, 2025 at 5:30pm.

Superintendent Anderson reported on youth basketball, toddler playtime, mighty mites soccer, indoor walking, selling pool pass gift certificates, pool pass renewals, the need for scorekeepers/referees for youth basketball, and the Santa Dash Away 5k.

City Forester Westphal reported on the new forestry employee, tree pruning, service request pruning, emergency tree service calls, tree plantings, street tree pruning, and the Tree City USA report.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Brian Clement, seconded by James Schara, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried without a negative vote with Council Member Mueller excused.

Chandler Steffen
Recreation Coordinator