

Mission Township Park Committee Meeting January 28, 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom at 1:00 p.m.

Participating: Committee members participating were Jim Peterson, Michael Blassey, and Dave Baker. No other individuals participated.

Minnesota DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Program Application: Most of the meeting was spent discussing the status of the application. J. Peterson has been writing the application and went through open items. The most significant open item is the development of a site plan. J. Peterson has tried to develop one using the GIS information on the Crow Wing County website but it does not allow changes to be saved and edited. After discussion, J. Peterson recommended the committee look for individuals/companies who could prepare a site plan and obtain fee estimates for such work. J. Peterson also recommended the committee members review and edit the application internally before it is submitted. J. Peterson will contact potential grant writers to get a fee estimate of potentially reviewing and editing the grant should the Supervisors want to do so. J. Peterson has been working extensively with a contact from the Minnesota DNR on questions related to the grant application. Although the application is due March 31, it is recommended it be submitted in early March at which time DNR contact will review and give feedback for potential changes or additions.

M. Blassey is working to get estimates of the pickleball courts, resurfacing the basketball court, and new crushed rock/dirt for the baseball field infield. D. Baker is working to get estimates for upgrading and redeveloping the playground and related equipment. The committee members met with Chris Johnsen from St. Croix Recreation on January 22 at the park to review the current playground and equipment. Chuck Anderson will continue to get estimates on costs of gates and fencing for the pickleball courts.

Due to the difficulty with the site plan and potential cost of developing a plan that would include all the adjoining acreage by the park, J. Peterson recommended expansion of the trails be removed from the grant request since cost is not estimated to be significant. M. Blassey stated the potential replacement of the gate on County Road 109 should also be removed from the application. Therefore, the site plan should only include the 28.5 acre parcel on which all of the park amenities are located.

The group discussed several items that will be brought up at the Township meeting on February 1, 2021. J. Peterson will discuss those items at the meeting.

Other grants: While committee members will continue to watch for other grant opportunities, it is agreed all efforts should be on the DNR grant at this time.

Other: M. Blassey indicated park use is up this winter and it is being used extensively by walkers and skiers. The ski trails are being maintained accordingly. The topic of a summer parade in 2021 was discussed but the committee recommends it be suspended for now due to the pandemic. M. Blassey mentioned a lot of up-front effort goes into planning for the event and there is too much uncertainty at this point. The group is very receptive to adding more members to the committee and will actively seek to do so in the spring.

