

City of Winsted
Park Commission Work Session
City Council Chambers
November 9, 2015
5:00 p.m.

Present: Steve Ebert
Evelyn Fowler
Tim Fury
Cindy Racette

Absent: Petie Littfin
Bonnie Quast (Council Liaison)

Staff Present: Daniel Tienter, City Administrator
Deborah Boelter, City Clerk-Treasurer

1) Call the Meeting to Order

Mr. Ebert called the Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

2) Park System Master Planning Process

Mr. Tienter stated that after the opportunities and threats are reviewed during this meeting, he would develop some themes to bring to the Park Commission members at the next work session to consider.

Mr. Tienter reviewed some of the questions asked when considering opportunities and threats that were provided in the information distributed to the Park Commission members regarding the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) exercise.

The Park Commission members listed the following as what they perceived as Opportunities of Winsted's Park System:

- Campbell Field Improvements– Winsted Wildcats has a good following of fans.
- Increase the equipment at Northgate and Westgate and find a use for the large amount of open space land at these parks. Expand and make the park more useable.
- Connect Winsted on the Lake to the downtown area via a trail.
- Barrett Park – Concession stand and equipment needs improvement. Large fundraising opportunities exist now that Winsted is ball tournament ready. Partner with local organizations to fund raise during games.
- Barrett Park – Restrooms need improvement. This is an appealing park but the restrooms are not and this makes a statement.
- Southview Park – install dugouts, install bleachers, consider building a permanent restroom.
- Install electronic scoreboards in Barrett Field and Southview Field. Solicit funds from Tetra Pak donations to install the scoreboard at Southview Field since it is a neighbor to Tetra Pak and since they have a certain amount of funds that they must donate each year.
- Winsted Athletic Complex field – Create other uses for the field besides the limited number of football games there.
- Install/improve the walking/running track at the Winsted Athletic Complex.
- Consider scheduled times where the lights are on at the Winsted Athletic Complex for the public to use the park during the evenings.
- Converting the Winsted Athletic Complex field into some use other than park use.
- Install direction signage on McLeod County Road One (1) to direct people to parks and trails.
- Advertise and market the parks on the City's website.
- Collaborate with the Downtown Vibrancy Commission to brand the City and include this in signage within Winsted.
- Improve communications with residents to inform them of the long term plan for the parks.
- Mill Reserve Park – Incorporate more of the Winsted Summer Festival back into this park.
- Addition of public art into the lakefront promenade.
- Install a water fountain in Winsted Lake

The Park Commission members listed the following as what they perceived as Threats of Winsted's Park System:

- Community support of changes to parks. Park Master Plan needs to be communicated well to Winsted residents.
- Lack of Funding/budget for improvements to parks.
- Lake bank growth of invasive weeds and overgrowth.
- Lack of care and abuse of Northgate Park. Northgate Park is heavily used park by Mobile Home residents. Focused effort on pride of the community needs to be developed at this park
- Lack of ordinance language to command that park land dedication has to be useable park land to create a park. Not green space, swamp land, dumping site, or drainage ditch. Possibly add stronger language that the developer has to build the park, connect the park to trails, and install a certain amount of park equipment.
- Donations for improvements from Winsted businesses are over-exhausted/over solicited.
- Deferred maintenance on the equipment in the park. Majority of funds will go to replace aged equipment.

The Park Commission members listed the following as what they perceived as Weaknesses of Winsted's Park System to add to the existing list of weaknesses:

- Lack of park user data. Need to know numbers and ages of people using the parks at different times in the day.
- Lack of a Development Plan for the financing of park improvements.

3) Adjournment

The work session dismissed at 5:55 p.m.

Daniel Tienter

City Administrator
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

Raquel Kirchoff

Raquel Kirchoff,
Administrative Assistant
City of Winsted