

City of Winsted
Park Commission Work Session
Lewis Room
December 14, 2015
5:00 p.m.

Present: Steve Ebert
Evelyn Fowler
Petie Littfin
Cindy Racette
Bonnie Quast (Council Liaison)

Absent: Tim Fury

Staff Present: Daniel Tienter, City Administrator
Raquel Kirchoff, Administrative Assistant

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 the Park Commission finished reviewing the opportunities and threats of the park system at the last work session; and that tonight, goals and themes would be developed. Mr. Tienter stated that once the goals and themes were developed, the Commission members would develop strategies from these to develop the master plan for the parks in the future. Mr. Tienter stated that once the Park Commission develops strategies, public outreach can be scheduled to receive public input on the goals and strategies created by the Park Commission. Once this is complete, the Park Commission will refine the goals and strategies further to develop the plan.

Mr. Tienter provided the Park Commission members with a list of "Possible Capital Improvements" based on conversations during the work sessions.

Mr. Tienter provided a brief packet of information with examples of other cities and counties that have established goals for a park master plan.

Mr. Tienter provided the information from questions regarding the park system from the citizen survey conducted in the year 2014.

Mr. Tienter asked the Park Commission members to complete a creative idea exercise. He asked them how they would spend an imaginary \$1 Million dollars on the park system based on the conversations that have happened at the work sessions as an exercise to start thinking about setting goals. The Park Commission members shared their responses from this exercise as follow.

- Dredge out Winsted Lake
- Finish the Wildcat field
- More trails connecting South Lake
- Activities for older people in the parks
- More flowers and greens
- Good playground equipment
- Splash park near Winsted Lake
- A good cement skateboard park
- Complete the Upgrades to Barrett Park that were discussed
- Add bleachers at Southview Park
- Focus on Mill Reserve Park because this park is the City's central park on the lake and has the potential for the "wow" factor.
 - Add trees
 - Fix the slope on the south end
 - Install new plant material to the areas where the plantings died
 - Install better electrical capability in the shelter house.

- Clean up the Lake Bank from Kingsley Street through the Promenade.
- Upgrade playground equipment in Hainlin, Mill Reserve, Northgate and Westgate.
- Install dugouts at Southview Park.
- Install seating in Southview Park and at Campbell Field.
- Upgrade playground equipment especially in Mill Reserve Park and Hainlin Park
- Upgrade the bathrooms in the parks.
- Replace the dilapidated barbeque grills.
- Hide the unattractive sides of the buildings that face the lake on the Promenade.
- Improve smaller parks before Mill Reserve Park and Hainlin Park to catch them up because they have been neglected.
- Trails to connect parks and going around the lake.
- Create a soccer field.

Mr. Tienter stated that the Park Commission would complete a “Snowcard Analysis” with post it notes. He requested each Commission Member to write seven to ten different goals on post it notes. Once the goals were developed, he would display them in groups that have similar themes. Mr. Tienter stated that this exercise should set the tone for the action plan for the Park Systems Plan.

The Park Commission members wrote the following goals.

- Improve all of the smaller parks.
- Connect the parks via trails.
- Soccer field.
- Improve seating at all parks (to include bleachers for the fields, picnic tables, benches in other parks and along trails)
- Improve landscaping where necessary to include flowers and trees.
- Install a map/kiosk at Mill Reserve Park and Hainlin Park showing all parks and trails in Winsted.
- Doggy bag dispensers at all parks.
- Improve lighting for safety where necessary.
- Replace dilapidated grills at Hainlin Park and improve the eating area.
- Complete the Campbell Field renovation.
- Add trees, benches, picnic tables and replace broken playground equipment at Northgate Park.
- Add trees to parks where they have died. Think about an adopt a tree program to get these trees planted.
- Make the Promenade someplace where people want to spend time. Cover and hide ugly buildings.
- Create a parking area for Southview Park. Add trees and bleachers.
- Connect the trail from County Road 9 to County Road 1
- Review the Park Classification System
- Add trees at the ball parks for shade.
- Fix the Lake Bank.
- Better marked connection between the Luce Line Trail and the Downtown Area
- Connection between the Downtown Area and Winsted on the Lake via a trail.
- Improve all ball fields due to increase usage – scoreboards, etc.
- Update the restrooms at current parks and add restrooms at Mill Reserve Park.
- Have new developers contribute usable park land and equipment.
- A comprehensive plan for Mill Reserve Park, the Lake Bank, the Promenade.
- Connectivity on trails.
- Bleachers on Southview.
- Playground equipment updates.
- Create good signage for the Park System and trails.
- Trail around Winsted Lake.
- Good trail system.

Mr. Tienter arranged the post it goals according to similarities. The following goals were developed from the post it note goals.

- ***Improving the Natural Resources and Aesthetic Qualities of the Parks.***
 - Controlling invasive species like buckthorn
 - Removing aging and dying trees and replacing them with new trees

- Improving the lake bank
- Maintain the resources proactively
- **Improving Connectivity Among the Park Units and the Housing Developments.**
 - Mr. Tienter stated that there is a current trail plan so that will be examined in comparison to this statement.
- **Improving Facilities and User Experience of the Parks with Emphasis on Safety, Baseball Fields, Restrooms, Concession Stands and Seating**
 - Repair or replace broken playground equipment and expand equipment if necessary
 - Add trees
 - Picnic tables
 - Grills
 - Nets and turf repair at Weinbeck Field
 - Install a soccer field at Weinbeck Field
 - Rehabilitate the track in Weinbeck Field
 - Install benches along trails
 - Create a Deferred Maintenance Schedule of Parks and focus money during different years on a rotating schedule of parks.
- **Improving the City's Policies and Practices Concerning Parks**
 - Change the ordinance language
 - Provide maintenance schedule
 - Review uses annually
 - More regular tree trimming
- **Improving the Access and Availability of the Parks to Many Different Demographic Groups**
 - Be open to programmatic opportunities
 - Provide opportunity to improve health and wellness
 - Turn on the lights at Weinbeck Field for use of the park in the evening
 - Replace horseshoe courts with bocce ball or shuffle board
 - Provide a skating rink on Winsted Lake
- **Longer Term Goals (Greater than 10 Years)**
 - Build a four field ball complex
 - Install a tennis court
 - Dredge Winsted Lake

3) Adjournment

The work session dismissed at 6:53 p.m.

Daniel Tienter

City Administrator
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

Raquel Kirchoff

Raquel Kirchoff,
Administrative Assistant
City of Winsted