

City of Winsted  
Park Commission  
Monday, March 10, 2014  
5:00 p.m.

Park Commission Members Present: Steve Ebert  
Tim Fury  
Kimberly Moen  
Bonnie Quast, City Council Liaison

Absent: Jordan Wolfe  
Petie Littfin

Staff Present: Clay Wilfahrt, City Administrator  
Raquel Kirchoff, Administrative Assistant

**1) Call the Meeting to Order**

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

**2) Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2014**

**Mr. Fury made a motion to approve the minutes of the Park Commission Meeting on January 13, 2014. Ms. Moen seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

**3) Staff Report**

Mr. Wilfahrt stated that he met with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding the Luce Line State Trail and that the FAA still a few minor concerns. He continued by stating that a letter received from Department of Natural Resources (DNR) help to ease the concerns of the FAA.

Mr. Wilfahrt stated that the City Council will consider moving forward with the paving of the trail at a future City Council meeting.

**4) No Old Business**

**5) New Business**

**a) Winsted Little League Association – Southview Field Electricity Request**

Mr. Wilfahrt stated that the Winsted Little League Association has approached the City about making some improvements to Southview Field. In particular, the Little League Association would like to add electricity to Southview Field. Electricity is used primarily for a pitching for both games and practices. Currently, the Little League teams that require electricity have to run an extension cord from a nearby home.

The homeowner has been amenable to this arrangement so far, but this is not a sustainable model. In the event that the current homeowner is not home, it may not be possible for the teams to gain access to electricity. Also, in the event that the current homeowner moves, a new homeowner may not be as agreeable to such an arrangement.

The Little League Association has received two (2) estimates for the cost of running electricity to the field. The first estimate was from Premiere Electric in Brooklyn Park which estimated the cost to be \$1,500 to \$2,000. The second estimate was from CR Electric in Winsted which estimated the cost to be \$1,595. Since the range of the Premiere Electric quote is large and potentially more expensive than the quote from CR Electric, staff would recommend proceeding with the quote from CR Electric if the Park Commission chooses to proceed with this project.

Mr. Wilfahrt stated that the City has been contacted by Casey's General Store of Winsted who has indicated a desire to donate towards this project. Casey's would like to donate \$500 towards the cost of completing this project. Staff anticipates that the donation will be accepted by the City Council at its March 18, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Wilfahrt stated that with the donation, the Park Commission would need to spend an estimated \$1,095 on this project. That amount would come out of the Parks Improvement Fund. The City budgeted \$6,000 for improvements in 2014, and has not utilized any of that money to date.

Mr. Baumann explained where the electricity outlet would be placed, stating that it would not be in the field of play.

Ms. Moen asked what other park improvements would be requested in 2014.

Mr. Baumann stated that the Winsted Little League would request a permanent fence at Southview Field. The Park Commission members discussed how the Winsted Little League was using the portable fence which was purchased for Barrett Field and which has deteriorated faster than expected due to frequent moving of the fence. Mr. Baumann stated that he estimates that the portable fence will be usable for one more season, since the poles for the fence are deteriorating. Mr. Ebert stated that new poles could be purchased so that the fence could be used for a longer time period.

Mr. Baumann stated that the Winsted Little League is also trying to make the fields eligible for tournament play which requires that two fields have fences on them. Tournament play would bring people to Winsted who would spend money in Winsted.

Mr. Wilfahrt stated that he has been approached by the Winsted Wildcats for improvements to Campbell Field to make the field eligible for tournament play. Mr. Wilfahrt explained how the Wildcats proposed to pay for Campbell Field improvements with the City's help.

Ms. Quast stated that the Park Commission has been discussing improvements to the skate park for several years.

Mr. Ebert asked how much the fence for Southview Field would cost. Mr. Baumann estimated that the cost would be \$8,000 and asked for the City to cover half of the cost. Ms. Moen stated that this would deplete the entire Park Improvements Fund budget for the year and stated that other park improvements may be desired by residents that do not participate in baseball or softball.

The Park Commission members discussed the park improvement projects and the potential upcoming survey regarding the parks.

Mr. Wilfahrt stated that since the donation from Casey's General Store was ready for use and since the Winsted Little League had quotes for the electricity project and were ready to move forward with the project, this project was recommended at this time for consideration.

**Mr. Fury motioned to recommend that the City Council approve a quote from CR Electric to install electricity to Southview Field. Ms. Moen seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

**6) No Announcements**

**7) Adjournment**

**Ms. Moen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fury seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.**

**The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.**

*Clay Wilfahrt*

Clay Wilfahrt  
City Administrator  
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

*Raquel Kirchoff*

Raquel Kirchoff  
Administrative Assistant  
City of Winsted