

PARK COMMISSION MEETING

January 4, 2024

Minutes

Attending: Chris Narveson, Mark Pernitz, Kelly Ruschman, Jason Neton, Dana Emmerton(remotely)

Excused: Harry Pulliam

Absent: Mona Sue French, Rose Pertzborn

Also Attending: Elliot Buol, Frank Grenzow, Matt Stelter (remotely)

1. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order by acting Chair Narveson at 6:00 pm

2. Proof of Posting. Narveson attested to proper proof of posting.

3. Approve Minutes from December 20, 2023. Motion by Ruschman, second by Pernitz, to approve the minutes of December 4, 2023. Motion approved.

4. Public Comments. None.

5. Consider Request from Matt Stelter to Hunt Town Land on State Highway 39 Through January 31, 2024. Motion by Pernitz, second by Neton, to recommend to the Town board that Matt Stelter be allowed to continue to hunt on the Town park land through the end of January, 2024. Motion approved.

6. Review Restoration Committee Report on Seeding of Town Land on Hwy 39. Ruschman reported that the committee recently met with Elliot Buol who has been farming the land. Elliot Buol was present and participated in the discussion. The committee recommends that the Town restore to prairie a 5 acre parcel of bottom land bordering Legler Creek in 2024. The cost of the seed, mowing, chemical burndown and seeding is approximately \$5,000 and would be included in the 2024 Park budget.

The committee also recommends a phased approach to restoring the remaining land. Beginning in 2025 and continuing for 4 subsequent years (5 years total), 10 acres of cropland would be restored to prairie each year by creating 30-foot-wide contour prairie strips. Work would not begin until 2025 to allow for dissipation of existing herbicides. Funding would be included in the Park budget. A schematic of the planned contours would be prepared in conjunction with Buol so that he can plan his farming.

Motion by Pernitz, second by Ruschman, to recommend that the Town Board enter into an agreement with Elliot Buol for his continued farming of the Town park land with a phaseout of the farmland to prairie over a 5 year period beginning in 2025. Motion approved.

7. Review Fall Tree Sale Customer Orders and Plan to Place Order with Sustainable Wildlife Habitats. A discussion took place on the Town tree order. Ruschman will coordinate the order with the Town clerk.

9. Discuss and Possibly Amend 2023 Budget and Discuss the 2024 Budget. Motion by Ruschman, second by Pernitz, to transfer the \$5,558 balance in the 2023 Park budget to the Park Sinking Fund. Motion approved.

8. Schedule Next Meeting, January 17, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

9. Adjourn. Motion by Pernitz, second by Neton to adjourn. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Approved: January 17, 2024

Minutes prepared by Pernitz