

McGregor Park Board Minutes, May 1, 2019

The meeting convened at 5:00 pm at McGregor City Hall. In attendance were members Bonnie Troester, Ryan Koeller, Harold Waterman and chairman Maria Brummel. Secretary Megan Beisker was out of town. Minutes were presented but tabled for approval until our next meeting when Secretary Beisker will be in attendance. The chairman started the meeting by welcoming our new member, Harold Waterman. There was no correspondence.

Under old business. Chairman Brummel reported on the trees planted in the parks last Spring to replace the many trees lost in the tornado. Three trees that did not make it and were replaced last fall. Over the Winter one of the newly planted trees died at Peace Park and one of the replacement trees is looking very bad. The female Kentucky Coffee trees that were donated by the Achievement club will be purchased from them by Chairman Brummel, removed and replaced with Hackberry trees in the near future. There were concerns about having the female variety that has pods with poisonous seeds in a public park close to the playground at Artesian Park and Turner Park.

The chairman reported that the Turner Park Committee held five fundraisers this past year. They were The Hog Roast/ Fun Run, Home Tour, Chili Cook Off, Pancake Breakfast and Earth Day Celebration and Basket Auction at Turner Park. All proceeds will go toward the Turner Park Splash Pad. At this time, the committee plans the same five for this next year. Maria urged all Park Board members to join the committee and help with the various fundraisers.

City employee Tom Sinclair reported at an earlier date that he had installed 5 of the 7 memorial plaques last fall and will be doing the last two as time permits. Tom also did a beautiful job of installing the plaque in Dave Breitbach's name on a center post in the shelter at Determination Park.

The fountain in Triangle Park was sandblasted over the Winter by Mike Sloan. He then took it to Dubuque where it was powdercoated and then brought it back where it is being kept in city storage. He also had the metal ring with tabs on which it was city replicated by Wolf Machine. The ring was very corroded and tabs holding the bolts to keep it securely in place were snapped off during the tornado when it was blown over. Since the city crew is extremely busy dealing with the current flood situation, the fountain will be installed after flood clean up when things return to normal. At that time plumbing and electrical work will need to be done also. The Pocket Park was discussed. Joan Burns met twice with members Troester and Brummel to update the Park Board on the plan. Rough sketches of the proposed layout were provided to the board. One last Music in the Parks will be held this Summer. Karen Teaser volunteered to perform in Triangle Park playing "old time songs" and include the audience in a sing along. She has volunteered to do this free of charge. Maria will see if we can coordinate this with an Art Center opening. Maria met with Jen Westphal from the class of 1980. They want to dedicate eight trees in memory of their deceased classmates. If possible, Max Abildtrup wants to plant the one in memory of his son Mark. Jen will be sending a check and the names of all the deceased soon. Chairman Brummel will then order the plaques from Pella Engraving.

When the flood waters have receded, Riverfront Park is going to need a lot of clean up. It was suggested that Park Board could all pitch in on a weekend and help with some of the clean up. Date will be determined when the water recedes. Also we have access to some donated hostas from Diane Malcolm and Bob Pruett. These can be planted around the Gazebo and in Peace Park as well as around the fountain after it has been reinstalled. Maria mentioned that a group that she belongs to has volunteered to help with planting in the parks. Their regular meeting is May 21, so that may be the date. Maria asked the board for ideas for projects to tackle once the splash pad is done. She mentioned possibly looking into a dog park. Mr. Waterman mentioned encouraging musicians and artists to perform on the streets and in the parks, Mr. Koeller mentioned looking into the feasibility of uncapping the Cartesian well in Artesian park. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45.

Maria Brummel
for Megan Beisker, Sec.