

## **Parks & Tree Board Minutes 1/18/2024**

Meeting at Town Hall, at 2:30 p.m.

**In attendance:** Loyd Smith, Patti Strawn, Earl Cater, Jill Thompson, Amy Larsen, Cathy Clark

The meeting began with discussions on past activities in 2023, and upcoming events, grants, needful repairs, etc. in 2024. All members contributed.

**January 2024** - Tree City USA requires a yearly report on projects and activities by the Parks & Tree Board to maintain the Tree City USA designation. Jill and Cathy will work on creating the 2023 report and send it to Marsha, who will send it on to the organization. Tree City USA offers grants to small towns for promoting the planting of trees. One idea that has been considered this past year, is to encourage property owners to buy a tree that would do well in this area and plant it, with the agreement that they could receive a reduction on their personal water bill. This would be a possible proposal for a Grant. Trees would be chosen from a list of those that do well in our zone.

**Spring 2024** - We need to bring up an arborist to look at the remaining pine tree (from fire damage) at the corner of Pioneer Park and assess whether it should be brought down. Other trees in Pioneer Park need examination for any damage from winter 2022-2023. The small trees in the Sunken Garden look especially poor, as has been noted by Board members.

A concern was brought up about a tree in the ROW on Locust Street West, between Knemeyers and Nim Parcell's property. Often drivers pulling trailers or RVs park on the side of the road there. The tree is being damaged by RVs and likewise, the vehicles are being scratched. No decisions have been made, but it requires looking into.

**April 2024** (?) Regarding the Badger Mountain trail that has been recently established. We need to set a meeting of interested parties, i.e. Native Americans who were in this area in the past, Bike-riders, Waterville School, Fish & Wildlife, Conservation District, Ski Hill, etc. This would be an information sharing and gathering meeting. Could reserve the meeting space in the Library. Other groups involved include TREAD and Evergreen Bike. We are coordinating with the Recreation Plan for Douglas County.

### **Spring and Summer 2024 -**

Both public Parks are in need of repairs on playground equipment and other maintenance:

Pioneer Park:

Filling in the ground underneath the merry-go-round and under the swings

Repair of the gates on Walnut Street

Repair of the historic masonry BBQ

Resurface the tennis court, possible pickleball court paint and nets, repair fencing

DeVaney Park:

Some broken playground climbing equipment needs repairs

Filling in the ground underneath the swings

Coming up in 2024 and 2025, September, Economic Development Grant to improve the Badger Mountain Road, the road to the Vista House.

**New discussions:**

Should there be Reservation Rules for use of the public Parks? How would folks sign up to reserve an area?

If a Pickleball court is completed, could the Library be responsible for check-out of nets, balls, paddles??

**Action Plans before the next meeting:**

Members and guests will suggest a meeting day of the week that will work best for them. We will set the meeting time as 5:30 p.m. An email has been sent asking for this info.

Jill and Cathy will create a priority list of maintenance needs for Parks and Trees, as discussed in this meeting. That list will be presented to the Town Council, with a request to move forward on the listed maintenance.