



**AGENDA
STREATOR PARKS & OPEN SPACES BOARD
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL OFFICES 204 S BLOOMINGTON STREET
STREATOR, IL 61364
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MINUTES – Approve minutes of the regular meeting of October 10, 2018.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. UPDATE 3-YEAR CITY PARK PLAN.**
- 2. NAMING OF THE TRAILHEAD PARK AND GREENWAY TRAIL SEGMENTS.**

INFORMATION UPDATES/PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

- 3. CENTRAL PARK IMPROVEMENT PLANS.**
- 4. MARILLA PARK IMPROVEMENT PLANS**

OTHER ITEMS

- 5. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the city clerk's office at (815) 672-2517, 24 hours prior to the meeting. Staff will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements.

**STREATOR PARKS & OPEN SPACES BOARD
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2018
CITY HALL OFFICES 204 S BLOOMINGTON STREET
STREATOR, IL 61364
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL Members present: Broadus, Caulkins, Martin, Oberholtzer, Snell, Tyne, and Chairman Wheeler.

Staff present: Scot Wrighton, City Manager, Jeremy Palm, City Engineer and Patricia Henderson, City Clerk.

MINUTES – Minutes of the regular meeting of August 8, 2018 were approved. Chairman Wheeler called for a motion and second to approve the minutes.

MOTION: Oberholtzer made a motion to approve the August 8, 2018 minutes; seconded by Snell.

ROLL: Ayes: Broadus, Caulkins, Martin, Oberholtzer, Snell, Tyne, and Chairman Wheeler.

PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments.

ACTION OR DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. VERMILLION RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL

A. Trailhead Park Name- A couple of names for the new park had been submitted to the Board. It was decided that the Board would ask the Times to publish an article and ask the community to submit names for the park by the end of October. It was also decided that the Board would contact the high schools and ask for students to submit a design to be used as the city logo for all city parks.

B. Use of land near Hop along Sign- There was discussion regarding the property. It is owned by the city and considered part of the Greenway Trail. The Board would like to see it improved and possibly light the trail.

C. Segmentation of Greenway Sections/Legs-It was determined to do this at a later date.

D. Trail markings- It was decided that the Board would like to contact the local high school students and ask students to design a park logo that would be used to identify Streator parks. The City Clerk will contact the high schools.

E. Designation of Next Trail Segment for Planning/Funding- Discussion revolved around Oakley Ave. to 1st St. being approved to extend the trail one mile as the next section for planning. Palm also reported there will be a grant coming up in the Spring we can prepare an application to submit.

F. Equestrian Uses- After a lengthy discussion on this topic most members did not want horses on the trail, but it was decided that Lois Guyon and a friend could ride the trail and report back to the committee before a final decision is made.

2. ONGOING PARK PROJECT UPDATES

A. Marilla Park – Palm reported that we are still waiting on equipment and it may be Spring before the project begins.

B. Heritage Park – The Monroe Tap is finished with their mural. The artist, Ray Paseka, picked out paint for the city to use on the Mushro building.

C. Central Park – Wrighton reported that the Board's plan was approved by the Council and various parts had to be ordered for the playground equipment moved to Central Park.

3. OTHER ITEMS

A. Spring Lake Management – Lois Guyon is leaving her position as manager and will be replaced by Sandy Micklos. Lois was delighted with her replacement and is currently working with Sandy.

B. Anderson Fields Gold Course Ad-Hoc Committee – This committee will be making a presentation to the City Council regarding improvements to the course.

4. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Add “You are Here” stickers to the Greenway Trail maps.
- Oakland Park sign needs to be replaced.
- Kelly Street bridge inquiries.
- Suggestion to create a walking path to all Streater murals.
- Rotary Club may donate picnic tables for the Greenway Trail.
- A deer stand on the Greenway Trail needs to be checked for safety distance.
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ADJOURNMENT With no further discussion items, Chairman Wheeler requested a motion and second to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Snell made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Tyne.

ROLL: Ayes: Broadus, Caulkins, Martin, Oberholtzer, Snell, Tyne, and Chairman Wheeler.

TIME ADJOURNED: 7:15 P.M.

Minutes submitted by,


Patricia L. Henderson, City Clerk

January 4, 2019

TO: Chairman & Members of the Streator Parks & Open Spaces Board

FROM: Scot Wrighton, City Manager 

RE: January 9, 2019 Board Meeting

City Park 3-Year Plan Update

The city's improvement plan for City Park is updated every year for the ensuing three years. So the attached plan update is for 2019, 2020 and 2021. Key highlights of the updated plan, prepared in draft form by the Public Works Director, include: additional filling of soil depressions, improving turf management, addition of new play features at Paul's Splash Pad, lighting upgrades, more tree plantings, curbing and fencing to keep motor vehicles on paved surfaces in City Park, and the addition of a concrete apron connecting the splash pad with the playground to the west. It is recommended that the Park Board make those revisions to the plan they consider appropriate, and then send the plan on to the City Council for final adoption.

Naming of Trailhead Park & Vermilion River Greenway Trail Segments

The Park Board has not met since last October. The October meeting included a vigorous discussion about potential names for the Vermilion River Greenway Trailhead on West Broadway Street, whether different trail segments should have distinctive names, whether a logo should be developed to mark and advertise the city's off-road trails, and the discussion of other strategies for increasing the number of people that use the city's off-road trails.

At the October meeting, Park Board members formally asked the community for naming suggestions. In the weeks following the October Park Board meeting, three possible park names were submitted, in addition to the two names submitted prior to the October meeting. The city has now received a total of five names:

- Vermillion River Walk Park
- Broadway Park
- Hardscrabble Trail(2)
- Twister Hill Trailhead Park
- Bulldog Park

'Twister Hill' is an informal name associated with the neighborhood prior to the demolition of most of the homes south of the high school; 'Bulldog' is the Streator High School mascot; 'Hardscrabble' is an informal name for Streator in the 1860s before the 'Streator' name was formally and legally selected for the municipality. It is also the name of a future park to be located at Cedar and Water Streets.

Prior to the construction of the Vermilion River Greenway trail, the only named off-road trail segment was 'Hopalong Cassidy'; this trail runs from the canoe launch to near the corner of South 2nd Street and Riverside Avenue. The Hopalong Cassidy Walldog mural on West Main Street, next to the Vermilion River, was placed at this site because of its proximity to the Hopalong Cassidy Trail, and the Clarence Mulford home. The 2002 Greenway Master Plan (now replaced with an updated multi-year trail plan developed last year by the Park Board) called for a more extensive system of trails adjacent to the river, but no name was formally adopted by the City Council. This larger trail network could be designated/labeled as the "Vermilion River Greenway," or it could also be designated "Hopalong Cassidy" throughout its growing network; or the Park Board could select a different name(s). Although the city received several suggested names for the trailhead park, we did not receive any new names for the growing greenway trail system; nor did the city receive any interest [to date] from high school art programs to our request that they submit ideas for a trail logo.

In summary: what should be the name of the trailhead park; and, separately, should the current and future network of trails adjacent to the Vermilion River in Streator be called: 1) Vermilion River Greenway, 2) Hopalong Cassidy Trail, or 3) another name not yet identified? Any decision to create a logo for marketing and marking the trails near the river should be tied to the approved name. Once a name is selected for all of the river-adjacent trails, the Park Board can, in the future, turn its attention to labeling shorter segments as they are constructed.

Park Project Updates

The City Council's adopted FY 2019 budget includes up to \$40,000 to improve Central Park in accordance with the plan developed last year by the Park Board and subsequently approved by the City Council. Most of these funds will be used to install toddler-friendly play equipment as per the Park Board's 2018 recommendations, and upgrade park lighting.

On Wednesday, city staff will also update the Park Board on the current status of planned improvements at Marilla Park, both by the city and the local Lions Club.



THREE-YEAR CITY PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The city of Streator's Comprehensive Plan (2014) includes no specific enhancement recommendations for the future of City Park. It describes City Park relatively briefly:

City Park is located in the heart of the City, on the north perimeter of the downtown. It is primarily a passive recreation area with large oak trees that provide shade to much of the park. New playground equipment installed in 2012 is available, though additional equipment should be considered. The park's 10.8 acres are utilized during summer festivals and as an informal gathering place."

Early in 2015, the City Council approved a plan for the long-term improvement and rehabilitation of City Park. In addition to keeping up with normal and scheduled maintenance, the goals of this plan were to: 1) establish most of City Park as an urban forest preserve; 2) place all new park improvements on the periphery of the park to enhance park security and ease of police patrolling; 3) limit damage to grass surfaces in City Park caused by motor vehicles and heavy equipment by further restricting the locations in City Park where festivals, fairs, carnivals and circuses are held; and 4) strengthen and improve the turf of the park. This 2019–2021 City Park Plan is an update of the original 2015 Plan.

CALENDAR YEAR 2019

1. The Public Works Department will relocate public works materials and equipment stored in the restroom/maintenance building in City Park to provide space that can be used for park-related events (such as changing rooms for Plumb Pavilion acts and shows).
2. Plant additional trees, of mixed species, in forestry reservation areas of the park to replace aging, diseased and previously removed trees. New trees will generally be placed outside of the southwest quadrant of City Park where festivals and fairs are permitted, and away from uses on the periphery of the park such as the Soderstrom Memorial, Splash Pad and Veterans Plaza, but even in the southwest quadrant, some additional tree plantings will be made.
3. Following a leveling in the northwest quadrant of the City Park surface, the turf throughout the park will be upgraded, reseeded, fertilized and watered to produce a thicker and more durable turf.
4. Install vandal resistant fixtures in the City Park restrooms.
5. Move the small shelter in the northwest quadrant adjacent to the Splash Pad, and relocate benches so they are nearer the Splash Pad area for use.



6. Finish the upgrade of the electrical system and relocate the green boxes in the southwest quadrant of the park and add a water line extension.
7. Plant bushes at the park's Elm Street entrance to replace the 4x4 posts.
8. Clean and reseal the base of the Soderstrom Memorial.
9. Clean and reseal the dumpster fencing.
10. After taking delivery of additional Splash Pad play features, develop a system for rotating equipment and play features so that the Splash Pad is different each year.
11. Depending upon the level of contributions received, install a concrete apron connecting the Splash Pad to the playground to the west, sized for additional picnic tables and back-and-forth pedestrian traffic.

CALENDAR YEAR 2020

1. The Public Works Department will continue to level low areas and fertilize and seed to try to produce a healthier turf.
2. Prune trees and replace trees as they become a hazard.
3. Reseal the pavilion to maintain its look as to protect the wood.
4. Reseal and maintain the war memorials.
5. Update and/or replace park lighting as required; based on the results of the maintenance and equipment assessment conducted on the lights in 2016. It is anticipated that many of the existing globe fixtures will need to be replaced, but that existing poles and wiring to the fixtures can continue to serve the city for many years.
6. Plant more trees in the urban forest section.

CALENDAR YEAR 2021

1. The Public Works Department will continue to level low areas and Fertilize and seed to try to produce a healthier turf.
2. Trees will be pruned and replaced as they become a hazard.
3. Possible landscape changes around the War Memorial and Splash Pad.
4. Plant more trees in the urban forest section.
5. Install cubs and barriers to keep motor vehicles on the paved surfaces of the park property.

It is anticipated that by 2021 the improvements envisioned in this plan will bring City Park to the point where the City Council will only have to maintain what is in place, until such time as the uses of City Park are changed.