

Town of Cortland
Town Hall
59 S. Somonauk Road
Cortland, IL 60112
Park Advisory Committee
Minutes
May 9, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order / Roll Call

Committee Chair Fioretto called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Fioretto called roll call showing as present Committee Members Michelle Bergeson, Josh Orr, Liz Botts, Angel Mendez, Trent Moser, and Patricia Mackey. Shown as absent were Committee Member Mariann Kaminski. Quorum was present. Also present were Public Works Director Joel Summerhill and Engineer and Zoning Administrator Brandy Williams.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Moser moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Botts. A unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

Consent Agenda

Chair Fioretto read the consent agenda into the record. Approve the minutes of April 11, 2023. Mr. Mendez moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Mackey. A unanimous vote carried the motion.

Hearing of Staff/Citizens

Girl Scouts Troop #926 made a presentation regarding a pollinator garden. The troop would like to create this garden at Dragon Tail Pond. The girls each spoke and handed out a presentation booklet to each committee member.

New Business

Joel Summerhill For Questions

Joel Summerhill, Public Works Director, stated that he would answer any questions the committee may have about the parks in town.

McPhillips Park: Mr. Summerhill discussed the opening of the Pickleball Courts. The town was awarded a grant to purchase ADA inclusive equipment and would be installing a soft rubber foundation. That is the same type of foundation Mr. Summerhill would like to see covering all parks. The committee inquired as to what kind of shade structure could be placed in the park. Mr. Summerhill said he would like the committee's input on where the best placement for the inclusive equipment would be. The committee also

discussed putting a walking path around the park. Mr. Summerhill explained where additional parking could be added

Suppland Park: The committee asked why suppland park was chosen for the Splash pad. Joel explained everything they needed was already located at that park. It had all utilities and plenty of parking. Mr. Summerhill and Ms. Williams are expecting the opening of the splash pad hopefully by July 4th. The committee wanted to know if it was possible to have a regulation-sized baseball field. Mr. Summerhill explained that there is not enough room. Mr. Moser inquired if there was a way to get a piece of war memorabilia for the Veterans Memorial.

Bluebell Street Park: This park still needs a name. Brandy discussed that she believes the park was initially designed as passive, then was going to be designed as a tot park. No real plans were ever done for the park. Everyone agrees that something needs to be done with the space but is not sure what.

Cortland Community Park: Mr. Summerhill discussed moving of the skate park would not take place until late summer. It was asked if the retention pond could be eliminated. Brandy said the retention pond could go away allowing for more area for a festival space. The committee asked if a dog park could work over there. Mr. Summerhill suggested that while it does seem like a clever idea that would not be the best place for one. Mr. Summerhill and Ms. Williams both agreed with the committee that this park would be best utilized for events.

Chestnut Grove: Mr. Summerhill discussed that later this year it would be turned into a disk golf course, and the road was being widened as well. There was also discussion that the town has land on Somonauk Rd and Cortland Center Rd that could be used as potential park land. The committee agreed with Mr. Summerhill and Ms. Williams that it would be a great location for a possible recreational sports complex in the future. There is currently nowhere to have soccer fields or additional baseball fields. In addition, there will be land available by the old school. Currently there are no parks in that area for residents.

Welsh Park: It was discussed it needs better flow, new equipment in the future, and more places to sit.

Walnut St. Park: It is a passive park that needs landscaping, a bench or swing in the future.

Hetchler Park: Needs a new piece of equipment that the committee could look into suggestions on. There was also discussion on adding a walking path through the detention areas to connect to the Richland trails walking path. The committee discussed that the Hetchler Park monument stone could be better displayed. After discussion with Mr. Summerhill, we agreed that the main park sign could be moved closer to the stone and a flower mulch bed stone, and tree would make for a beautiful presentation near the sign.

Cortland Community Parks

Chair Fioretto asked if there was anything else that would like to be discussed. Chair Fioretto also asked if anyone would like to help with doing the notes for minutes. Ms. Botts volunteered to help.

The next park advisory committee meeting is on June 13th.

Adjournment

Mr. Orr moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Mackey. A unanimous voice vote carried the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charmaine Fioretto
Cortland Town Trustee
Cortland Advisory Committee Chair