

Breckenridge Active Living Committee was held on Wednesday, September 8th, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

Members Present: Shawn Roberts, Tim Peterson, Corinna Erickson, Chris Loehr, Lori Gefre, Evie Fox, Patrick Hollister, Audra Anderson, Kris Karlgaard, Becky Tripp, Mallory Jarvi

Call to Order

Shawn called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Approval of Minutes: Reed offered a motion to approve the minutes from the August 11th, 2021, meeting. The motion was seconded by Corinna and carried unanimously.

Safe Routes to School

Engineering Update

Update from Brian Hiles, Ulteig Engineer, via email: "The environmental review requests have been submitted to MN DOT and we are waiting for their responses to finalize that portion of the project. We will be doing the survey work this fall and then design will begin once that is completed."

Education, Encouragement, Enforcement Update

No updates at this time.

Activities / Improvements for Breckenridge:

1. Dog Park

Budget:

Estimated raised \$35,906; Actual Expenses \$26,421.13; Remaining balance \$9484.87

Silhouettes:

Renaee has ordered some Dog Silhouettes to be placed on the side of the fencing. These are able to be seen from the highway and make it more noticeable to what the fencing is for.

Play Equipment:

There is money left in the budget to get in some play equipment. There was an offer to the committee to be a part of a sub-committee to pick out equipment, and there was no interest. City staff will work with the Public Works Department to determine what would be the easiest to maintain and mow around; there was also a suggestion to talk with a dog trainer and get some suggestions to what would be the best equipment to have.

Bench Donation:

Tim updated the committee that Rotary is still working on getting a bench to be donated to the dog park.

Direction Signs- PartnerSHIP 4 Health:

Neil talked to Jeff Dehann with MN Dot, and we can put the signage on our street lights. Neil will take a look and see which poles will work.

Headwaters Day 2021- Update:

The WB Chamber made a flyer of the Schedule of Events for the day. This flyer was emailed out to all the businesses, the police department dropped off flyers to be hung at local businesses, information was shared on social media, ads were placed on local radio and newspaper (Chamber did this with money received from Port Authority).

- Several emails were sent out to businesses and service groups stating that we were still looking for a food vendor from after the parade to 2:00. There was no response of interest.
- There are already more activities planned for this year compared to previous years, and the weather is forecasted to be in the 70s.
- Tim notified the committee that he attended a meeting with the head coach of NDSCS Football. The coach has offered to have the players help with any community service things that are needed (clean-up, set-up, etc.)

New Project- Ideas or Needs for Breckenridge:

Committee members discussed the listing of Ideas or Needs for Breckenridge, including paths, sidewalks, benches and any needs for the existing parks including Hwy 75 banners, disc golf and pickleball. This listing has been compiled over the years from surveys, community and committee members.

Items discussed:

- Is it possible to leave the Christmas garland up on the light poles along Hwy 75 longer? They put off a lot of light and are very welcoming.
- Dog Park- finish purchasing and installing dog play equipment
- Skate park- Look into the remaining funding available and how much is needed to finish the other phases of the park. Also, is there funding available to add other “exercise/play equipment”
- Community Garden- Where is there space available in the city to use? Where does the city mow that can possibly be turned into a garden?
- Adding equipment (small park equipment) to the FCC/Dog Park/Skate Park area
- Adding stretching stations to Highway 75 path
- Placing a handicap swing in a park (flat swing), possibly at Ox Cart since there was one there in the past. This would be an easy addition.
- Traffic Garden- Mallory informed the committee there is a grant to apply for through MnDOT. Corrina was going to check into this.
- Some of the items on the listing will depend on if the Infinity Center and/or school gets moved.
- Audra explained to the committee that they have a new social platform to share news and ask questions with your community, to connect with neighbors and to learn about what’s happening in the area; it’s called NABUR (Neighborhood Alliance for Better Understanding and Respect). NABUR is a free online platform for news and to ask questions to others in your community (neighborhood), to have the information or questions be validated and followed up by a reporter. This might be an option for the ALC to ask what the community feels is needed or/and wanted in Breckenridge.
- Shawn mentioned that the Breckenridge High School freshman students had an assignment to look around their neighborhood to see if there were any buildings that needed work, ways they could help, things that would make it better, etc. Shawn is going to see if she can get the answers from the students. This may be a way to get a perspective about what is needed from the younger residents.

Other Business:

- Kris informed the committee that NDSCS Homecoming parade will be held on Saturday, September 25, and the route has changed this year. The lineup will no longer be at Welles Park, but starting at Farm City Supply and going east. Kerri Kava at NDSCS would be the contact for any questions.
- Patrick informed the committee that he just received notification that CHI St. Francis was awarded a grant for \$433,000 over the next 3 years for a garden.
- Wahpeton Fire Department’s Bull Bash is September 18th.
- Breckenridge Football Tailgating is at The Wilkin on Friday before the game.

Motion by Reed to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 am. Seconded by Kris. The next Active Living Committee Meeting will be Wednesday, October 13th, 2021 at 9:00 AM.