



Special Meeting Minutes December 8, 2021

Members:

- Present: Jill Newby, Rick Homkes, Reba Casler, Beth Davis
- Absent: Jana Hyman, Erica Parvin, Suzy Landrum
- Guests: Don Parvin, Darlene Homkes, Kendra Metcalf, Diane Carman, Ned Sutherland, Ben and Brayden Blumenberg (sign in sheet included)
- Meeting started at 7:00 PM

Business:

- Jill Newby welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting to Rick Homkes to discuss the 5 year plan and how it was developed.
- Rick Homkes discussed the results of the 2021 community public surveys. There were 117 surveys returned which Rick and Jill used to create a draft of action plans to consider. The action plan was used in the writing of the 82 page document.
- The top four requested items from the community survey were trails, picnic areas, water/spray parks and playgrounds.
- Rick Homkes stated the action plan considered three parts.

- **Part 1 Partnership Action Plans**

This included building a better relationship with the Russiaville Public Library, Western School Corporation and local churches. The goal is to assist in quality programs for children, adults and recreational programs with focus on seniors.

- **Part 2 Low Cost Items**

Projects would be low cost but add aesthetic benefits to the community. These would include tree planting, wildflower/interpretive gardens and a possible wetland boardwalk at the Western Heights pond.

- **Part 3 Primary Action Plan**

The following recommendations were developed by the Park and Tree board after consideration of the public input. The next great improvements would be a picnic/shelter pavilion, playground and the intercity trail. Rick provided an action plan which included year(s), location, estimated cost and funding source.

Summation:

Community input was positive on the action plan. All agreed the ADA and inclusive playground would be best for the community. There was some discussion of poured in place rubber being the best surface. Public restrooms were suggested as an add-on to the plan improvements. Suggestions ranged from accessing the ballfield's restrooms to a new one built near the shelter area. Don Parvin suggested there are concerns that need to be considered such as security, vandalism, and maintenance staffing. Ned Sutherland added that the Cloverleaf Trail could be part of a "Safe Walk to School" route. The meeting closed with unanimous final comments that we were on the right track.



The special meeting was adjourned at 7:31, motion made by Reba and seconded by Beth.
Minutes taken by Beth Davis in Jana Hyman's absence. BD