

**Park Board Meeting**  
January 4, 2021 5:30 p.m.  
Tennis Club House

**Call to order by president Jim Hogan**

A. members present: Alix Oreck, Jim Hogan, Val DeFever, Anita Chappuie, Mark Coder

**II. Approval of minutes from meeting of December 7, 2020--deferred until next meeting**

**III. New business:**

A. Lone chief cabin windows and fire place cover: Windows are out for bid. Angela will meet with Sean Clapp and the local historic society to discuss historical accuracy, without sacrificing efficiency. The fireplace cover is being made by Mark Lehman, who has performed an initial fitting and will hopefully be ready to install the cover in the next few weeks. The funding for this project is coming from the same pot of money initially assigned for the AC installation (from 2020) for the properties.

B. Horticulture position: will be a full time position. Currently listed as maintenance position, but they are hoping for someone with actual gardening/horticulture experience, maybe even degree. Will change the title of the listing and it is likely to post within the next few days.

C. Funding/grant opportunities: Angela has asked that we all keep our ears open for any funding/grant opportunities, even if we are unsure whether or not it might fit for park and zoo purposes.

D. AZA accreditation: staff is pushing hard to start doing the documentation that will be required for accreditation. We need records on all of our protocols, many dating back at least five years, some ten years. This means the earliest we could actually apply for accreditation would be March of 2026.

E. Park and Zoo infrastructure/Every meeting: scheduled meeting on Jan 25th--some of the electrical poles and infrastructure actually belong to Every, while some belong to the zoo. Hoping this meeting will help sort out maintenance/updating/repair responsibilities between the two parties.

F. Cemetery wall and duck post infrastructure: Angela hopes to involve John Garris, the new director of the Public Works and Utility for the city, in this project. The cemetery wall has significant damage/wear and tear, especially, on the 5th St side, north of the stadium. Sean Clapp, using google maps to estimate size, projected a cost of almost 4.2 million dollars to repair the entire wall. Obviously not viable for us, so there is a lot to be decided

about how/when and how much of the wall will be repaired. Additionally the duck pond walls are caving in, especially below the surface. A few years ago Sean Clapp estimated a repair cost of 200 hundred thousand for this project, but presumably this has gone up with the continued toll of time. The mausoleums both require significant work and repair. Angela and Katie will try to set up a daytime viewing of the mausoleums for the board members so that we may assess their state as well.

G. 2022 Budget, 2021 budget: Angela is meeting with Lacey Lies today (1/5/21) to discuss budget. We can discuss/review at next month's meeting.

#### **IV. Old Business**

A. Lone chief cabin rental increase--now 75 dollars. AC has been installed!

B. Cook Family ship improvements: at least one, possibly 2, recent donations for this improvement. More updates to come.

C. 10th St Playground improvements: new mulch was delivered Dec 18th. Katie and Angela are going to Elk City to look at their "Pour and Play" playground base, which apparently withstands flooding far better than the mulch. Though this would be an expensive investment, in the long run it may save both money and time. The current re-mulching project cost about 5 thousand dollars, though this also included landscape fabric and a layer of rocks, which hopefully would not have to be replaced with each flood. This playground has a history of almost annual flooding, so a longer term solution, rather than yearly mulch replacements, would be good.

D. Wayfinding signs: Todd Mayfield and the Avia Group are designing/placing wayfinding signs both in the park/zoo and throughout the city downtown. These signs are currently designed to be 8 foot tall, which we as a board suspect might impede/mar views of the buildings and landscape. Katie and Angela have walked the park and zoo and have some requests for re-design/re direction before these signs are installed. (Of note, FORPAZ gave 50 thousand dollars towards the signs, the total cost of which is >300K).

E. Hille Band Shell Lighting: Travis Blankenship and Teri Lybarger will meet with Angela to discuss the electricity changes required. Plan is to light the arches (as I understand from Lacey Lies). I believe this has already been budgeted for by Lacey.

F. Memorial benches at carousel: both set on December 28th. Please walk by and check them out!

G. Bridge to the carousel: currently fenced off because deck boards are missing/rotted. Boy Scouts/Eagle Scouts have been contacted about perhaps taking on this project. Hope that they may be able to start construction in the spring (perhaps as early as

March)--this project will provide new decking, new wiring, new painting, as well as trimming/limbing of the surrounding trees away from the bridge.

H. Food distribution: complete. April Nutt felt it went very well with the park as the venue and may use the site again in the future.

**V. Staff and Committee Reports:** It is possible that Tommy and Molly have mated--no one is certain, but it is possible that we will have a baby elk sometimes this year!

**VI. Other concerns of the Board:** None

**VII. Upcoming and past activities:**

A. First Friday engagement: Angela will speak/introduce herself. No specific agenda.

B. Rotary program: Angela will speak/introduce herself. No specific agenda.

C. Downtown tree beautification: A pruning with the tree board will happen on Jan 31 at 9 am. Concerns about the knowledge of the tree board were raised--Twyla, from TLC nursery, is apparently on the tree board, so the presumption is that she knows enough about horticulture to prune appropriately

**VIII. Adjournment:** proposed by Alix Oreck, seconded by Mark Coder.