1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Denise McDowall-Seyko opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Committee Members Present: Denise McDowall-Seyko and Shane Fisher. Those Absent: Doug Peterson, Laura Talvitie, Chrissy Skrypec, Planning Commission Liaison Scott Marotz and City Council Liaison Scott Zettervall. Also Present: Public Works Director Michael Goebel, Recreation Coordinator Corrie Scott, Karen Blake and Linda Paulson.

The order of discussion was changed – moved 6A. to the top

6A. FREEDOM ROCK – PRESENTATION BY KAREN BLAKE AND LINDA PAULSON – PROPOSED TO BE CONSTRUCTED AND PLACED IN VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Please visit the website: www.thefreedomrock.com before the meeting so you are familiar with these projects

Introductions were made by the Parks Advisory Committee to Karen Blake and Linda Paulson. The Parks Advisory Committee also relayed a brief explanation of their scope of powers and duties.

Karen Blake and Linda Paulson shared their idea for a project in Veterans Memorial Park. They are proposing a Freedom Rock which is a boulder approximately 8 to 10 feet tall and wide painted by an artist whose name is Ray “Bubba” Sorensen II from Iowa. Mr. Sorensen was inspired by the movie “Saving Private Ryan”, as well as, wanting to give Veterans a unique recognition on Memorial Day. Mr. Sorensen paints The Freedom Rock on his own with support of family and friends. He is not commissioned to paint the rock but is able to do so each year with the help of donations. He seeks ideas from the City as to what they would like painted on the rock. Karen and Linda have found a rock which is approximately 8 feet by 10 feet and the quarry that they found the rock at has agreed to donate the rock. Karen and Linda would like this to be a community project as a way of saying thank you to our veterans. They have also presented this idea to various organizations within the City and have their support for the project. They are calling their organization “Citizens for the Big Lake Freedom Rock”. Their organization is seeking a recommendation from the Parks Advisory Committee to City Council to go ahead with this project and have the Freedom Rock placed in Veterans Memorial Park.

Discussion followed. It was recommended that a structure be placed over the Freedom Rock protecting it from the elements. Mr. Sorensen will come back to touch the rock up if needed in the future for a charge. There is an extra protective coating that can be purchased to put on the rock as well. One thing that was noted when designing the rock to make sure it goes with the existing design of the park. The estimated cost of the total
project is $25,000.00. There is a possibility of a couple grants. Recreation Coordinator Scott stated she would be interested in helping with the project. At this point there is not money raised for the project. Karen and Linda are looking for support from the City for the infrastructure.

In order to get on Mr. Sorensen’s schedule they require a deposit of $2,000.00 along with the application. The application has been submitted along with the $2,000.00 deposit which consisted of private donations. Karen and Linda were notified that the application has been accepted.

Public Works Director stated if the City approves the project then the City will be the financial holder of the project. Discussion followed regarding various fund raising ideas.

Committee Member Fisher made a motion to recommend to City Council the Freedom Rock Project and place it in Veterans Memorial Park. Seconded by Chair McDowall-Seyko, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Fisher made a motion to approve the June 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Chair McDowall-Seyko, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that there is a new Council Liaison on the Parks Advisory Committee, Council Member Scott Zettervall.

5. STAFF UPDATE

Recreation Coordinator Scott informed the Committee that the bike demonstration through St. Thomas looks like they are going with Minnesota Avenue. The students will do a mock up first then the City can decide if they want to proceed with anything after that.

It was noted that there are still two vacant Parks Advisory Committee seats that are open. Public Works Director Goebel stated he will start advertising again for these seats. Public Works Director Goebel will also check with Committee Member Chrysii Sprypec to see if she wants to stay on the Committee.

Recreation Coordinator Scott informed the Committee that due to the fact that the City banners were fully funded there is money available to purchase more Holiday decorations. Recreation Coordinator Scott inquired if the Committee wanted to go with the existing decorations (snowflakes and wreaths) or introduce a new decoration in the
mix. It was the consensus of the Committee to keep with the existing decorations with a possible change/addition to the color and possibly make a change with the garland.

Recreation Coordinator Scott informed the Committee that Family Fun Fest will be held on October 4, 2019. Last year she had a booth for the Parks Advisory Committee and held a kids activity. Scott inquired if the Committee wanted to have a booth this year and if there are any Parks Members who could volunteer for the booth. It was the consensus of the Committee to have the same activity as last year (barrels with painted handprints from the children on it). It was also discussed that maybe we could redo our barrels from last year as numerous handprints are now gone.

Additional Updates from Recreation Coordinator Scott:

The Community Guide will be coming out in September. Recreation Coordinator Scott stated if any Park Committee Member would like anything added from the previous year to please let her know.

The funding for the way finding signage might not go through this year due to time constraints on the project but we can reapply for the funding next year.

The Winter Farmer’s Market is moving location this year to City Hall and will be held on the third Saturday of every month.

The Community Garden is going well, with only one plot that was abandoned due to the renter of the plot moved out of the area. Discussion continued regarding raising the rental price of the plots and adding signage. It was mentioned that the arts students/students at Big Lake High School may be interested in making a sign for the Community Garden. It was also mentioned to approach Clair (she designed the City banners) to see if she may be interested in designing a sign.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion on having a mural painted on the side of a building (brown maintenance building) in Lakeside Park. This topic has been discussed previously. Recreation Coordinator Scott stated she needs more direction from the Committee regarding an artist and the different grants you can apply for, which the entire process is very time consuming. Recreation Coordinator Scott stated if the Parks Committee can locate an artist that would be interested; she would be willing to apply for a grant in the winter months. Chair McDowell-Seyko will look into this.

7. ADJOURN

Committee Member Fisher motioned to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Seconded by Chair McDowell-Seyko, unanimous ayes, motion carried.