

**Memorial Park Committee**  
**November 19, 2025 Meeting**

Attending: Larry Mead, Mike Dickenson, Holly Korda, George Kerr, Jay Chase, Tina Kelly (zoom), Jaime Conte (zoom)

All present agreed that the park renovations are superb and that the quality of the park has increased dramatically due to this work. The archway at Staples St entrance has just been installed this past week and it really makes this a grand entrance to the park.

**Future Work to Be Done**

Committee members are now looking ahead to the next phase of park improvements that were not able to be done within the existing funds. These include a few items that are significant with respect to cost.

**Gazebo:** replace the existing bandstand. The committee has previously agreed on replicating the gazebo that was done in Ocean Park. Anticipated cost is in excess of \$250,000. The committee believes that the cost should be met through fundraising. George Kerr has agreed to take the lead for the committee in seeking donations. It was suggested that a high-quality flyer be created to help market the project to prospective donors.

**Playground:** The existing playground is now 20 years old. The wooden play equipment in particular is showing its age and requires vigilant maintenance to keep it in safe condition. The cost of a new play area is likely \$200,000 to \$300,000.

**Bathrooms:** The existing bathrooms are functional at best. The bathrooms should be renovated or replaced. Cost is unknown but not insignificant.

**Pathway edging:** The park renovations as bid included metal edging along the pathways. This was eliminated from the project scope due to budget cuts.

**Railings on stairs:** The approved renovation plan did not include railings on the stairs leading to the veterans' monument. Some committee members are concerned that the steps do not have railings. It was suggested that the code enforcement office be asked whether railings are required by code.

**Landscaping:** The park improvement plan included extensive landscaping along the path and stairs leading to the monument. This was eliminated for budgetary reasons. The committee would like to restore the planned landscaping.

**Hardscape:** The area between the top of the stairs and the monument is a combination of stone dust and the bricks immediately adjacent to the monument. The brick area is uneven and unsightly. The committee wants to have pavers installed between the top of the stairs and the monument.

**Entrance to monument:** The entrance to the monument area leading off of the central pathway has a large boulder with a bronze plaque honoring World War I veterans. The committee would like to relocate this plaque to the monument area where the other bronze plaques commemorating past conflicts are mounted, and replace it with a separate monument that gives thanks and recognition to veterans as a whole.

### **Ongoing Maintenance Items**

**Dog park gates:** The dog park gates have not closed properly for some time. DPW does periodically try to adjust them, however this has not solved the issue. They gates should be replaced.

**Dog park shelter:** The shelter in the dog park is deteriorating, including wood rot and loose and unhinged floor planks, causing safety concerns. It needs to be repaired or replaced.

**Trash barrels:** The standard trash receptacles are 50 gal. drums that are painted black. Some of the receptacles are rusted and/or have holes and are worn. All of the park receptacles should be free of rust and dents, and should be freshly painted each spring.

**Bench maintenance:** Several park benches have broken or rotting slats. These should be repaired or replaced over the winter months.

**Parking:** There are only 4 designated spaces for park users. This is often insufficient.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45.