

Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

MAY 21, 2020

6:30 P.M.

WEBEX

MEMBERS PRESENT	Bill Ganzlin, Bryan Belisle, Victoria Biehn, Mark Cermak, Anastacia Davis, Ginny Davis, Mike Shepard
MEMBERS ABSENT	
STAFF PRESENT	Paul Kauppi and Andy Wietecki
VISITORS	
NOTE TAKER	Andy Wietecki

AGENDA TOPICS

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm via Webex.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from April 16, 2020 was moved by Mark Cermak and seconded by Ginny Davis.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the May 21, 2020 agenda was moved by Mark Cermak and seconded by Mike Shepard.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Park Commission Reports of Park Inspections

All of the Park Advisory Commission members visited a park or two between the May and June meeting and reported to the Commission the areas that are in need of some improvement. The goal of the park inspections is to shed light on some items in the park that need maintenance.

Bill Ganzlin visited Hidden Hollow Park and Bossard Park. At Hidden Hollow Park, he found an illegal compost dumping in the woods on the southeast side of the park. There was also Oak Wilt in the woods. Bill also reported that there are some bike jumps in the woods. After consulting the Ramsey County GIS website, the jumps are all on private property. It appears that the City only owns 16' off the trails' edge and the jumps are past that. Bill spoke to a child using the playground and that child would like to see a zip line and some bigger equipment for older children.

At Bossard Park, Bill found garlic mustard growing along the wetlands and roughly 5 trees that need to be removed. Bill also noticed some graffiti on the south side of the restrooms. The ball fields are overgrown and do not look like they have had much use in recent years.

Mike Shepard visited West Park, Matoska Park and Railroad Park. There are some tables that need to be replaced and a couple grill posts that need to be removed at West Park. At Matoska Park, Mike found the rain garden by the wooden bridge overgrown as well as wood benches that have started to rot. Railroad Park was in great shape. He did not spot anything that needed maintenance.

Victoria Biehn visited Stellmacher Park, McCarty Park and Willow Marsh Preserve. Stellmacher Park had a lot of trash in the park. She also noticed that the stumps from trees removed over the winter had not been removed yet. Andy reported that the stumps were removed last week ahead of the Tree Trust tree planting. Victoria noted that the play equipment was in great shape. McCarty Park was well maintained and did not need any maintenance. Lastly, Victoria visited Willow Marsh Preserve and reported that it felt like she was going through someone's backyard.

Bryan Belisle visited Lakewood Hills Park, Varney Lake Park and Cottage Park Preserve. Bryan reported fallen trees in the wooded disc golf area along with some trash being collected in the fireplace. Bryan noticed that most of the disc golfers were practicing social distancing. At Varney Lake Park, he noted that it had recently been mowed and looked great. Bryan also visited Cottage Park Preserve which was hard to find. Bryan suggested that the City install a bench and a small sign. Paul responded that due to an agreement that was signed when the City purchased the land, it is meant to be kept a preserve and not a heavily used park. The preserve is meant to be kept a natural habitat for animals to live. Paul reported that they City recently had some residents neighboring the preserve move items that were encroaching onto Park property like fire pits and wood stacks.

Ginny Davis visited Podvin Park, Rotary Park and Lakeview Park. Ginny reported that trash was blown up against the lacrosse fields fences at Podvin Park. She witnessed kids using the skate park that were practicing social distancing. At Rotary Park, everything looked great and the boardwalk was solid. Ginny did notice some graffiti that has since been removed by Parks Department employees. Lastly, Ginny visited Lakeview Park and asked about installing a park sign. She noted that there were no trash cans and there was some trash laying around from park users. Andy responded that there was a trash can there previously, but it was rarely used so it was removed. A trash can be reinstalled but a concrete pad needs to be poured first.

Anastacia Davis visited Lions Park, Veterans Park and Spruce Park. At Lions Park, she noted that the smaller shelter and split rail fence were falling apart. Andy Wieteki advised the group that White Bear Lake Lions Club donated money to replace the fence last fall and the City plans on installing a new fence this summer. Anastacia asked about the privacy screens and Andy reported that they were installed for an Eagle Scout Project but fell apart over the winter. The City will be removing them and doing something more aesthetically pleasing in

that spot. At Veterans Park, Anastacia reported that the new sidewalk looks great and that the woods on the north side look really good since cutting trees out and planting new plants in the area. She did notice that the area needed more benches. The benches were refinished over winter and are ready to go out. According to Anastacia, Spruce Park looks much better than the last time she visited it.

Mark Cermak visited Jack Yost Park, Ramaley Park and Ebba Park. Mark noticed that the park amenities like the trash can and benches in the wooded area at Jack Yost Park were falling apart. Andy Wieteki reported that the City is aware of the issues in the wood area. The City plans on replacing them with new composite boards to get more life out of them. The price per garbage can is \$265 in lumber and the benches cost \$800 per bench to re-wood. At Ebba Park, Mark noticed a hole where a tree was but Andy reported that it has since been filled in with dirt and grass seed. Mark also noticed someone dumping on the hill. Andy believes that area is not park property but will double check.

6. OTHER STAFF REPORTS

a) Restroom Closures

Andy Wieteki updated the Park Advisory Commission members that the park restrooms will be opening on Friday, May 22nd. The bathrooms were not opened until the City had all the proper PPE to ensure the safety of City employees for cleaning the restrooms.

b) Financial Update

Paul Kauppi updated the Commission members about some of the financial struggles that are looming in the future for the Parks Capital Improvement Fund. He stated that he will have more updates for the Commission later this year after the ongoing workshops with the City Council.

7. COMMISSION REPORTS

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The Park Advisory Commission will hold its next meeting at Lakewood Hills Park on Thursday, June 18th at 6:30 p.m. They will be walking through the disc golf course to take an in-dept look at some of the safety hazards the forest possesses.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on June 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakewood Hills Park.

There being no further business to come before the Park Commission, the meeting was adjourned. Moved by Bryan Belisle and seconded by Mark Cermak.