

Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

JULY 16, 2020

6:30 P.M.

LAKWOOD HILLS PARK

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

AGENDA TOPICS

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from June 18, 2020 was moved by Ginny Davis and seconded by Mike Shepard.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the July 16, 2020 agenda was moved by Ginny Davis and seconded by Mike Shepard.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill Ganzlin finally received his Park Advisory Commission shirt.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Lakewood Hills Tour continued

The Lakewood Hills Park tour and clean-up were delayed due to the rain. Paul and Mark identified the proposed location of the all abilities park within Lakewood Hills. The proposed location is between the parking lot and adjacent to the existing playground. The proposed location in close proximity to the parking lot allows for additional handicap parking stalls adjacent to the area and also direct access from the parking lot.

b) Lakewood Hills Tour continued

The Commission walked through the woods as a group to see the dangers of the fallen and dead trees that are in need of removal. Andy Weitecki pointed out the wooded area is very unhealthy with little under growth in certain areas. Andy emphasized the need to start revitalizing this area to a viable forest for the

future. The Commission discussed opportunities with the watershed district in terms of a possible funding source to help with the re-forestation at Lakewood Hills. The Commission members were shocked at the amount of dead trees and dirt forest bed.

6. OTHER STAFF REPORTS

Andy Wieteki reported on a couple of projects that the City is trying to complete this year at Lakewood Hills. The two projects including paving under the bleachers at the soccer fields and the paving a new trail into the wood from the playground. The trail project would be replacing the current trail that is in poor condition.

7. COMMISSION REPORTS

Bryan Belisle suggested that some type of play structure for kids be added to Lions Park. The Commission members agreed that we don't need a big apparatus like other parks just something to give the kids some entertainment. Anastacia and Ginny both highly recommended that nature place like boulders or non-traditional play structures would really fit the park nicely and be cost effective to install. They both stated that the Tamarack Nature Center offers these types of areas for kids to play on and suggested that Andy Wieteki go to Tamarack Nature Center to get ideas for Lions Park.

Ginny Davis reported that she received an e-mail from a resident again this year regarding the lake weeds at the fishing piers at both Lions Park and Veterans Memorial Park. The gentleman stated that while his kids are fishing they get tangled up in the weeds making it hard to catch fish. Andy, Paul and Mark took a trip to both fishing piers to look at the fishing/weed conditions. Some weeds were discovered at Lions Park pier but there was no evidence of weeds from the Veterans Park pier except along the shoreline. They spoke to two fishermen and the fishermen did not have many issues with weeds and usually catch bass and sunnies at Lions Park. Andy informed the Commission that he is getting bids on weed removal. He is meeting a member from the DNR at these locations to better understand what we can and cannot do in these areas and to get the DNR's recommendations on what should be done with these two areas. Paul reached out to the resident and offered to meet him at the locations to get his perspective. At this time, we have not heard back from yet.

Bryan Belisle asked if the City had considered connecting the trail that goes through Hidden Hollow park to the future Lake Links Trail. Andy Wieteki reported that the once the trail is around the lake or at least along South Shore Boulevard, the City would reroute the trail through the church parking lot and make a dedicated trail to Bellaire. The shoulder would be the connecting trail to South Shore Avenue. The City does plan to pave the trail in the park in the future to make the trail more user friendly.

Bill Ganzlin wanted to know if there are any trails that are maintained in the winter months for residents to use, especially this year with Covid-19. The trails plowed in the winter time include: Lake Avenue, Rotary Park, Birch Lake trail around to Hwy 96 to White Bear Parkway to Birch Lake Boulevard South. Andy reported that the City also plans to pave the trails inside Lakewood Hills Park in the future and plow them for winter use. The Park Advisory Commission Members agreed that it would be a good idea to post the trails that are plowed in the winter months on the City's website.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at Memorial Beach.

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