

# Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 20, 2020

6:30 P.M.

Memorial Beach/West Park

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

## AGENDA TOPICS

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the August 20, 2020 agenda was moved by Victoria Biehn and seconded by Mark Cermak with the addition of Lifeguards at Memorial Beach by Bryan Belisle.

### 4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – LIONS PARK FISHING PIER WEED UPDATE

Andy Wietecki updated the Park Commission Members about the Lions Park fishing pier weed issue. Money was moved around in the budget to make the weed removal happen this year. Weed removal at the Lions Park fishing pier will help improve the conditions for the fishermen and fisherwomen that use this pier.

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

#### a) Memorial Beach Retaining Wall Improvement Project for 2021

The Park Advisory Commission met at Memorial Beach to discuss the hillside at Memorial Beach that keeps eroding onto the trail below. Installation of a retaining wall will improve the aesthetics and make the hill much easier to maintain. Andy requested feedback from the Commission members on whether a commercial or natural look would be preferred. Anastacia suggested that the City try to design the wall and landscaping with a natural look including boulders and natural plantings instead of high maintenance shrubs and plants. The other members agreed that the City should look at more natural designs but also design more usable space for people to sit and enjoy the lake view by incorporating more benches and patio space. According to Andy, the City will

have soil boring samples tested this fall to identify the soil conditions so that a design/plan can be developed over the winter months.

**b) Pavement Replacement at Lakewood Hills Softball Complex**

The City of White Bear Lake is proceeding with pavement replacement at Lakewood Hills Softball Complex this fall. The sinking concrete apron around the building was already replaced. The City is currently waiting for 3 new French drains. Once the drains arrive and are ready to be installed, all the asphalt around the softball complex will be removed and replaced. The project was almost pushed off for another year but the project came in way under budget, so the City decided to proceed with it this year.

**6. OTHER STAFF REPORTS – UPDATE AND TOUR OF WEST PARK SHELTER**

After discussing the beach project at Memorial Beach, the Park Advisory Commission walked to West Park to look at the new picnic shelter being constructed. The Commission members really liked the design and how well it fits the park. The Commission couldn't help but notice the great views of the lake from the new shelter. Andy Wieteki also updated the Park Advisory Commission on the construction progress.

The Commission received an update on the City's park budget for next year.

**7. COMMISSION REPORTS**

Bryan Belisle had a resident reach out to him asking why West Park is the only beach on White Bear Lake that isn't staffed with lifeguards. The Park Advisory Commission discussed the importance of a lifeguard in a life or death situation and discussed how the City could obtain and manage lifeguards. Bryan believes that the YMCA will staff our beach for a fee and that all of the training and scheduling is done by the YMCA. The Commission agreed that the City should look into this program offered by the YMCA.

Mike Shepard requested an update on the split rail fence at Lions Park that the White Bear Lake Lions Club donated money to replace. Andy reported that the fence was installed on July 27<sup>th</sup>. The new fence gives the lakeshore at Lions Park a much needed enhancement.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on September 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

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