

# Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

6:30 P.M.

Memorial Beach/West Park

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

## AGENDA TOPICS

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from August 20, 2020 was moved by Mark Cermak and seconded by Victoria Biehn.

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the September 17, 2020 agenda was moved by Mike Shepard and seconded by Mark Cermak.

### 4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

#### a) Lifeguards at Memorial Beach

Andy Wietecki followed up with the Commission Members about the lifeguard discussions at the August meeting. Anastacia inquired when the last time there were lifeguards at Memorial Beach. There have not been any lifeguards at this location for the past 15-20 years. The surrounding community beaches on White Bear Lake paid around \$20,000 - \$24,000 for lifeguard services through the YMCA in 2018. This number is just a rough idea of what costs could be to employ lifeguards for the summer at our beach. Bill Ganzlin asked if we could have extra patrols at the Matoska boat launch policing the launch to make sure that everyone launching their boats is paying for a tag. Then use those fees to help pay a portion of the cost of lifeguards at the beach. Andy would talk to the Finance Department to see if those funds could be transferred. The CSOs (Community Service Officers) have stepped up patrolling at Matoska to ensure that the trailers in the parking area all have permits on them. The Park Advisory Commission members unanimously agreed to support funding and implement lifeguards at Memorial Beach.

**b) Dumpster Enclosure Proposals/Drawings for Podvin Park**

The Park Advisory Commission toured three different dumpster enclosure styles to be considered for Podvin Park. Podvin Park is one of the premier parks within the City; and the current dumpster location sitting out front detracts from the park's appeal. Andy Wieteki informed the Commission that the dumpster location would be on an existing 6-inch concrete slab that was meant for motorcycle parking. Mike Shepard questioned where the motorcycles will park if the dumpster uses that concrete slab. Andy informed the Commission that the dumpster has always been on that concrete pad so it doesn't sink into the asphalt. Andy confirmed (on September 18<sup>th</sup>) that there is another concrete pad between the skate park and basketball court that will work for motorcycle parking. The Park Advisory Commission decided on the option from Midwest Wrought Iron. The enclosure will fit nicely into the park and it will be easy to replace the composite slats if they are ever broken or vandalized.

**c) Rotary Park Nature Preserve Tour**

The Park Advisory Commission met at Rotary Park Nature Preserve. Bill Ganzlin led the Commission pointing out invasive Siberian Elm and Amur Maples that are heavily growing throughout the park. The Commission was impressed with the pavilion at the top the hill. Bill reported that the Rotary Club helped fund the project and also provided laborers to help build the pavilion. The question was raised whether there was much vandalism at Rotary Park. Fortunately, there is minimal vandalism – possibly due to the amount of people utilizing the trail that runs through the park. As the tour continued to the boardwalk, Bill Ganzlin asked if the Osprey pole had ever had an Osprey nest. From a previous conversation Andy had with retired City Engineer Mark Burch, Andy does not believe there has been any Osprey that have taken up residence at Rotary Park. The tour continued through the woods and ended up out by White Bear Parkway where the park property actually crosses the road to the North and extends up to the railroad tracks and over by Taymark's parking lot. Bill mentioned that years ago the City had a controlled burn in this area with the Fire Department on the prairie next to Taymark. The prairie was burned off and the fire department had some training at the same time. As the tour ended, Andy showed the Park Advisory Commission members some Arbor Day trees that were planted in his first year with the City that now stand 20 feet tall. Overall, the Commission were impressed with the beauty at Rotary Park Nature Preserve.

**6. OTHER STAFF REPORTS**

None.

**7. COMMISSION REPORTS**

None.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

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