

Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

JANUARY 21, 2021

6:30 P.M.

WEBEX MEETING

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

AGENDA TOPICS

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from November 19, 2020 was moved by Victoria Biehn and seconded by Ginny Davis.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the January 21, 2021 agenda was moved by Mark Cermak and seconded by Brian Belisle.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Update on Matoska Gazebo

Andy Wietecki explained that a committee was formed of 7 people to assess the current conditions of the Matoska Park (Geist Gazebo) Gazebo. The main objective is to bring a recommendation to the City Council in the near future on whether it makes sense to restore the current structure or to build a new structure in its place. Brian Belisle reported that there is an anonymous family that has generously donated \$150,000 to help with the Gazebo project. The family would like to see the project completed before Manitou Days begins.

The main goal of the committee meeting next week is determine whether to restore the current structure or build a new structure in its place. If the committee decides to build a new structure, the new shelter would take about 16 weeks from order date to arrive. The structure would then need to be constructed onsite along with concrete work and landscaping.

Paul Kauppi explained to the Park Advisory Commission that there is no historical significance to the Gazebo since it has been rebuilt and modified many times over the years. The Gazebo no longer has all of the original components.

The City's building department will ensure that all ADA requirements are followed before approving a design plan.

If the \$150,000 donation doesn't cover the entire cost of the Gazebo, there are other funding sources that can be identified. There may be leftover funds in the retaining wall project that can be used towards the Gazebo project, if needed. The City Council is also very excited to see this project move forward and may also have some funds available to use. The first step, however, is for the committee to decide if replacement or rebuilding is the best option and then identify costs.

b) Yost Park Tree Removal

Andy Wieteki reported to the Parks Advisory Commission on Yost Park tree removal that happened earlier this fall. On the east side of Yost Park, the Parks Department removed a total of ninety-seven trees that were at the end of their life or were dead, dying or diseased. The trees needed to be removed for the safety of the park users. Of the 97 trees, thirty-five were Ash trees that were not treated for Emerald Ash Borer (because of the planned removal). A few trees will be planted as part of the Arbor Day Celebration this year on the east side of Yost Park. However, the deforesting of the east side of the park will hopefully lead to more utilization by park goers.

c) Parks Capital Improvement Projects for 2021

Andy Wietek explained the Parks Capital Improvement Budget in detail for this coming year. He explained that there will not be as many projects as normal because the City is planning to build the retaining wall at Memorial Beach this summer. The cost of the retaining wall project is not known at this time. If there is money allocated to the retaining wall project but is not used, it will be put towards a project scheduled for 2022 or could be applied to the Gazebo Restoration Project.

6. OTHER STAFF REPORTS

Andy Wieteki reported on the north side of 4th Street next to the downtown information kiosk there was a metal sculpture of an escrow sailboat that totally rotted apart and had to be removed from its post. The sculpture is a replica of an award for the sailboat races on White Bear Lake in the past. They are currently getting pricing from a few different metal shops on rebuilding this sculpture and will hopefully be able to replace it in the next few months.

Andy reported that he reached out to MN/WI Playground for a design concept for the All Abilities Playground at Lakewood Hills Park. A design concept for all ability types was finalized and will accompany a link on the White Bear Lake Lion's Club website for the playground's fundraising efforts. Paul Kauppi reported that the City has plans to

resurface the parking lot at Lakewood Hills this year. The resurfacing will incorporate handicap parking stalls nearest the playground.

Brian Belisle updated the Commission and then Andy Wieteki continued on the topic of Bear'ly Open, a fundraiser for the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf, that is happening on February 5th and 6th.

7. COMMISSION REPORTS

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on February 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

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