

# Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

MARCH 18, 2021

6:30 P.M.

WEBEX MEETING

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

## AGENDA TOPICS

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from January 21, 2021 was moved by Mark Cermak and seconded by Ginny Davis.

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the March 18, 2021 agenda was moved by Bryan Belisle and seconded by Victoria Biehn with the addition of 5.D Park Inspections.

### 4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### a) Update on Matoska Gazebo

Andy Wietecki gave a brief update. The architectural specifications and plans are being reviewed by the Building Department for a permit. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor roof and columns will be removed to preserve them and keep some of the original components. The roof will be then set back into place once the lower level work is complete. The upper floor will be rebuilt out of diamond plate with aluminum pickets replacing the plastic pickets that are easily broken by skate boards. LED lights will be added on both the upper and lower level. The goal is to have the project completed by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Bill Ganzlin questioned if the cost of the project will stay within the donation. Both Paul Kauppi and Andy Wietecki believed it would be right around the donation cost. Mark Cermak asked if there would be plaque dedicating the remodel to the donors. The donor wishes to remain anonymous so there will not be a dedication plaque. Anastacia Davis suggested signage be created that tells the unique story of the gazebo's past. Andy Wietecki will relay that idea to the Gazebo Committee.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a) Arbor Day Planning**

Andy Wietecki discussed his Arbor Day ideas with the Park Advisory Commission. Andy suggested an Arbor Day event with the Park Advisory Commission as the volunteers to keep it smaller due to Covid-19 restrictions. He has two projects in mind. The main project would be at Ebba Park planting 4-6 trees along the southern property line abutting the Water Treatment facilities fence. A bunch of ash trees were removed in 2020 to prepare for this event. The second project would be planting a pollinator garden at Lakewood Hills Park off the trail by the upper parking lot. The City started this project last year by tilling and killing the grass and weeds to ensure the pollinator seeds won't be overtaken by weeds. Public Works staff will be planting the pollinator seeds.

The Park Advisory Commission members voted to keep the event on their regular Thursday night meeting night instead of the typical Saturday Arbor Day Celebration.

### **b) Emerald Ash Borer Treatment Plan for 2021**

Andy Wietecki reported to the Parks Advisory Commission on the City's EAB treatment plan for 2021. This year boulevard treatments will resume. In response to a Bill Ganzlin's question regarding the state of Ash trees in White Bear Lake, there have been many ash trees declining fast. The City is choosing the trees that need to be removed by the severity of the decline. It is too costly to remove all the declining trees.

### **c) Memorial Beach Retaining Wall in House Designs**

Andy Wietecki explained that the major park project for this coming summer is addressing the hill at the beach. The City allocated the entire parks budget for this year to this project not knowing the exact costs. Andy reported that he is confident that the retaining wall project won't use up the entire parks budget and there should be monies for a few smaller projects. In response to Bryan Belisle's question if the retaining wall was needed and if there are other projects that should be given priority, Andy reported that the 10 year budget has been set and reflects the priorities in our parks system. The City has placed an emphasis on this project to finish this park area between West and Memorial Beach. It is the City's most heavily used park and the erosion and maintenance issues need to be corrected to enhance the area.

Andy Wietecki and one of the City Engineering Technicians have been working together to prepare an in-house design of the proposed two different styles. One of the designs has stairs and one is without stairs. The Park Advisory Commission unanimously decided stairs and tiered wall was the preferred option. The Commission would like to see the wall be constructed of boulders to match the current wall and natural stone steps with a railing coming from the trail.

In addition to excitement from the entire Commission, Anastacia stated that she thinks this is really going to add to the area and with people visiting from all over this will be a good extension of our City.

Andy Wietecki reported that the next step in the project was getting designs done by either landscape contractors or landscape architects. The designs will be engineered to hold the road and trail back and will include two different types of stone to choose from and a couple different designs. The project will begin late summer and/or early fall so it does not interfere in summer activities. The current focus is to find a design.

**d) Park Inspections**

Bryan Belisle added this to the Agenda for tonight's meeting. He really enjoyed doing the park inspections last year and recommended the Commission do it again this year. Bill Ganzlin recommended that everyone visit different parks than they did last year. Bill and Andy will come up with a list and send it out to the Commission members for their assignments. Since the City is in the parks Monday - Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm, Paul suggested that the Commission visit the parks during the evenings or on the weekends to see how the park is being used at those times.

**6. OTHER STAFF REPORTS**

None.

**7. COMMISSION REPORTS**

None.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on April 15, 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 Victoria Biehn.