

Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

MAY 20, 2021

6:30 P.M.

EBBA PARK

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 6:33 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from April 15, 2021 was moved by Mark Cermak and seconded by Bryan Belisle.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the May 20, 2021 agenda was moved by Bryan Belisle and seconded by Victoria Biehn with the addition of Boatworks Green Space.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Arbor Day Tree Planting

Tonight was the official celebration for Arbor Day in the City of White Bear Lake and the task was planting 5 trees (3-Birch Dakota Pinnacle and 2-Oak Crimson Spires) along the fence line between the Water Treatment Facility and Ebba Park. Andy demonstrated to the Parks Advisory Commission how to properly plant a tree, including finding the main or tap root and removing any extra dirt on the top of the root ball so that the main root is only planted within an inch of the surface of the existing ground. Andy Wietecki reported to the Commission members that one of the biggest mistakes when planting trees is they are planted too deep which then affects the way the roots grow. Andy also demonstrated how to properly box cut the sides of container trees so the roots don't become root bound which is when the roots grow in a circular direction following how they grew in the container. If the roots aren't corrected, the tree will not be stable in the wind and will not live to be a mature tree. All of the Commission got their hands dirty and planted the trees. Once the trees were in the ground, the Commission top dressed them with a mulched ring around the

tree to help hold moisture in the ground.

b) Park Tour – Ebba Park

The Park Advisory Commission toured Ebba Park. Andy Wietecki explained that there is a storm water filtration system under the outfield of the baseball area, the shelter was replaced roughly 10-15 years ago and the playground is in really good condition. The project to be completed this year at Ebba Park is having the shelter ceiling cleaned and stained. Nothing has been done to the ceiling since it was installed 10-15 years ago and now it's moldy and dirty. The City has incorporated into the budget funds to stain the ceiling shortly after new shelters are installed to avoid deterioration.

c) BoatWorks Green Space

Bryan Belisle would like to add something to the BoatWorks Green Space for residents to use and add signage as well as stating it is public park property. Bryan suggested some cement pads with picnic tables, a couple of benches along the border of the sidewalk or something along this nature. The Park Advisory Commission members are in agreement that something is needed in this space. Both Paul Kauppi and Andy Wietecki reminded the Commission that there is a storm water filtration system under the green space that collects storm water from this location. The water goes into the tanks under the grass and then the irrigation system uses that water for this property. The other complication with improving this area is that the Fire Department needs to be able to pull a fire truck into this area in case of an emergency. Andy will meet with the Fire Department to see if there are options for installing benches or tables that won't interfere with their operations.

Bryan also mentioned that the green space grass looks unsightly. The green space always has yellow spots due to the animals that live in the apartments. The spots are not usually fixed until late into the season. Paul responded that Andy Wietecki could reach out to the manager of At Homes Apartments and request the spots be fixed earlier in the season. Brian suggested that the dogs not be allowed to use the park as a bathroom. However, Paul responded that the dogs' use of the green space was negotiated during the construction of the building. The green space is the only place the dogs have to use. The alternative would be to have the dogs use Veterans Memorial Park and that is not appropriate since there is such a strong meaning behind the park. The At Home Apartments now DNA tests the dogs that live there and if they find a fresh mound of feces, they send it in for testing. If it comes back to a dog that lives there, they are fined twice before they are forced to move out. The DNA testing was put into effect last year.

6. OTHER STAFF REPORTS

a) Dog Beach Lakeshore Restoration Project

Andy and Paul reported to the Park Advisory Commission that the Dog Beach Lakeshore Restoration Project has been finished. The City was able to regain roughly five feet of shoreline washed away with the high water last spring. There are multiple areas that were built like steps going down to the water's edge for people and dogs to easily navigate. The Parks Advisory Commission will be having

a tour of Matoska Park in July to see the newly restored Erd-Geist Gazebo and the Dog Beach Lakeshore Restoration.

b) Parks CIP Budget

Paul Kauppi suggested that the Parks Advisory Commission should review the Parks Capital Improvement Budget to confirm the projects listed over the next few years are important to our City parks and to confirm that the Commission wants to move forward with them. Paul is also requesting a representative from the Commission attend an upcoming City Council meeting to talk about the budget and projects.

c) Earth Day Cleanups

Andy Wietecki reported that there was an overwhelming response to Earth Day clean-ups this year. In addition to the City's Arbor Day project, the White Bear Lake Lions Club cleaned up Lakewood Hills Park and along White Bear Avenue by the park, the White Bear Lake Rotary club cleaned up along White Bear Lake in front of Kowalski's and along Goose Lake, Yoga Devotion cleaned up the beach and West Park, and a neighborhood group cleaned up the areas around Highway 96 and White Bear Parkway. Andy also reported that the City's Adopt-A-Park program now has 5 parks that have been adopted. Signs have been made and will be installed at the parks with the name(s) of the people and organizations that have adopted the park to show recognition for their service and dedication to our parks.

7. COMMISSION REPORTS

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on June 17, 2021 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 Ginny Davis.