

Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 19, 2021

6:30 P.M.

MEMORIAL BEACH

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

AGENDA TOPICS

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Bill Ganzlin at 6:49 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from July 15, 2021 was moved by Mark Cermak and second by Ginny Davis.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the August 19, 2021 agenda was moved by Victoria Biehn and seconded by Mark Cermak.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Review and Vote on Updated Bi-Laws

Paul Kauppi reported that the City Council has been reviewing some of the old ordinances and making changes. The Park Advisory Commission's review of the bi-laws will fit in well with the City Council's recent agenda. Paul requested each of the Commission members review the bi-law revisions one last time prior to sending them to the City Council to review. Once the City Council approves the revised bi-laws, the Commission can vote them into our ordinance.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Friends of the Park and Trails Donation

Andy Wieteki explained that the Friends of the Parks and Trails donated \$300 to plant 3 trees in the same park in memory of one of their founding members, Neil Franey. Neil was a long time White Bear Lake resident who ran for City Council and volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. After the planting, Andy will send a picture to Scott Ramsay at Friends of the Parks and Trails of the grouped trees. Andy asked if the members had a preferred location between Bossard Park, Lakewood Hills Park or Yost Park. At this time, there is no plaque planned for the trees. The Park Advisory Commission felt strongly that the trees should

be planted at Yost Park due to the large tree removal project last fall. The trees will be planted this fall once the weather breaks into cooler temps to keep the trees from getting stressed.

Bryan Belisle suggested that we should think about adding some benches facing the Mark Sather trail. Andy and Paul explained that there are a few benches on the trail but the City doesn't own much easement along the trail which is why there aren't more benches.

b) Park Tour – Lions Park

The Park Advisory Commission members reviewed the CIP for Lions Park while touring Lions Park. Andy Wietecki presented his plans and ideas to replace the existing pavilion with a new slightly larger main pavilion and replace the two smaller pavilions with new single post umbrella style pavilions. The park is highly visible and typically busy along the trail and with the expansion of the trail over the next couple of years, the park is only going to get busier. Bryan Belisle questioned if the style of pavilion fits the around the lake theme and also if the cost was reasonable. Andy is also working on getting a quote to enhance the old outdated bathroom. Andy's vision for the updated bathroom includes a gable roof on the structure with lights in the eaves. The wall that separates the bathrooms would be removed. The roof would be extended over a new small patio in front of the restrooms to act as cover for the trail users to get out of the elements. The other improvements discussed include: new doors, painting, new floor coating, new handicap accessible drinking fountain with trail, and cover the old block exterior walls with a smart LP siding or something similar. A climbing structure is also being considered but the City is waiting until quotes are gathered to see if all improvements can be done at once. With the amount of users Lions Parks gets daily, Andy believes that we need to make an investment in the park so that it is not only functional but also has a lasting style that will help showcase the City's parks and community. The City of White Bear Lake is very fortunate to have a beautiful lake and we should capitalize on its beauty and showcase it.

c) Park Safety

Bryan Belisle requested that the topic of park safety be added to the agenda today. Bryan reported that a friend who uses the Mark Sather trail often has not felt safe since he/she witnessed a fight and also has learned there was/is a homeless person sleeping in the woods at Matoska Park. According to Andy Wietecki, the fight was an isolated incident since there haven't been any other fights or issues happening on the trails or even in the parks. He knows of a couple of homeless individuals in the area but there is not much that can be done to remove them unless they are creating issues. Paul mentioned he would bring it up in his department head meeting and see what the Police Chief suggested. In recent years, there has actually been a decline in homeless individuals sleeping in the City's parks.

6. OTHER STAFF REPORTS

a) Weyerhauser Dugout Update

Andy Wietecki reported on the progress of the dugouts at Weyerhauser. The City has finally received all the materials for rebuilding the dugouts and the

project will begin the week of the 23rd. The project will continue until all 6 of the dugouts are finished.

7. COMMISSION REPORTS

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Shepard suggested the City put something in the newspaper or on Facebook explaining the upcoming beach retaining wall project to eliminate a flood of questions by the public.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on September 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

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