

Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 21, 2021

6:30 P.M.

CITY HALL

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

AGENDA TOPICS

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Bill Ganzlin at 6:35 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from September 16, 2021 was moved by Mark Cermak and second by Bryan Belisle.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the October 21, 2021 agenda was moved by Mike Shepard and seconded by Anastacia Davis with the addition of Smoking Outside Boatworks Commons added under Unfinished Business.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Smoking outside Boatworks Commons

Bryan Belisle asked for an update on the smoking issue at the BoatWorks Commons. Andy Wietecki stated that he forwarded the issue to the Public Works Director and Assistant City Manager. This is an issue that City Council needs to address because it would most likely result in a change to City Ordinances, if the area was declared smoke free. Bryan asked Bill Ganzlin to send an e-mail to the concerned resident seeking the change to our smoking policies.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) 2022 Lions Park Project

Andy Wietecki updated the Commission on the supply chain issues and how it is already affecting next year's projects and purchases due to longer than normal lead times on sourcing materials. Next year's project will include replacing the three shelters at Lions Park and updating the exterior of the restroom shelter. The three shelters currently have a 25-30 week lead time before delivery. The shelters need to be ordered soon, if the project is to remain on schedule for next year. If the shelters are ordered now, we still have the ability to cancel if

needed by February.

Andy explained to the Commission the style of shelters he believes would really give Lions Park the modern look that it deserves. Lions Park is highly visible and is located next to an area that has recently been upgraded. His vision is that the two smaller shelters will be a cantilever style mimicking the look of an umbrella to tie the park and lake together. He envisions replacing the larger shelter with the same size as the shelter currently next to the parking lot and integrating it into the trail for easier access to trail users. He also envisions changing the roof color from our traditional green colored roof to a copper penny color with a very earthy tone feel. This change will help these shelters stand out next to the lake and should blend nicely with the adjacent businesses.

After Andy described his vision, the Commission collectively discussed the shelter styles, locations and colors. Bryan had some concerns over the cantilever style and questioned whether it was too modern for this location. He believes the shelters should be more of that traditional style that the City has been installing in the other City parks. Bryan questioned whether a larger shelter should be put in instead of the two smaller shelters due to the cost and it not allowing for big group gatherings. Anastacia thought the smaller shelters would fit the park better and would be a big improvement over what is currently constructed in the park. She also supported the modern look of the shelters and how it will give the park a unique look. Lions Park is in a high traffic area and Andy wants to capitalize on that with this upgrade. The park's proximity to the lake provides a unique opportunity to do something outside the normal. Lions Park is generally used by smaller groups of people and isn't where large groups gather. Ginny asked if a more natural looking climbing structure could be incorporated into the park. The Commission decided that the area east of the restrooms would be a perfect location as most users don't know that the area east of the restroom is part of the park. Andy gave the Commission a brief description of what the restroom remodel would include. An architect will draw something up after January 1, 2022. At the end of the conversation, all the Park Advisory Commission members approved the design and approved ordering the shelters now so that hopefully the project can begin mid to end summer of 2022.

b) Lakewood Hill Park Softball Fields

Andy Wieteki reported to the Commission that softball has been a dying sport for the past five years or so. The fields at Lakewood Hills haven't been used much this summer and there are no leagues scheduled to play this fall either. There has been discussion with Youth Baseball to convert two fields from softball to baseball. The Youth Baseball Association would like to utilize the complex more and would likely have some tournaments at Lakewood Hills in the future. The Park Advisory Commission was supportive of the idea but concerned about the cost. According to Andy's research, the base lengths are already correct and the Youth Baseball Association will purchase two temporary pitching mounds but would like to see permanent mounds installed in the future.

Andy is already working on pricing for safety nets that will give coverage from third base around home plate and out to first base. Andy is suggesting that the Youth Baseball Association cover the cost of the nets. The City doesn't currently have any capital improvement dollars allocated for this area of Lakewood Hills Park and \$100,000 plus was recently used for improvements to the fields, exterior of the building, new pavement surrounding the complex over the past

couple of years. The Parks Advisory Commission is excited to see the repurposing of the fields. This change could bring many more people into our community and hopefully reenergize this park. Andy will report back to the Commission on this topic in the future as baseball takes root at Lakewood Hills Parks.

c) Pickle Ball Courts

Andy met with Susan Grun, leader of the local pickle ball group made up of roughly 200 people, to inquire if the City is interested in dedicating pickle ball courts at Podvin Park. Susan explained that they are losing the court at Central Middle School due to the school construction. Andy Wieteki reminded the Commission of all the sports and activities that happen at Povdin Park. Podvin Park is not a viable option for pickleball courts. Bryan suggested the Armory since he believes that it is only used a couple of hours and sits vacant most of the time. Andy will bring a schedule for them to review to the next Commission meeting. The only two park options with adequate space and parking would be Lakewood Hills Park and Bossard Park. Andy and Jon Anderson, with the White Bear Lake School District, have been talking about Sunrise Park Middle School. Once the building turns into the District Center, the former middle school would be the best option due to the size of the property and the parking available. The Commission doesn't believe that a dedicated pickleball court is necessary. If anything is to be constructed, it should be a dual purpose pickleball and tennis court.

6. OTHER STAFF REPORTS

a) White Bear Lake Lions Accessible Playground Update

Andy Wieteki reported to the Park Advisory Commission on the progress of the all-inclusive playground. A grant for \$117,448.00 was received from GameTime, the manufacturer of the play equipment. All of the play equipment has been ordered in anticipation of price increases. The installation is still on schedule for next year. The Commission was impressed with the grant amount awarded and are very excited to see the project completed.

7. COMMISSION REPORTS

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on November 18, 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 Mark Cermak.