



**MINUTES  
PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021  
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

Chair Mike Shepard called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bryan Belisle, Victoria Biehn, Mark Cermak, Ginny Davis, Mike Shepard

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bill Ganzlin, Anastacia Davis

**STAFF PRESENT:** Andy Wietrecki, Parks Working Foreman

**VISITORS PRESENT:** None

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by member **Bryan Belisle** seconded by member **Victoria Biehn**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 5:0.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes of October 21, 2021

It was moved by member **Ginny Davis** seconded by member **Mark Cermak**, to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2021 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 5:0.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Nothing scheduled

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Armory Pickleball Schedule**

Andy Wietrecki shared with the Commission the winter schedule for Pickleball at the Armory. The Armory is used almost daily with two time slots each day. Weekdays the Armory is schedule for Pickleball from 9:00 to 11:00 am and then again at 5:00 to 7:00 pm. On the weekends, Pickleball is scheduled from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The Commission was impressed that the Armory is getting so much use – especially during the week. While the Park Advisory Commission acknowledges the popularity of the sport, it would rather partner with the school district rather than build a dedicated court in a city park.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Peace Pole Location

The City Manager requested the Park Commission discuss a location for installation of a peace pole. The Peace Pole is being donated by the White Bear Lake Rotary Club. The Commission needs to start the discussion so they are prepared to make a recommendation to City Council early next year. Andy shared a picture of the peace pole and explained the message will include several languages including but not limited to Ojibway, Dakota, Chinese, German, French, Russian and Arabic.

The goal is to recommend a heavily used location where it will be noticed. The Park Advisory Commission discussed Railroad Park because it is at the center of town with many people visiting the park throughout the year and is also the location of several large scale events. The issue with Railroad Park is there is no good location for the peace pole. Another good location for both foot traffic and vehicle traffic would be Matoska Park. The Commission determined the best location would be along the Mark Sather trail on the west side of the park so it is highly visible to everyone by either foot or vehicle.

### B. Parks Lighting Upgrade

Andy Wieteki reported to the Commission that the City is upgrading all park and trail lighting with Trane as part of a smart energy initiative program the City has taken part in over the past couple of years. The scope of the project is to replace all park lights with energy efficient LED technology and add additional lights to the restrooms that are improperly lit. The decorative poles in the parks and the lights along the trails will be included and converted to LED technology. Member Mark Cermak asked if the cost of the upgrade is coming out of the Parks CIP budget. Andy explained that it will come out of the Parks CIP budget but will not affect the other projects that are scheduled for next year.

## 7. DISCUSSION

### A. Staff updates

#### Memorial Beach Wall Update

Andy Wieteki reported to the Park Advisory Commission on the progress of the Memorial Beach Wall. The steps were installed and the concrete was poured on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Upon arriving at work on November 17<sup>th</sup>, it was discovered that someone had carved explicate words in the upper pad before the concrete set. The concrete company is pulling the vandalized concrete out and pouring the new cement pad on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Dreamscapes will be working on the wall again on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Member Mark Cermak shared a picture of the newly installed steps and concrete. The Commission was impressed with how much just adding the concrete piece brought to the project.

- B. Commission member updates  
None.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Mark Cermak** seconded by member **Ginny Davis** to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 5:0