



**MINUTES
PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022
6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chair Bill Ganzlin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bryan Belisle, Victoria Biehn, Mark Cermak, Anastacia Davis, Ginny Davis, Bill Ganzlin, Mike Shepard

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Andy Wieteki, Parks Working Foreman; Paul Kauppi, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Lindy Crawford, City Manager

VISITORS PRESENT: Jorge Vega

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by member **Ginny Davis** seconded by member **Mark Cermak**, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of yearly park inspections and the BoatWorks Community Room being added to New Business.

Motion carried 7:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of February 17, 2022

It was moved by member **Mike Shepard** seconded by member **Victoria Biehn**, to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 7:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Jorge Vega is a resident of White Bear Lake and was inquiring about adding a mountain bike trail to one of our City parks. Jorge explained the different styles of mountain biking options that are often found in City parks. One option is a trail in the woods with open spaces that follows the natural contour of the land and gives the rider elevations changes with bumps and turns. The wood trail would consist of a few miles in length at minimum. The other option that is often found in City parks that don't have enough land available for a long trail is a skills area. These areas are usually the size of a hockey rink or slightly larger and offer jumps, bumps, steep banked turns and table tops in a confined area. The skills area offers a different skill level for every rider's ability. Often these areas look like and mimic a skate park but are specifically designed for bikes.

The Commission members asked Jorge a lot of great questions including how large of a foot print would be needed for a trail to make building one worthwhile. Jorge explained that the trails are usually 18" - 24" wide with light clearing of underbrush but little to no disruption to mature trees and vegetation to the surrounding area of the woods. Most trails are between 3 and 10 miles in length. Another question asked was about regular maintenance on the trail and if that is done by volunteers or City staff. Paul Kauppi, who is an avid biker and heavily involved with this sport, told the Commission that he volunteers with a group to maintain a local bike trail where he rides but other trails that may be located in a county regional park would be solely maintained by the county park employees. It is up to each agency to decide how they would proceed with maintenance. The next question was about locations that the City may have for a trail of this type. The only open space available is at Lakewood Hills Park in the wooded northeast corner of the park. Andy showed a map of the area of about 7.9 acres in this area. Paul has a contact with MORC (Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists) and will consult with them on whether it would make sense to install a trail in the outlined area. Bill asked Paul Kauppi and Andy if they would be willing to reach out to MORC and visit the site before the next scheduled Parks Advisory Commission Meeting.

City Manager, Lindy Crawford, formally introduced herself to the Parks Advisory Commission members. She is visiting each commission, taking the time to meet the members and to thank them for serving in this capacity. The Commission members welcomed her to the City and to future meetings – if she wishes to attend.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2022 Parks Capital Improvement Budget Discussion

Andy explained that he will continue to leave the CIP budget discussion on the Agenda for the meetings. He would like to keep this conversation open to any discussions about future projects and the possibility of moving things around to add new projects that haven't been planned for in our CIP to date. Paul explained that one project that may move some projects around is updating and standardizing our park signs which is following a larger project of updating the City's entrance signs.

B. Peace Pole Placement

Andy Wieteki updated the Commission on the Peace Pole project that the Rotary Club started last year. Andy spoke briefly on the placement for both poles. One pole will be along Lake Avenue trail near 5th Street and the other pole will be at Rotary Park off the trail in the open area leading to the pavilion. The Park Advisory Commission questioned when the poles would be installed. The City is working with Darrell Stone of the Rotary Club on those dates. Both poles will be installed at the same time.

C. Marketfest Spot

Andy Wieteki questioned if the Parks Advisory Commission Members were serious about staffing a stand at Marketfest. The Commission unanimously voted yes. The next

question is do we want to staff this for every Marketfest; and if so, it would interfere with a couple of the Thursday night Park Advisory Commission Meetings. Mike Shepard suggested that maybe this year it is staffed enough for everyone to volunteer one night that isn't in conflict with the already scheduled meetings. The Commission agreed and Andy will send an e-mail with dates. Everyone can sign up for dates that work with their schedules. Lindy Crawford offered City swag for the Marketfest stand to hand out to individuals that stop by the tent. Paul Kauppi suggested that the new GIS person could provide park maps and information to distribute as well. There will be more information at the next meeting about the processes leading up to and after the event.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2022 Arbor Day

Andy announced that this year's Arbor Day Event will be held on May 19th during the May Park Advisory Commission meeting. This year's event will take place at Weyerhaeuser Park and the Commission will be planting trees along a neighboring property where dead trees were removed last season.

B. Lions Park Restroom Remodel Sketches

Andy Wieteki presented the two final sketches that Rust Architects drew up showing the possibilities for this restroom project. The Commission unanimously approved the look of the design that includes a lot of similar features to the restroom at Matoska Park. Andy provided the budget number for the design and it is roughly \$107,000 but that doesn't include some items or the cost of the professional services for Rust Architects. As for a time line, we are looking at tentatively starting mid-summer. Due to the dollar amount, the project will go out for bid. The City hopes to receive three competitive bids from local contractors.

C. Summer Park Tours

As is done every summer, the Park Advisory Commission Meetings will occur at a different park every month. Each month the Commission will conduct the meetings at a new park. The Commission will take a lap around the park looking at the facilities, current amenities and future projects.

The schedule for this summer's park tours is as follows:

May – Weyerhaeuser Park

June – Lions Park

July – Podvin Park

August – Hidden Hollow Park

September – Lakewood Hills Park

D. Yearly Park Inspections

Bryan Belisle would like to continue with the yearly park inspections where each of the

Parks Advisory Commission Members visits select parks and reports back to the Commission on how the park is being used, identifies issues, recommends additions and identifies the best features of the park. In anticipation of Bryan's suggestion, Andy had already created lists of new parks for each member to visit. The reports should be e-mailed to Andy before next month's meeting where they will discuss the findings.

E. Boatworks Commons Community Room

Bryan Belisle is concerned over the usage and availability of the Boatworks Commons Community Room to the community. The rental hours are limited to morning and early afternoon time slots. Bryan would like to see this open up for more usage in the evening and during the week. The cost to rent the space also seems to be out of line with other spaces of similar size around the community. Victoria mentioned that she was looking to rent this room for a shower but the price was too expensive so she moved her party to Podvin Park. She agrees with Bryan that the City may need to re-evaluate the price the City charges to rent this room. The Commission asked how often the room gets rented; but unfortunately, all of the events are scheduled through the Sports Center so none of the City Staff present have the information necessary to answer this question. Bryan asked if the Commission can get a report for the May meeting of who is using this room and how many times it is rented to a non-civic group. Lindy Crawford stated that the City Council adopts the fee schedule for this room but she will look into the fees to see if they are currently in line with other venues that are similar to the Boatworks Commons Community Room.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

Ice Damage at City Marina

Andy Wietecki updated the Commission on the damage that incurred at the City Marina. The damage to the area will delay getting the marina up and running for the season. The Commission questioned what, if anything, can be done to prevent this from happening in the future. Andy will be reaching out to other marinas in the area to see how they manage the ice in the spring. The City aerates the marina which melts the ice in the beginning of March. However, short of removing the docks, which would be nearly impossible, there aren't many feasible options.

B. Commission member updates

Because the meeting in March was cancelled due to low attendance, the Commission members shared where everyone went for their spring break. Both Bryan and Bill spent time in Florida, Anastacia and her family hung out in the jungle and Mike was in the White Bear Lake Lions Club Annual Show.

- C. Other Business
 - None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried, 7:0