



**MINUTES
PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 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: Victoria Biehn, Mark Cermak, Ginny Davis, Bill Ganzlin, Mike Shepard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bryan Belisle, Anastacia Davis

STAFF PRESENT: Andy Wietrecki, Parks Working Foreman and Paul Kauppi, Public Works Director/City Engineer

VISITORS PRESENT:

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by member **Mark Cermak** seconded by member **Mike Shepard**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 5:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of April 21, 2022

It was moved by member **Ginny Davis** seconded by member **Victoria Biehn**, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 5:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Boatworks Commons Community Room Report

Andy Wietrecki reported to the Commission that he hasn't received the reports showing usage or who is renting the Boatworks Commons Community room facility. Andy will work on gathering the information for an upcoming meeting. Paul Kauppi mentioned that the City Council looks at the fee schedules yearly and that the Council plans to look more in depth at their next review along with other rentals in the City.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Park Inspection Reports

The Park Advisory Commission members were tasked with doing an inspection of a few parks and then reporting back with what was found during their adventures. Some of the items that they were looking for:

- how park is being used;
- number of users;
- condition of infrastructure – buildings, playgrounds, picnic tables, benches, garbage cans, grills, fences, basketball nets & poles, bike racks, drinking fountains, yard lights, boardwalks, signage, etc.
- overall condition and appearance;
- improvements needed at the park (long term and short term); and
- park challenges.

Attached to the minutes are the site visit summaries from the Commission members. The issues were discussed at the meeting and will be addressed over the next couple of weeks.

B. 2022 Arbor Day Tree Planting

This year the Park Advisory Commission planted 8 new trees at Weyerhauser Park. The Commission planted a couple interesting styles that grow in more of a pillar style than the traditional canopy style tree. They planted 4 – Prairie Sentinel Hackberry's and 4 – Crimson Spire Oaks. Last year, the City removed a couple of dead trees from the ballfields.

Andy educated the Commission on the proper process of planting a tree and each Commission member did their part in helping with the planting process. The holes were pre-dug but each root ball needed to be box cut. The Commission planted the tree at the proper depth to cover the roots with dirt, placed mulch over the ground to help retain moisture and ended by watering each tree.

C. Park Tour – Weyerhaeuser Park

Due to planting taking longer than expected, the Commission did not walk the grounds but did talk about the newly restored dugouts from last year.

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

June – Lions Park

July – Podvin Park

August – Hidden Hollow Park

September – Lakewood Hills Park

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

Marketfest

Andy will be sending out the schedule and details about the Marketfest booth over the next couple of weeks. There will be an in-depth discussion at the next Park Advisory Commission meeting in June about duties and process.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried, 5:0

West Park & Memorial Beach (Anastacia Davis)

Time/Date - Weekday visit in the afternoon

- Play equipment looked good
- Few areas of playground might need a refresh of sand
- Warm day with swimmers at the beach
- Park patron loves the retaining wall and easy access to stairs
- Park patron would love more seating down below the main patio area.
- Beach needed a bit of cleaning
- There should be a crosswalk between stairs and park. Kids see the road as not very busy and linger.

Ebba Park (Bill Ganzlin)

- Play equipment is in good condition
- Shelter is in excellent condition
- Ash trees on park grounds look healthy – no signs of EAB infection
- 5 trees planted by the Park Commission a few years back – three are in good condition. 1 River Birch has some damaged bark and branches. One of the skinny Genes Oak trees has fall over and is dead.

Lakewood Hills Park (Bill Ganzlin)

- Play equipment is in excellent condition
- Bathrooms are clean with no graffiti
- Pavilion is in good condition
- Disc golf course is in good condition with only minor maintenance issues
 - Branch near hole #1 needs to be removed
 - Large branch near hole #13 needs to be cleared about 10' from hole
- Disc golf course was very busy. Park patron comments were favorable.
- West side shelter has picnic table was moved outside of shelter. Picnic table needs to be moved back under shelter.
- Shelters #2 and #3 require maintenance on the trim and edge of roofline
- South of shelter #3 on edge of the park, remnants of a homeless camp. Lots of abandoned clothing and trash – far too much for one garbage bag.
- Trail around Handlo's Pond in good condition with minimal trash
- Shelter adjacent to the playground needs trim repair
- Consider spading out some of the trees planted along northern border
- Canoe/kayak rack on the north end of Handlo's Pond might be good addition.

Podvin Park (Bryan Belisle)

Amenities include:

- (2-3) Lacrosse Fields
- Skating Rink
- Skateboard Pad and elements
- (2) Basketball Courts
- Pavilion
- Restrooms

Report:

- Men's restroom is clean and in good condition
- Women's restroom was closed
- Pavilion doors needs to be repainted. It looks like areas were painted white to cover up graffiti.
- Bench on north side of playground needs to be repaired. Appears it was damaged by vandals.
- Picked up trash in park and parking lot

Weyerhauser Park (Bryan Belisle)

Amenities include:

- (3) Baseball Fields
- (2) Batting Cages

Report:

- Restrooms were closed
- Graffiti on trash can and utility box
- Picked up trash on east side of the parking lot (mixed in with snow piles)

Rotary Park (Bryan Belisle)

- Restroom and shelters are clean and in good condition
- Boardwalk is in good condition
- Osprey nest pole is titled with no apparent nest
- Rotary club members cut buckthorn in preparation of pollinator garden and picked up trash

Hidden Hollow Park (Mark Cermak)

Time/Date - Visited in the morning at 9:45 am

- Trash along path on Jay Lane

- Main asphalt path leading into park is slowly being washed away with lots of ruts. It could be safety issue if someone steps wrong.
- Asphalt is also starting to crack and wash away
- Spoke with park patron and she reported no problems in the park.
- Patron mentioned a kids' fort constructed in woods northeast of the main entrance. There is a lot of trash around the fort.
- Small birch tree blown down on one of the paths along the east side of the park
- A few of the houses on Floral Drive that abut the park seem to be leaving a lot of junk in the woods
- Encountered another park patron who said she brings a trash bag sometimes to collect trash

Bossard Park (Mark Cermak)

Time/Date - Visited in the morning at 10:40 am

- Found no trash
- Overall the park looked great
- No graffiti on the restroom building
- Play equipment look clean
- Spoke with a resident walking her dog and she said there are never any problems with kids hanging around causing trouble

McCarty Park (Mike Shepard)

- Encountered two groups of kids sharing the basketball court
- Little Free Library

Stellmacher Park (Mike Shepard)

- Encountered two families playing on the play equipment and a guy walking his dog
- Volleyball net looked to be in good shape
- Water Fountain had too much water pressure and shot water about 20 feet

Veterans Memorial Park (Mike Shepard)

- Bike rack was being used
- Water fountain wasn't in service

Spruce Park (Victoria Biehn)

Time/Date – Tuesday at 5:00 pm

- Encountered two youth baseball practices and parents/small kids at the playground. Chalk art on the basketball court. Park was very busy.

- Garbage can by the playground was missing a top
- Large branch down on Spruce Street by baseball field
- Restroom was in good shape

Lakeview Park (Victoria Biehn)

Time/Date – Tuesday at 6:00 pm

- Large brush pile to the right of the park
- Benches and a picnic table but no garbage can
- Park sign is very small. Something bigger identifying the park might be helpful for residents to know about park. Victoria has lived here for 35 years and did not know the park existed.
- Does the canoe/kayak rack get used/rented?
- Shoreline is mucky
- Two benches are wooden. Is there any plan to update?

Lions Park (Victoria Biehn)

Time/Date – Tuesday at 6:30 pm

- Restroom was in good shape
- Park patrons were fishing off pier and walking their dogs
- Little Free Library is located near parking lot
- Tree roots by the fishing pier have heaved some pavement. Victoria tripped when walking.
- 1 wooden bench by lake in bad shape
- Wooden picnic table by Admiral D's. Will that be converted?
- Large dirt pile by new bench on White Bear Avenue path
- Large unused area over by the restrooms. Might want to consider a couple of benches for patrons who want solitude.

Railroad Park (Ginny Davis)

Time/Date – Saturday May 7th and Monday May 9th in the afternoon

- Park was quiet with a few people around.
- The park patrons were 4 teenage girls and 1 woman walking
- On the second visit, the park patron was a veteran protesting the war
- Is there a City sign for this park?

Ramaley Park (Ginny Davis)

Time/Date - Saturday May 7th and Monday May 9th in the afternoon

- Restrooms were clean and looking good.
- Park was quiet with a few people around.

- The park patrons were 2 young girls having a picnic and on the play equipment. The 2 young girls only complaint were the bugs at the park. The parents enjoy riding their bikes to Ramaley Park.

Yost Park (Ginny Davis)

Time/Date - Saturday May 7th and Monday May 9th in the afternoon

- Restrooms were clean and looking good.
- Park was quiet with a few people around.
- Drinking fountain has a leaky spout
- The park patrons included a family with 4 boys on the play equipment and a couple of people walking their dogs through the park.