



**MINUTES  
PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022  
6:30 P.M. AT LAKEWOOD HILLS PARK**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

Chair Bill Ganzlin called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:** None

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by member **Bill Ganzlin** seconded by member **Bryan Belisle**, to approve the agenda with an addition to New Business to discuss Hidden Hollow and Bossard Park resident concerns.

Motion carried 7:0.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes of August 18, 2022

It was moved by member **Ginny Davis** seconded by member **Victoria Biehn**, to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 7:0.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Nothing Scheduled

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Continued Dog Beach Discussion

Paul Kauppi explained to the Parks Advisory Commission members that starting in February, the Commissions will attend a workshop with the City Council to discuss current and future projects. Topics that will be discussed are budgets and other issues that need City Council's attention. Paul explained this will be the venue that the Commission will bring their recommendation on the dog beach to the City Council. Bill Ganzlin thanked Paul for the update and is excited for the opportunity to work with the City Council.

Bill asked Andy Wietecki how the City will police the dog leash issue since that seems to be the biggest complaint from residents. There is no way to enforce this issue as the Police Department's resources are limited. Andy reported that the City is having issues with staffing the Community Service Officer positions and those positions would usually be the one dispatched to a call of this nature.

Mike Shepard spoke about the complaints that dogs go up the stairs and run onto neighboring properties. Mike made the most visits to the dog beach to monitor how people use the beach and if complaints are truly an issue. Mike did see one dog go up the stairs at the dog beach and found its way to the stairs at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street swim beach and then went back down to the water and back to the dog beach area. Mike recommended gates at both the 7<sup>th</sup> Street and dog beach stairs would eliminate this issue.

Closing the 7<sup>th</sup> Street swim dock was mentioned by a few residents but Bill Ganzlin was against this idea as he believes it is an important asset to the residents in the area. Andy reported that at the last Commission meeting Brian Bonin asked if the City would restrict fishing on the 7<sup>th</sup> Street swim dock as the hooks that are lost are a hazard to those swimming in the lake. Bryan questioned if anyone loses hooks fishing off this dock. Anastacia reported that her son was swimming there this summer and reported the bottom of lake under the dock was full of hooks and lures. The Park Advisory Commission was unanimous that there be no fishing signs installed to protect the swimmers. Mark stated that there are three other docks for people to fish off in the area so it shouldn't be an issue.

The Park Advisory Commission returned to the leash issue topic again. Ginny stated that she isn't a dog owner but is swimming on leash safe for the dog? Anastacia mentioned that in her experience sometimes dogs on leashes can cause problems because when dogs are leashed they tend feel protective of their owner. She also mentioned that the dog park near Otter Lake has no rules for dogs being on leashes but you are instructed that your dog's leash must be in your hands and ready to hook your dog up if they get out of hand.

Anastacia believes that teaching the public how to use the park is an important step. Paul mentioned redesigning the signage with 3 main points on the main sign to make it easier to read and understand the main rules. Then created additional signs that go in depth describing each rule. The Commission agreed that the City should redesign the dog beach signs.

Andy asked the Commission if there are any other potential dog beach/park locations that they should investigate. Both Mike and Bill stated that they looked at all the other locations and discussed them in depth each time suggestions were brought to the Park Advisory Commission. Each time the issue or complaint has been discussed the Commission always comes back that the current location for the dog beach is the best option that the City has. Ginny stated that she believes the City has done their due diligence vetting their options and looking for solutions.

Paul asked if dog waste has been a problem at the dog beach. Most members agreed that dog waste is not an issue. Andy reported that occasionally he finds dog waste under the canoe racks but he finds more along the trail than anywhere else. Andy agreed with the Commission that dog waste is not an issue.

Bill Ganzlin recommend ending the discussion and voting – should the City keep the dog beach open and in its current location. The Park Advisory Commission voted 7:0 to keep the beach at its current location. Anastacia shared that she thinks the Commission works well together on these issues and that it is a work on progress to find new ways to make the dog beach work for everyone.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Lakewood Hills Park Tour

The dog beach topic took most of the time this evening so there was no walk tour. One of the biggest topics for discussion was the amount of people that were at the park this evening. Most of the Commission members had to park at the YMCA as there was no open spots in the parking lot. Andy advised the Commission that youth baseball is now utilizing the fields and that has led to increased usage of the park in general. It was a great decision to open these fields up to youth baseball and revitalize park usage.

### B. Hidden Hollow Playground

Bryan Belisle received a message from a resident regarding the playground at Hidden Hollow. The resident asked if multi-purpose senior equipment could be incorporated into the park. Andy responded that this is not something we currently have in our budget. As the Commission works through the Parks Capital Improvement plan, we could discuss if this is an item that we want to add to the budget.

### C. Bossard Park Natural Area

Bryan Belisle noticed that the natural area of Bossard Park is being taken over by trees. The Parks Department had to clear trees and shrubs that were growing on a neighbor's fence last year. Andy Wieteki and Paul Kauppi will be visiting the site to come up with a plan on what to do with this area.

## 7. DISCUSSION

### A. Staff updates

- Lakewood Hills Playground – Andy reported to the Park Advisory Commission that the playground is on hold until next year. The City hopes to have excavating completed yet this fall.
- Lions Park Shelters – The Parks Department has removed the old shelters. St. Croix

Recreation should be constructing the new shelters over the next couple of weeks.

- Lions Park Restroom Remodel – Andy is working on rearranging items in the budget so we are able to start and complete the remodel project along with the trail expansion.

B. Commission meeting location - Next meeting is back at City Hall for the winter season.

C. Other Business

- Bryan Belisle asked about reviewing the park rental rates and reservation count. This will be put on the next agenda.
- Mark Cermak asked about reviewing the Marketfest comments. The topic was tabled due to the dog beach conversation but we will be added to the next agenda.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried, 7:0