



**MINUTES
PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022
6:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chair Bill Ganzlin called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anastacia Davis

STAFF PRESENT: Andy Wietecki, Parks Working Foreman

VISITORS PRESENT: Mike Enz

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by member **Mark Cermak** seconded by member **Ginny Davis**, to approve the agenda with the addition of resident Mike Enz under New Business.

Motion carried 6:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of September 15, 2022

It was moved by member **Victoria Biehn** seconded by member **Mike Shepard**, to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion carried, 6:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Resident Mike Enz was present to discuss smoking at the Boatworks Commons and the skateboard park at Podvin Park.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing Scheduled.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Marketfest Review

Andy Wietecki shared a summary of comments received from the Marketfest booth feedback forms. One thing to note is how positivity of all the feedback. Most of the comments were focused on the exceptional quality of the City parks and the need for pickleball courts. Bryan Belisle seconded the need for more pickleball courts since the

City is losing the Armory which is used heavily for pickleball. The City has surveyed all the parks and found two good spots which would be able to support a pickleball court and the traffic it will bring. The City does not have anything in the Park's current CIP budget to construct that amenity but it can be added. The Parks Advisory Commission will need to discuss its importance to the community and when it fits into the long term plan. Andy reminded the Commission that there are many projects in the current budget for infrastructure that is aging, and in need of replacement with incorporated new upgrades.

The Commission asked about the potential pickleball locations and Bryan recommended Podvin Park by the lacrosse fields. Andy reported that the Lacrosse Association uses that area for staging, warm ups and practice. That locations close proximity to residential housing is also not the right fit for a designated pickleball location. The two locations with the best fit and usable, available space are McCarty Park and Bossard Park. Bossard Park, however, would need significant investment as Andy would recommend a parking lot off Bellaire Avenue.

B. Park Rental Rates and Utilization

Andy shared with the Park Advisory Commission the park reservation numbers and rental fees. The main goal is to look through the information over the next couple of meetings and decide if the rates make sense for the venue. The Commission agreed that they would like to see the BoatWorks Community Room utilized more by residents in White Bear Lake, expanded schedule times and possibly reduce the resident rates to increase usage.

The Commission requested a more in depth report for the BoatWorks Commons rentals. If possible, the new report should provide the hours and days of the week it is available to rent. Andy will gather that information for the Commission's next meeting. He requested they look over the materials provided today and make note of any questions or things that need to be changed.

C. Visitor Mike Enzo

Resident Mike Enz asked to be added to the Agenda this evening to discuss the smoking issue at BoatWorks Commons and the skate park at Podvin Park. Mike stated that his family, including 4 grandchildren, enjoy using the City's parks but that smoking or vaping in the parks is not appropriate. Ginny Davis and Bryan Belisle mentioned that Ramsey County recently passed no smoking, vaping or commercial tobacco use in any of their indoor or outdoor facilities and parks. Mike would like to see the White Bear Lake parks non-smoking or, at the very least, Boatworks Commons due to its proximity to the apartments. Mike Enz also told the Commission that he brings his grandson to Podvin Park to use the skate park but that the City needs to improve on the equipment that is currently there. He would like to see more emphasis on improving the skate park because it is an Olympic sport and it is great way for kids who do not partake in organized sports to stay active. Bryan Belisle mentioned the skate park that was installed at the YMCA and

the amount of money it took to build it. Bryan stated that the YMCA skate park was used for 5 to 10 years and then the number of users started going down and the equipment started to rot. For those reasons, the YMCA decided to shut down the skate park. Andy reported that the City has skate park equipment in the Parks Improvement Budget but it isn't budgeted until 2026. Bryan proposed and Mike agreed to have the kids raise money and donate it to the City for the purchase of a new piece or two of equipment for the skate park.

Andy asked Mike what he would like to see for amenities at the Boatworks Commons green space. The Park Advisory Commission has been looking for ways to enhance the area. The Commission mentioned they could do benches or picnic tables in that area. Mike stated that he likes how the space is currently being used as he plays catch with his grandchild in that area. He would never consider throwing down a blanket and having a picnic due to the amount of dogs that use that area as a bathroom. He does not think tables or benches are necessary due to the tables across the road that have a much better view of the lake. The tables that were placed in that area during COVID-19 created some issues with noise.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

- Park CIP Projects – Andy shared pictures with the Park Advisory Commission of the new shelters currently being built at Lions Park. Andy recommended the Commission take a look at the new amenities in the next couple of weeks. Andy also reported to the Commission that the contract for the restroom remodel project at Lions Park was signed. The construction will begin shortly and will continue through the winter months with substantial completion by May 15, 2023.
- Seasonal Review – City parks are closed for the winter. The Parks Department is currently removing lake items and blowing out irrigation systems and bathrooms. Unfortunately, there have already been two water lines that froze before the parks were shut down for the year.

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, 6:0