



**MINUTES  
PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION  
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023  
6:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

Vice Chair Mike Shepard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bill Ganzlin

**STAFF PRESENT:** Paul Kauppi, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist / Water Resources Engineer

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Environmental Advisory Commission – Sheryl Bolstad and Chris Greene

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Motion carried 6:0.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes of February 17, 2022

It was moved by member **Ginny Davis** seconded by member **Bryan Belisle**, to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2022 meeting as amended.

Motion carried, 6:0.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Environmental Advisory Commission

Connie introduced the topic of pollinator friendly habitat and potential desire for additional ones in unused areas of the City's parks along with invasive species management. The EAC would like to brainstorm park areas to see if there are good locations in the parks. Connie provided the PAC with maps of each park to review. Bryan asked if burning was used as a maintenance technique. Connie stated that burning is not typically used due to neighbor concerns and that we hire contractors for maintenance and use mowing. Hired contractors typically treat for invasive species and weeds. For example, at Cub Foods it costs approximately \$800 per year for maintaining ½ acre of native area. Typically maintenance is more intense the first 2 years to allow for establishment, then scaled back in future years. Bryan asked who will maintain the Rotary Park area when complete. Connie stated that Natural Shore Technologies is assisting with the installation and money will be budgeted for maintenance in the future. The EAC is looking for additional areas to possibly construct and maintain but will require additional budgeting. Paul gave an overview of budgets for Parks and Storm Water and

how they are funded and planned for. Connie stated that staff seeks out grants to help as well when available. Bryan asked why we need these natural areas and pollinator friendly areas and Connie stated that we need them to maintain a healthy ecological balance and projects are actually just restoring areas to what was there pre-development providing additional habitat for many different species. Connie stated that these areas can be used for educational purposes as well. Mike asked how big do they need to be? Connie stated that they can be just about any size, everything helps. Chris stated that they can be put just about anywhere that they can be protected and educate others. Anastacia asked what should they should look for and offered to have EAC members join PAC members on their annual park tours to help identify locations. Contact information will be shared between the groups to coordinate. Staff will look at parks that may have potential areas and skip ones that are not viable.

## 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Park inspections have been assigned, see sheet and should be completed in June / July timeframe.
- B. Arbor Day will be observed at the next meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Project will be to remove evergreen trees at Ebba Park and replace with deciduous trees along the boulevard
- C. Selection of Commission Member for Downtown Mobility and Parking Study Steering Committee
  - Bryan Belisle volunteered to serve on this committee.
- D. 2023 Summer Park Tours will be held as follows
  - May – Ebba Park for Arbor Day Event
  - June – McCarty Park
  - July – Lions Park
  - August – Rotary Park
  - September – Veterans Memorial Park

## 7. DISCUSSION

### A. Staff updates

Paul mentioned that the all abilities playground preparations are underway and Mike gave out the dates of the volunteer build of June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and will need volunteers. Mike will send out the link to register to volunteer.

### B. Commission member updates

The question was asked if the commission would be doing Marketfest in 2023. Paul stated the Commission can discuss at the May meeting when Andy is back.

Bryan asked if anything can be done to the Gazebos at the boardwalk to deter birds from nesting, staff will look into this.

Commission members suggested to revisit the dog beach once all of the fence, buoys and signage are in place to see how things are working.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried, 6:0