



**MINUTES  
PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION  
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023  
6:30 P.M. AT ROTARY NATURE PRESERVE  
AT 4840 WHITE BEAR PARKWAY**

**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, Bill Ganzlin,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Anastacia Davis, Ginny Davis and Mike Shepard

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

**VISITORS PRESENT:** None

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by member **Bryan Belisle** seconded by member **Mark Cermak**, to approve the agenda with the addition of handicap parking at Matoska/West Park Pavilion Access added under New Business.

Motion carried 4:0.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Minutes of July 20, 2023

It was moved by member **Mark Cermak** seconded by member **Victoria Biehn**, to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2023 meeting.

Motion carried, 4:0.

**4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Nothing scheduled

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing scheduled

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Park Inspection Reports

Due to the absences of three Commission members, the discussion of park inspection reports will be moved to the September meeting.

B. Park Tour – Rotary Nature Preserve

The Park Advisory Commission spent the majority of the meeting walking the area where the native restoration project is taking place. Andy explained that Parks staff removed the invasive trees and shrubs in a week's time. Natural Shore Technologies came after the removal to treat the area and plant over 1,000 plants along with seeding in the wetland area. Once fall arrives, the Parks staff will remove the invasive trees and shrubs on the opposite side of the trail.

The Commission asked if turf grass would be planted on the pavilion side of the trail. Andy advised that the White Oaks and Burr Oaks with understory shrubs like Red Twig Dog Wood would be planted. The idea is to recreate what naturally would have been in this area. As the Park Commission walked from the parking area to Birch Lake Boulevard North, Andy continued explaining what other phases were currently being planned along the wetland and trail. The Park Advisory Commission is impressed with the progress thus far and is excited to see the transformation continue over the next few years.

C. Handicap Parking at Matoksa/West Park Pavilion Access

Bill Ganzlin had a resident reach out to him about adding handicap parking at the Matoska Boat Launch. Paul told the Commission that they can review this request but there are many factors to consider when adding handicap spots. The parking lot was reconstructed just two years ago so reconfiguring now is not easy. The City will look into the area by the Speiss Boat Landing Historical Monument but cannot guarantee that area will work.

Bill also had another request for better access to the West Park Pavilion. In this year's capital improvement budget, we will be installing a new trail that will lead from the existing trail by the restrooms along the playground and through the park to Lake Avenue. It will line up across from the steps that were installed during the beach retaining wall project. After receiving the quotes for the project, there is enough in the budget to also pave a trail from 11<sup>th</sup> Street to the pavilion to make access easier. Andy told the Commission this project is slated for the middle of September.

**7. DISCUSSION**

- A. Staff updates
- B. Commission member updates

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion carried, 4:0