



**MINUTES
PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024
6:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
AT 4701 HWY 61 NORTH**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Victoria Biehn, Mark Cermak, Anastacia Davis, and Mike Shepard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bryan Belisle, Ginny Davis, and Bill Ganzlin

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

VISITORS PRESENT: Environmental Advisory Committee

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried, 4:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of November 16, 2023

It was moved by member **Victoria Biehn** seconded by member **Mark Cermak**, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023 meeting.

Motion carried, 4:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Joint meeting with the Environmental Advisory Committee to explore installing new and to rehabilitate existing natural pollinator areas throughout our parks. This conversation started last year when the EAC members joined the PAC members on their park inspection visits to look for areas to convert into natural areas. Connie Taillon, City liaison for the EAC, distributed a map of each park which outlined the areas both the PAC and EAC members identified for future pollinator/natural ideas. After Connie Taillon presented a map of each park, both of the Commissions along with City Staff discussed the placements of these areas in depth. Andy Wieteki reminded both Commission he would like to see our efforts concentrated on current natural areas and rehabilitating them. Andy mentioned that most of these area were developed over 20 years ago but were never kept up or managed successfully as natural pollinator areas.

Andy Wieteki and Paul Kauppi were able to give a lot of insight to the proposed areas put forward. They identified areas that would work for the City's future plan and areas to avoid. Examples of areas to avoid

include roadways and on street parking, open spaces in parks that get utilized by sport associations and park users, areas shaded by trees, and underground infrastructure like the many storm water filtration systems in City parks.

The question was asked about planting bee friendly turf in areas where the City cannot plant an established prairie. The bee friendly turf would allow the City to mow less frequently. Andy Wieteki responded that the City doesn't currently treat most parks with herbicides so technically we do have bee friendly turf that offers clover and dandelions for these insects.

Connie Taillon will make changes to the maps that were noted at this meeting and distribute them back to both Commissions. Connie reiterated that there is no immediate plan to move forward with any of these projects but instead these ideas will be added to a master plan that the City can work towards implementing. Andy Wieteki will bring the updated maps back to the Commission once the changes are made and the discussion will be continued in the fall or winter.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing Scheduled

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Parks Natural/Pollinator Plan with Environmental Advisory Committee

See Visitors and Presentations

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

a. January Workshop Review

Tabled this discussion until there are more PAC members in attendance.

B. Commission member updates

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried, 4:0