

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
November 1, 2016
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Patrick Regan called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Members Present

Patrick Regan, Jonathan Weiss, Cindy Webster, Lindsey Carr, Wendy Duren and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Jim Elvestrom, Scott Ferguson

September 15, 2016 Minutes

The Committee approved the September 15, 2016 Park Committee minutes on a motion by Cindy Webster, seconded by Lindsey Carr. Motion carried 5-0.

Matters from the Floor

Gabrielle Rohde (18400 Minnetonka Blvd) stated that she is here this evening because she wanted to learn more about the Park Committee and to discuss the removal of duckweed in the Thorpe Park pond. She provided a summary of potential treatment options for removing duckweed, one of which cost approximately \$1,500 per year. She stated that the City has included this cost in the 2017 Budget and offered to help out anyway she could with the treatment program.

Park Reports

There were no Park Reports this evening.

Emerald Ash Borer (S&S Tree Service)

Mark Rehder and Gail Nozal, representing S & S Tree Service, were present to provide an update on Emerald Ash Borer. Mark Rehder provided a brief overview on S & S Tree Service, including the scope of services that they provide to both customers and cities. He noted that they have recently completed the Shorewood Preservation Plan on boulevard and park trees.

Gail Nozal provided an update on Emerald Ash Borer. She stated that EAB has traditionally been located in the eastern half of the United States and has now been in Minnesota since 2009. She noted that its progress has been slowed in the 12 Minnesota counties that have established a quarantine on the movement of wood from county to county, unless treated. She stated that EAB is particularly important issue to residents since Minnesota has the second most ash trees in the country behind only Maine.

She stated that the management options regarding EAB include a tree inventory, and decisions on what trees to preserve and what trees to replace. She stated that the MN Department of Natural Resources has provided an article on six ways that city's can help with EAB, including:

- Inform & train residents
- Stay connected
- Winter scouting for EAB
- Report sightings
- Update ordinances
- Understanding future issues

Dana Young provided a summary of Deephaven's EAB management plan. He stated that the City treats a number of important ash trees at Thorpe Park, Village Hall Park and Shuck Park every other year at a cost of approximately \$4,000. He stated that the City would remove and not replace any boulevard trees infected with EAB. He noted that staff could certainly do a better job in providing residents with more information on EAB.

Gail Nozal offered to provide an informational article on EAB for the City Newsletter. The Committee thanked Mark & Gail for their presentation.

2017 Park & Beach Projects

Dana Young stated that three park & beach projects have been included in the 2017 Capital Improvement, including:

- Reconstructing the Deephaven Swimming Dock by installing 56 8" piled dock, 2' x 8' cross members treated, 2' x 8' stringers treated, and 2' x 6' decking (\$42,000)
- Painting and patching Thorpe tennis courts (\$13,500)
- Painting and patching Village Hall tennis courts (\$14,500)

He added that it appears that the grant to the Hennepin County Youth Sports Program for Thorpe Park improvements will be submitted this year. He stated that the grant application is requesting \$500,000 for the construction of a new warming house & restroom, an asphalt surface for the hockey rink, new boards, and improved lighting. He stated that the \$500,000 grant would be split 50-50 between the City and the Hennepin County Youth Sports Program.

Patrick Regan asked that the Park Committee be included in any future decision-making involving any future improvements at Thorpe Park.

Dana Young stated that he is certain that the City Council will want significant Park Committee involvement in the proposed improvements should the grant be approved.

Review Ten-Year Park Plan

Dana Young presented the Ten-Year Park Plan for Committee review. He noted that this plan is subject to change each and every year depending on what structures and other fixed assets need to be upgraded at the parks.

2017 Committee Memberships

Dana Young noted that the one-year terms of Scott Ferguson, Jim Elvestrom and Cindy Webster will be ending on February 2017. He stated that there are two residents who have indicated an interest in serving on the Park Committee. He stated that further discussion on 2017 Committee memberships will be held at the Park Committee meetings in January or February.

Other

Discussion was held on communication between the Park Committee and City Council. Dana Young stated that the Park Committee minutes are included in the Council packet and a summary of their meeting is given to the Council at the second meeting of the month. He stated that there use to be a City Councilmember who was designated to serve as a Park Committee liaison, which allowed for much more direct communication between the Park Committee and the City Council. He noted that this changed about five years ago to where there is no longer a Councilmember attending the Park Committee meetings.

Dana Young suggested that anytime the Park Committee had specific information or recommendations that they wanted to present directly to the City Council, he recommended that the Park Committee chair should attend the next available Council meeting to present these ideas in person.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held in either January or February 2017.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Wendy Duren, seconded by Lindsey Carr. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.