

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
September 12, 2017
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Patrick Regan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Patrick Regan, Scott Hemink, Lindsey Carr, Tracy Whitney, Kent Carlson, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Wendy Duren, Jonathan Weiss, and Scott Ferguson

August 8, 2017 Minutes

The Committee approved the August 8, 2017 Park Committee minutes on a motion by Patrick Regan, seconded by Lindsey Carr. Motion carried 4-0.

Matters from the Floor

There were no Matters from the Floor this evening.

Park Reports

Dana Young provided an update on the issues reported at the last meeting:

- More garbage cans will be added to Deephaven Beach during the summer months.
- We didn't see any problem with the condition of two trees at Rocky Beach as had been reported.
- Linwood Beach is in decent condition, but the asphalt pathway is in rough condition.
- The docks at Linwood & Rocky Beach are in rough shape and we will be installing new planks this winter. He stated that the missing pier caps on the docks are due to vandalism.
- He stated that all of our beaches are raked in the morning.
- The ball field bench at the south side of Thorpe Park has been repaired.

Tracy Whitney reported that the playground equipment at Village Hall Park is in poor condition. Dana Young agreed that the equipment is in poor shape and \$35,000 has been budgeted to replace the equipment next year.

Scott Hemink stated that he had talked with representatives from Minnetonka Baseball Association (MBA) about contributing maintenance funds for the upkeep of our ball fields. It was suggested that Scott obtain a proposed agreement from MBA that outlines what they would be willing to provide in exchange for field usage rights. Patrick Regan suggested that we would only want to consider annual agreements with MBA.

Further discussion was held on the possibility of obtaining fees from Minnetonka Community Education for the use of our tennis courts. It was noted that there are also a lot of private tennis lessons given use at our courts but it would be more difficult process to try to charge these private individuals.

Scott Hemink asked if the City had considered adjustments to the parking permit fee structure.

Dana Young stated that parking permit fees generate approximately \$26,000 per year and are used to offset costs for maintaining the beaches and the boat launch.

Discussion was held on the parking impact of non-residents using the city beaches.

Scott Hemink suggested that parking permit fees should be higher.

Patrick Regan noted that there is also excess parking for the Minnetonka Yacht Club along Park Avenue that can be problematic. He stated that he thought permit parking should be extended further up on Park Avenue.

Dana Young noted that the City and community has a long standing partnership with both the Minnetonka Yacht Club and Lake Minnetonka Sailing School and the reason additional bituminous off-street parking was included on Park Avenue was specifically to accommodate parking for Minnetonka Yacht Club events.

Dana Young stated that this has been very good discussion and we will have further discussions on parking permit fees, permit parking areas, and field use agreements at future meetings.

Discuss Public Fishing Locations

Dana Young noted that a rather intense discussion on this issue was held at last month's meeting and noted that the City Council continues to be is very interested in the Park Committee's review of potential alternative public fishing locations within the city. He stated that he understands that several Park Committee members may be disappointed that the Council will not allow fishing from the municipal docks and noted that none of the other seven municipalities with municipal docks on Lake Minnetonka allow fishing on their docks either.

He stated that there are numerous potential locations on current street ends or at certain beaches that might work very well for fishing. He noted that any potential new fishing dock must be approved by the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District. He added that while he doesn't believe that the City has an obligation to provide fishing opportunities at every lakeshore property owned by the City, he felt that there could be several very good potential fishing locations.

Scott Hemink stated that some ideas to consider would be both Rocky and Linwood Beach. He stated that both are not great swimming areas. He stated that there are also some fire lanes that could be used for shoreline fishing. He stated that the current ordinance prohibits fishing from the public shoreline and he would like to see that changed.

Lindsey Carr asked if there was a way to attract more fish around the City's fishing pier at Deephaven Beach.

Scott Hemink stated that he is not a great fisherman but it was his understanding that a good fishing spot has something to do with the structure. He said he doesn't know if Rocky or Linwood Beach would be a great location for fishing.

Patrick Regan noted that the Back Bay is also not a great location for fishing.

Scott Hemink stated that a number of parents have decided to ignore the ordinance prohibiting fishing from the municipal docks.

Tracy Whitney asked why it would be OK for people to ignore the ordinance.

Kent Carlson stated that the Park Committee needs to identify specific locations for fishing. He stated that the fishing from municipal docks is not permitted because of the lease arrangements the City has with boat permit holders.

Patrick Regan stated that he believes it was a legitimate decision for the Council to prohibit fishing from the municipal docks. He stated that he only takes issue with the fact that the Council went in the exact opposite direction from the Park Committee's recommendation.

Scott Hemink stated that he could invite Colt back to the meeting and he could tell us the good fishing locations in Deephaven.

Discuss Park & Beach Comp Plan Recommendations

Dana Young stated that he has provided a copy of the City's Comprehensive Plan that deals with parks and beaches for Committee review. He stated that if the Committee would like to recommend any additional language in this section of the Comp Plan, they would have to do so by early next spring. The revision of the Comp Plan is expected to be completed by June 2018.

Scott Hemink asked if there was an expectation that the Park Committee review the Park and Beach section of the Comp Plan at each upcoming meeting. He stated that he wouldn't find that type of review very interesting.

Dana Young stated that this wasn't his intent. He stated that he just wanted to provide the Park Committee with the opportunity to review the portion of the plan pertaining to parks and beaches. He noted that Wendy Duren has always expressed an interest in incorporating more language regarding trails and sidewalks in the Comp Plan.

Patrick Regan noted that language on trails is already in the Comp Plan.

Discuss Bikeway Feasibility Grant

Patrick Regan noted that discussion on the Bikeway Feasibility Grant will be held once more information is received from Hennepin County.

Other

Dana Young provided an update on activities pertaining to reconstructing the Thorpe Park hockey rink and warming house.

Scott Hemink asked if the Park Committee would be involved in the selection of new playground equipment at Village Hall Park next year. Dana Young stated that he intended the Committee to be very involved in the selection process.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on October 3, 2017.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Patrick Regan, seconded by Lindsey Carr. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.