

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
February 12, 2019
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Wendy Duren called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Patrick Regan, Scott Hemink, Lindsey Carr, Wendy Duren, Tony Jewett, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Tracy Whitney and Tom Erdmann

January 8, 2019, 2018 Minutes

The Committee approved the February 12, 2019 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

Scott Hemink asked if the City was currently aerating the swimming dock at Deephaven Beach. Dana Young stated that permission is needed from the LMCD to aerate prior to March 1st and compliance with the fencing requirements for aerating prior to March 1st are difficult in St. Louis Bay. He stated that the public works crew will start aerating on March 1st.

Tony Jewett also noted that Kent Carlson has offered the use of his ice breaking boat if needed.

Wendy Duren noted that some areas of the dock are peeling and may need to be repainted.

Patrick Regan stated that the City will try to keep the rinks open as long as the weather permits. Scott Hemink noted that most hockey associations are finished using the rinks by March 1st.

Wendy Duren stated that she has received good feedback on the condition of the ice.

Tony Jewett asked if the heating units at the platform courts were working properly. Dana Young explained that the heating units are not intended to clear snow from the courts. The best that they can do is remove the slight film of ice on the floor. Patrick Regan stated that State Building Code requirements wouldn't allow the City to install a heating unit directly under the courts so this type of heating unit had to be installed. Dana Young stated that this was the only type of heating unit that could legally be installed and it is very limited in what it is able to do.

Update Shuck Park Neighborhood Meeting

Patrick Regan stated that he came away from the neighborhood meeting with two major points. First, there is a demand to have play structures for younger children. And second, there was a discussion about whether it would be necessary to have two tennis courts and whether one of the courts could be used for a sports court and pickle ball court.

Tony Jewett asked if there were drainage issues at Shuck Park.

Patrick Regan noted that the Strategic Plan identified a culvert on the site plan.

Dana Young stated that there is a storm water outlet at Shuck Park to store some of the water from off of Cottagewood Avenue. He noted that the ponding of storm water is short term and limited to that area of the park near the street.

Scott Hemink recommended that we should stay with the same style of playground equipment that we currently have at Village Hall Park.

Patrick Regan stated that some of the comments at the meeting indicated that they thought the new playground structure at Village Hall Park was too advanced for younger children.

Tony Jewett agreed that we shouldn't duplicate the equipment that we already have in the Cottagewood area. He stated that we don't need another pirate ship.

Wendy Duren stated that we have two issues to consider – what to do with the play area and with the two tennis courts.

Dana Young stated that we could find a company with some expertise on tennis court design and ask them to provide plans on a new tennis court and on options on the second court. He stated that he would also provide various options on playground equipment, including swings and climbing structures. He also noted that there was strong interest in removing the playground sand as well.

Thorpe Multi-Use Facility Reservation & Use Policy

The Committee generally felt that the current name of the building was too cumbersome and recommended calling it the Thorpe Park Pavilion instead of the Thorpe Park Multi-Use Facility. The Committee reviewed and provided comments on the draft prepared by Tom Erdmann on a proposed Reservations and Use Policy for the Thorpe Pavilion. Wendy Duren stated that she would forward her comments to Dana Young.

Dana Young stated that he would combine all the comments listed tonight into a reservation and use policy form for the Committee to review on March 5th.

Discuss 2019 Committee Membership

Motion by Wendy Duren to recommend the reappointment of Scott Hemink as 2019 Vice Chair of the Park Committee. Seconded by Lindsey Carr. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Scott Hemink to recommend the reappointment of Wendy Duren Carr to a three-year term of office effective until February 2022. Seconded by Patrick Regan. Motion carried 4-0.

Further discussion was held on developing an interview process to fill the one vacant position. Dana Young stated that there are eleven volunteer applications on file.

Patrick Regan suggested that the Committee could review the applications and rank the top three candidates. He stated that he, Tony Jewett and Wendy Duren could then meet with the top candidates and make a final recommendation to the Park Committee.

Kickoff Meeting on Bikeway Feasibility Study with Toole Design

KC Atkins from Toole Design was present to lead the discussion on the Project Kickoff Meeting. Following introductions, KC Atkins asked what do you want from this project.

Scott Hemink stated that he is looking for a short term feasible approach that would get residents to the trail system safely and a phase two addressing a longer term approach.

Tony Jewett stated that he wants accessibility to the trail for younger kids from all parts of the City and a more user friendly route along Minnetonka Blvd.

Steve Erickson stated that the proposed scope of services represents what he wants out of this project. He added that there are optimal places that neighborhoods could connect to our park system. He stated that he would like to identify what you can do on Minnetonka Blvd outside of a 36-foot bituminous street.

Dana Young stated that he agreed with what's been stated so far and his interest is in seeing what the actual impact would be to installing some sort of separate walking or bike path off of the road surface on Minnetonka Blvd.

Wendy Duren stated that she would like to see a mix of off-road and on-road pathways as possible transportation to school and for recreational purposes. She stated that she would hate to see only an on-road solution. She stated that she would also like to include other stakeholders such as the school. She stated that she would like the City to incorporate things that could be done now and views Minnetonka Blvd as a community amenity.

Patrick Regan stated that he would like to connect different parts of the City together. He noted that the City is divided into three district areas and Minnetonka Blvd is a barrier and not a connector.

Lindsey Carr stated that she agrees with the other comments that have been made and would like to make it safe for kids to connect to our park amenities.

KC Atkins asked where kids currently bike.

Steve Erickson stated that his kids use the safer connections to get to school.

Tony Jewett stated that on the busiest days, there are around 100 bikes at the Elementary School. On the slower days, there might be around 30 bikes.

Steve Erickson agreed with Patrick Regan's earlier comment that Minnetonka Blvd is our biggest connector and our biggest obstacle.

Scott Hemink stated that he doesn't want the bike route to be just for expert bicyclists but for families and casual use.

KC Atkins stated that there needs to be a perceived comfort level on the road. She stated that many bicyclists are interested in using Minnetonka Blvd but are concerned about their safety.

KC Atkins asked about the future implementation of a bikeway route.

Wendy Duren stated that Hennepin County provides grant funds not only for the Bikeway Feasibility Study but also for bikeway construction.

Steve Erickson stated that if there is available space beyond the 36' bituminous roadway for some sort of walking or bike path, he sees the development of this area as much longer term.

Scott Hemink agreed that the short term fix might be striping the street.

Steve Erickson stated that Chris Bower will coordinate design work with Bolton & Menk, the project engineer. Chris is also committed to coming to the April 4th Open House, which will be a great time to get community input.

KC Atkins asked what should happen if stakeholders have different opinions about some of the alternatives.

Steve Erickson stated that the City Council, with advice from the Park Committee, is the final decision maker.

Patrick Regan stated that he would like Toole Design's to submit their honest recommendations on the feasibility study as the expert on this issue.

Tony Jewett stated that he would want residents to rank the alternatives in order of importance.

Discussion was held on the revised scope of the work, which is different from what had been proposed in the Request for Proposals.

Further discussion was held on who should be the key contacts for the City.

Tony Jewett stated that Steve Erickson and Kent Carlson would be the designated contacts for the City as they are responsible for special projects with the City Council.

Dana Young suggested that the key contacts for the City could be Steve Erickson, Kent Carlson, and two volunteers from the Park Committee.

Patrick Regan stated that he didn't want a token member of the Park Committee to have to work with two members of the City Council.

Scott Hemink stated that he would prefer to have members of the Park Committee part of the decision-making process and volunteered to work with Steve and Kent. Patrick Regan also offered to serve as well.

Further discussion was held on that particular bikeway segment from Chowen's Corner to Co. Rd. 101. After some discussion, it was determined that this route is included under both Alternatives #1 and #2. KC Atkins also offered to confirm that their proposed feasibility study meets the goal of the grant with Hennepin County.

Patrick Regan had a question regarding the proposed project schedule. KC Atkins stated that their first priority will be an analysis of Minnetonka Blvd in order to be able to provide information at the April 4th Open House.

Other

There was no other business this evening.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on March 5, 2019.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Patrick Regan, seconded by Scott Hemink. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.