

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**January 7, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Wendy Duren called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Members Present**

Wendy Duren, Scott Hemink, Tom Erdmann, Cory Lepper, Kaisha Rafferty, Tracy Whitney, and City Administrator Dana Young

**Members Absent**

Lindsey Carr and Melissa McNeill

**December 3, 2019 Minutes**

The Committee approved the December 3, 2019 Park Committee minutes on a motion by Tom Erdmann, seconded by Kaisha Rafferty. Motion carried 6-0.

**Council Updates**

Dana Young stated that Melissa McNeill has been appointed the Park Committee liaison for this year. He stated that Melissa is out of town this evening but will at our next meeting.

He stated that several Council updates will be discussed as separate agenda items later in the meeting. He noted that the City Council approved re-bidding the Shuck Park tennis court project. He stated that the revised specifications will just include two tennis courts as the partial basketball court has been eliminated and the court will be repainted solely for tennis, which will eliminate the need for a new basketball hoop.

Discussion was held on including some area for basketball on the reconstruction tennis courts.

Motion by Tom Erdmann to recommend installing a basketball hoop and striping for a free throw line and key on the tennis court to provide another amenity besides tennis. Seconded by Scott Hemink. Motion carried 6-0.

Further discussion was held on the future maintenance of the City's 8 tennis courts and whether there were too many courts.

Wendy Duren noted that in watching the last Council meeting, the Council intended to use the proceeds from the proposed sale of one or both of the two park properties near Chowen's Corner towards the construction of a restroom at Deephaven Beach.

Dana Young stated that this is a key component to the sale of the park properties. He stated that Council discussed the potential sale of these underutilized park properties with the intent to use

the proceeds towards the construction of a new restroom at Deephaven Beach that would be much more heavily used.

### **Park Reports**

Wendy Duren stated that she has heard from several residents requesting the installation of rubber mats at the Thorpe Park Warming House and restrooms. She stated that she would like to recommend that the City Council consider the purchase rubber mats for the warming house and at least one restroom. Dana Young stated that Councilmember Tony Jewett has been looking into the possibility of purchasing rubber mats for some time and will ask him for an update.

Wendy Duren and Tracy Whitney provided a brief update on a locking system for the restrooms at Thorpe Park. Wendy stated that she has looked into automatic door locks but wasn't sure how these locks would work if someone was inside the restroom when they locked. Tracy stated that she has contacted US Security about the installation of security cameras.

Tom Erdmann stated that he would research automatic locking systems and report back to the Committee.

### **Welcome to New Member Cory Lepper**

The Committee welcomed Cory Lepper to the Park Committee.

### **Review Bikeway Feasibility Study (Chris Bower)**

Chris Bower of Toole Design was present to provide the following review of the preliminary Bikeway Feasibility Study:

- Project overview
- The designation of Minnetonka Blvd by Hennepin County as a planned bikeway
- Bikeway Route Options
  1. Minnetonka Blvd 2019 Resurfacing Project (widen shoulders)
  2. Minnetonka Blvd Trail (off-street shared use trail)
  3. Bicycle Boulevard (local street route)
  4. Neighborhood Connections
- Draft Report Outline
  1. Existing Conditions Analysis
  2. Bikeway Facility Selection
  3. Four Bikeway Route Options
  4. Public Engagement
  5. Implementation
- Public Engagement
- Project Next Steps
  1. Project Open House (February 4<sup>th</sup>)
  2. Online Engagement
  3. Finalize Report

### **Discuss February 4<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting on Feasibility Study**

Discussion was held regarding the proposed format and public engagement for the February 4<sup>th</sup> public meeting on the Bikeway Feasibility Study.

Chris Bower stated that his firm would provide the on-line survey as well as direct property owner mailings.

Scott Hemink stated that he would prefer this to be done after the public meeting.

Kaisha Rafferty asked about the promotion of the event and whether there was a magic number that we were hoping would attend the public meeting to consider it a success.

Chris Bower stated that an open house can be a challenge and the number those in attendance shouldn't be used to measure success.

Tom Erdmann suggested posting notice of the public meeting on NextDoorDeephaven. There was general agreement that this would be a great way to get the notice out to residents.

Kaisha Rafferty asked if we could come up with something more marketable than calling it a Bikeway Feasibility Study meeting.

Chris Bower suggested reaching out to the schools in Deephaven, including St. Therese, Deephaven Elementary School, and the middle school. He stated that he will ask his public information staff person to develop a meeting notice and survey. He stated that we will create the content and push it out. He stated that they will create one survey for the general public and one for property owners.

Wendy Duren asked to have the survey results available to the Park Committee by their March meeting.

Tom Erdmann stated that the survey may need to differentiate between on-street and off-street bike paths.

Scott Hemink stated that the focus of the survey should be towards those on-street property owners only and not on those property owners bordering Minnetonka Blvd. He stated that the \$2.7 million bike path along Minnetonka Blvd is not likely to every happen. He further recommended that the presentation should include the four different elements that were reviewed in the study, which include:

- Widening shoulders on Minnetonka Blvd
- Local street routes
- Neighborhood connections
- Minnetonka Blvd off-street shared use trail

Chris Bower stated that they will prepare the meeting notices and survey and will send it to Dana Young for distribution to the Park Committee by the end of the week.

### **Discuss Shuck Park Playground Equipment**

Dana Young stated that the City Council approved the proposal submitted by Minnesota Wisconsin Playground last night in the amount of \$36,175.01, which included Option B with the following alterations:

1. Exchange one (1) toddler bucket swing for one (1) expression swing
2. Exchange two (2) digger toys and one (1) Dragonfly seesaw for the Merry-Go-All as shown in Option A.

Further discussion was held on the use of engineered wood fiber vs. wood chips. It was the general consensus of the committee to use the engineered wood fiber to see how well it worked in comparison with wood chips.

### **Discuss Deephaven Beach Restroom Project**

Dana Young stated that, at their last meeting, the Park Committee had asked the City Council if they would like the Park Committee to be involved in the planning of the Deephaven Beach Restroom Project. He stated that the City Council confirmed that they would like the Park Committee involved in this project. He stated that the scope of the project has not yet been determine as of yet but the current thinking is that Councilmember Tony Jewett would apply for a Hennepin County Youth Sports Grant for this project and that the City Council were inclined to locate the restroom on the site of the sports court.

Scott Hemink stated that he believes the sports court is more heavily used than people think and would like to consider other locations. He requested a site plan of the entire area to review the available public property in the area.

Wendy Duren suggested that she would have a much better idea on the Park Committee's role in this project by meeting with the City Council. It was decided that she and Scott Hemink would go to the March Council meeting to get a better idea of the Park Committee's role in this project.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on February 4, 2020. Dana Young noted that the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Park Committee meeting will have to be rescheduled due to a conflict with the Presidential Nomination Primary.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Tom Erdmann, seconded by Tracy Whitney. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.