

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
July 7, 2020
Minutes
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Call Meeting to Order

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

Members Present Via Teleconference

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

Approve June 2, 2020 Minutes

Motion by Tom Erdmann to approve the June 2, 2020 Park Committee minutes. Seconded by Scott Hemink. Motion carried 7-0.

Council Liaison Report

Melissa McNeill stated that the City Council discussed the Deephaven Beach Restroom Project last evening and reviewed the following Main Beach Bathroom survey results:

Do you use the sport court at Deephaven Beach?

		<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	-	62	28%
No	-	158	72%
Total		220	100%

If yes, how often do you use the sport court at Deephaven Beach?

		<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Daily	-	0	0%
Weekly	-	18	22%
Monthly	-	16	19%
Less than monthly	-	49	59%
Total		83	100%

If yes, what activities do you do at the sport court?

		<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Tennis		49	67%
Basketball		8	11%
Other		16	22%
Total		73	100%

We are considering replacing the sport court with bathrooms at the beach. Do you approve of this change?

	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	149	68%
No	<u>71</u>	<u>32%</u>
Total	220	100%

Melissa McNeill stated that one of the bigger picture items that she learned last night was that a Park & Beach Master Plan was developed through the recommendation of the Park Committee in 2015 to establish a master plan for the community's parks and beaches that included permanent restrooms at Deephaven Beach. She stated that it has always been the plan to move forward with these restrooms.

She stated that the Council had a discussion on ways to increase funding for these special projects as it was learned that the Council can't charge arbitrary fees. She stated that the Council will continue to try to figure out ways to increase funding for park projects. She stated that the Council is fully in support of restrooms at Deephaven Beach and are no longer looking to put the restroom on the sport court but to move the restroom closer to the beach and install parking in the sport court. She stated that the first step is to survey the beach, install the infrastructure needed for the restrooms, and look at other amenities at the beach such as lighting, refuse containers, and moving the canoe and paddleboard racks.

Scott Hemink stated that it appears to be the Council's intent to follow Concept 1 as outlined in the Park & Beach Master Plan and to discuss what else could be done.

Melissa McNeill stated that the Council checked out a number of other facilities in other cities and the one that seemed to be the most reasonable is the restroom at Wayzata Beach. She stated that instead of the addition for McCormick's, the Council was looking at installing a pad for a food truck.

Scott Hemink stated that he had the opportunity to review the space for McCormick's and noted that they had a full kitchen.

Melissa McNeill stated that there has been some misinformation on NextDoor Deephaven about this project including the erroneous assumption that restrooms would have to be pumped out or that restrooms should be built into the hill.

Scott Hemink noted that the survey indicated overwhelming support for restrooms.

Wendy Duren asked about the Shuck Park Project.

Dana Young stated that the playground equipment has been installed and the curing period for the tennis court is ended today. He stated that he is waiting to hear back from the inspector on when the subcontractor will be in to paint the courts.

Wendy Duren asked about the Hennepin County Equipment Grant.

Tom Erdmann stated that there has been no response from Hennepin County on the grant application.

Dana Young provided an update on the locks at the Thorpe Park warming house.

Park Reports

Children's Park – Tom Erdmann stated that he has gotten nothing but good feedback on the fountain and landscaping.

Shuck Park – Report already given.

Pump Park – Nothing to report.

Village Hall Park – Nothing to report

Burton Park – Discussion was held on the mountain bike activity at the park.

Thorpe Park – It was reported that there are dead branches near the ball field that need to be removed, weeds are growing in the playground sand area, the Eagle Scout Project is moving forward this August, and there is trash floating in the pond.

Deephaven Beach – Scott Hemink noted that the lifeguards are doing a good job. Discussion was held on trash and trash receptacles.

Nocomo Beach – Wendy Duren asked if the sand had been raked.

Cleveland Park – Kaisha Rafferty reported that there was a downed tree.

Linwood Beach – Nothing to report.

Robinson's Bay Beach – Nothing to report.

Northome Trail – Tracy Whitney stated that the steps need to be raked at least once a year.

Minnetonka Blvd - No significant debris was reported.

Sandy Beach – Nothing to report.

Discuss Deephaven Beach Restroom Project

Discussion was held on needs, wants and amenities for the restroom.

Tracy Whitney stated that she likes Concept 1 and recommended an outdoor shower.

Scott Hemink stated that the number of bathroom stalls is important and noted that Wayzata had three stalls, a sink, a small changing area, and a diaper changing station. He asked if the restroom should include a roughed-in area for future concessions.

Melissa McNeill stated that the Council seems to prefer installing a pad for a food truck.

Scott Hemink stated that generators used by food trucks may be too loud and recommended requiring food trucks to plug in to an electrical outlet rather than using a generator.

Wendy Duren asked if the provision of food is a need that should be incorporated in the building or by the installation of a pad. She stated that she would prefer the building to be smaller with a pad for a food truck.

Kaisha Rafferty asked if a pad would be necessary or if they could just use a parking space.

Lindsey Carr noted that a parking space can be hard to come by some days.

Tom Erdmann stated that running a snack bar is not what we should be looking at since it is something that we are not good at doing. He stated that we also shouldn't take up green space for a food truck pad. He suggested that a pad could be added if demand indicates the need for one.

Wendy Duren suggested that the pad could have alternate uses, such as for a shady area. She stated that she is fine with not have concessions in the building but would be in favor of a multi-use pad.

Kaisha Rafferty asked if the restroom would be year-round and could it evolve into a warming house for those individuals using the lake for skating in the winter. She stated that you might want to anticipate people changing skates in the restroom.

Scott Hemink asked how would you manage the restroom in the winter and stated that we should wait until a problem emerges. He recommended holding off on usage discussions and noted that the rink isn't a park amenity.

Wendy Duren stated that she would like to examine the trash issue at all parks & beaches and look at having commercial grade receptacles. She also suggested identifying a location for a bike rack.

Other discussion items included relocating canoe & paddleboard racks, building security, and lighting.

Scott Hemink stated that the two critical issues that the Council will have to discuss is maintaining the restroom over the weekend and the impact of boat traffic on the use of the restroom.

Tom Erdmann stated that if the restroom is not able to be power washed, it was over-designed.

Discuss Scheduling Use at Park Facilities

Wendy Duren stated that she and Mayor Skrede had received an email from John Utter about the dramatic increase in tennis lessons at the Village Hall courts. She stated that Mr. Utter inquired about whether the City should be reimbursed for this use and if residents have priority over those conducting paid lessons on public courts.

Tracy Whitney stated that she knew of several residents who had hired tennis instructors for their children.

Discussion was held on the tennis court sign that limited play to no more than 30 minutes if someone was waiting to use the courts.

Scott Hemink stated that the Committee had looked into the issue of charging for field or facility use and decided to not move forward with this effort.

Melissa McNeill suggested verifying that the signage was in place and, if not, have the appropriate signs installed.

Discuss of Tennis Court Backboard Offer

The Committee reviewed an offer from Brian Walters, who coached tennis at Village Hall Park, to provide the City with a tennis court backboard.

Tom Erdmann suggested that two of us could meet with Mr. Walters to more thoroughly vet the product before deciding whether to accept the backboard.

The Committee felt this made sense to meet with Mr. Walters and report back to the Committee.

Scott Hemink recommended forming a subcommittee to explore different surface options for tennis courts. He asked that this item be included on the September agenda.

Other

There was no other business this evening.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on August 4, 2020.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Tracy Whitney. Seconded by Tom Erdmann. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.