

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
March 6, 2018
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Patrick Regan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present

Patrick Regan, Scott Hemink, Tracy Whitney, Scott Ferguson, Wendy Duren, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Lindsey Carr and Kent Carlson

December 5, 2017 Minutes

The Committee approved the December 5, 2017 Park Committee minutes on a motion by Scott Hemink, seconded by Patrick Regan. Motion carried 5-0.

Matters from the Floor

There were no Matters from the Floor this evening.

Park Reports

Scott Hemink stated that he has heard favorable reviews of the new Thorpe rink. He stated that residents have been very complimentary of the new lights and the quality of the ice.

Wendy Duren stated that there is a substantial crack in the Thorpe Park walking path near the pond. Dana Young stated that this crack will be repaired this spring.

Appoint 2018 Chair & Vice-Chair

Motion by Wendy Duren to appoint Patrick Regan as 2018 Park Committee Chair. Seconded by Tracy Whitney. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Patrick Regan to appoint Scott Hemink as 2018 Park Committee Vice-Chair. Seconded by Wendy Duren. Motion carried 5-0.

Discuss 2018 Committee Appointments

Discussion was held on the reappointment of Patrick Regan, Scott Ferguson, Jonathan Weiss, and Lindsey Carr to the Park Committee. Dana Young stated that Patrick & Scott can only serve for one-year terms of office since their terms have officially expired. He stated that both Jonathan & Lindsey are eligible to serve their second three-year term of office but Jonathan has decided that he will not be able to serve a second term due to work commitments.

Motion by Tracy Whitney to appoint Patrick Regan and Scott Ferguson to a one-year term of office effective until February 2019. Seconded by Scott Hemink. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Patrick Regan to appoint Lindsey Carr to her second three-year term of office effective until February 2021. Seconded by Tracy Whitney. Motion carried 5-0.

Discuss Bikeway Feasibility Grant

Patrick Regan stated that Hennepin County would like us to consider the extension of the bike path from Chowen's Corner to Co. Rd. 101. He stated that he had a conversation with the Minnetonka City Engineer and he was very supportive of this idea and mentioned that this could be integrated into Minnetonka plans to resurface Lowell Street, Leroy Street and St. Therese Street in 2021.

Dana Young stated that if Minnetonka is interested in the extension of a bike path into Minnetonka, the City would need to establish an agreement with Minnetonka such that Minnetonka would pay for the engineering costs associated with the review of the proposed bike path in Minnetonka.

Patrick Regan stated that there are three trail connections to consider. The first is a bike path along Minnetonka Blvd from Co. Rd. 101 to Deephaven Elementary School. The second would be a bike path from Co. Rd. 101 to Thorpe Park to Heathcote to the LRT Trail. And the third would be a short connection from the LRT Trail up the back pathway to Deephaven Elementary School.

He stated that the second connection through Heathcote is dependent on obtaining property or an easement from a property owner to enable a connection to the LRT Trail. He stated that the third connection from the LRT Trail to the Elementary School is over property that is not owned by the City. He stated that the property containing the path is owned by the Hennepin County Railroad Authority and the School District.

Further discussion was held on the next steps in the process and on the three trail connections.

Patrick Regan asked if there was general agreement to include the bike path segment into Minnetonka. It was the unanimous consensus of the Committee to include this segment in the feasibility study.

Scott Hemink stated that he has lived on Minnetonka Blvd for a number of years and felt that the Heathcote connection seems like the right solution over a pathway on Minnetonka Blvd.

Patrick Regan agreed that Minnetonka Blvd would require major regrading and tree removal to accommodate a bike path. He stated that a crossing on Minnetonka Blvd between Thorpe Park and Heathcote would have to be examined and the proposed bike trail markings through Heathcote.

Wendy Duren stated that the feasibility study would have to be performed to determine design parameters for the Heathcote pathway.

Scott Hemink asked if the City should approach the affected property owner on Heathcote to determine the viability of the Heathcote pathway. Dana Young stated that he would contact the property owner.

Patrick Regan stated that a feasibility study of both potential bike paths on Minnetonka Blvd and Heathcote would be useful in determining the potential costs of each pathway. He stated that he will move forward on developing a Request for Proposal for the review of the Minnetonka Blvd trail, with the connection into Minnetonka, and the Heathcote trail.

Motion by Scott Ferguson to amend the original bike path route that had been submitted to Hennepin County to include the additional connection into Minnetonka. Seconded by Wendy Duren. Motion carried 5-0.

Wendy Duren noted that the Three Rivers Park District may have trail access grants available, which would be beneficial for the Heathcote connection to the LRT Trail.

Discuss Playground Equipment Proposals

Dana Young provided a brief review of the Request for Proposals on playground equipment to be installed at Village Hall Park. The Committee recommended revising the RFP such that it does not direct the playground companies to design playground equipment for a particular age group.

Discuss Installation of Paddleboard Structure at Deephaven Beach

Patrick Regan stated that the Park Committee has been approached by Mark Sigel and several other residents about the possibility of installing paddleboard rental structures at several city beaches. He stated that Mark had provided a number of site locations for the structures and a number of potential designs on paddleboard structures.

Dana Young stated that we need to consider the style of the structure that is proposed to hold the paddleboards and the potential location. He stated that while Mark Sigel had identified a number of locations for these structures, he stated that the City Council will likely want to start with a limited number of storage units to determine the actual interest in renting these units. He added that the type of structure is also very important as a larger, solid structure could potentially block neighboring views of the lake.

Wendy Duren stated that exposing the paddleboards to the sun is an issue to consider.

Scott Hemink stated that the paddleboard could be stored in a bag. He stated that it is likely that these rental units would only accommodate those residents with less expensive paddleboards. He stated that it is unlikely if someone is going to store their \$5,000 paddleboard in one of these rental units.

Wendy Duren also noted that these paddleboard structures could add to the parking congestion at Deephaven Beach, as people are more likely to drive than walk to get to their paddleboards.

Dana Young stated that he will meet with the Public Works Committee to determine designs and locations and will run these suggestions by the Park Committee.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the first effort should include 10-20 paddleboards, with a vertical storage design, and with the owner supplying their own locks. Wendy Duren suggested that several of these rental spaces could be owned by the City, with City-owned paddleboards, for other residents to rent.

Review Candidates for Park Committee Membership

Discussion was held regarding three candidates who have expressed an interest in joining the Park Committee.

Patrick Regan noted that all three candidates are from the same area of the City, much like the rest of the Park Committee. He stated that he would be interested in seeing some potential candidates from the Cottagewood area.

Scott Hemink noted that we cannot discount the fact that these three candidates have already taken the time and interest to apply for membership to the Park Committee.

The Committee recommended posting notice of a vacancy on the Park Committee on Next Door Deephaven before making a final decision on filling the vacancy.

Discuss Thorpe Park Hockey Rink Improvements

Dana Young stated that the Public Works Committee is considering painting the surface of the hockey rink and the boards to help prevent the problem with the black asphalt surface prematurely melting the ice surface. He noted that there was even some discussion of painting the surface with hockey lines to accommodate in-line skaters during the summer.

Discuss Donation of Property to the City

The Committee reviewed a property at 4710 Spring Creek Drive that has been offered to the City. He stated that it is difficult to determine the suitability of this property for park purposes with the snow cover but assumed that most of this property was wetland.

No further action was taken on this issue.

Other

Scott Hemink stated that he had a conversation with Minnetonka Baseball Association about ball field improvements in Deephaven. He stated that the Association would like to make some drainage improvements at the Village Hall ball field around home plate for the younger kids and would like to install permanent bases and a mound for 10-11 year olds at the Thorpe ball field.

Dana Young asked Scott to have a representative of the Minnetonka Baseball Association contact him so that the City can evaluate the impact of these improvements on the open skating rinks at Village Hall and Thorpe Park.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on April 3, 2018.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Tracy Whitney, seconded by Wendy Duren. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.