

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

October 6, 2020

Minutes

Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Wendy Duren called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present

Wendy Duren, Tracy Whitney, Lindsey Carr, Kaisha Rafferty, Melissa McNeill, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Scott Hemink, Cory Lepper, and Tom Erdmann

Approve September 1, 2020 Minutes

Motion by Lindsey Carr to approve the September 6, 2020 Park Committee minutes, as amended. Seconded by Kaisha Rafferty. Motion carried 4-0.

Council Liaison Report

Melissa McNeill stated that the City Council reviewed the Park Committee's frisbee golf recommendation on September 21st. She stated that no one on the Council was against it but were looking to get more information on a course layout from a second vendor, obtain public input through a survey on the webpage, and getting a better understanding of the safety & liability impact of a frisbee golf course.

She stated that the Council seemed more interested in having a frisbee golf course at Burton Park rather than Thorpe Park and generally felt that a 3-hole course might work better initially at Thorpe Park than a 6-hole course. She stated that the Council wanted to bring these ideas back to the Park Committee for further discussion.

Tracy Whitney stated that she has only played frisbee golf once and inadvertently hit someone with the frisbee. She stated that the individual she hit was not particularly happy with her as it hurt.

Wendy Duren questioned the sightlines at Burton Park and noted that the Parkway was dismissed due to the fact that it is too straight.

Kaisha Rafferty asked if Scott Hemink wasn't intending to have the potential course at Thorpe Park flagged out.

Wendy Duren stated that they will look to get a second vendor involved in a review of both Burton Park and Shuck Park. She asked how residents are suppose to know about the survey on the website. She suggested providing notice in the City Newsletter.

Melissa McNeill stated that the City Council also cleaned up the language on term limits for Committee members. She stated that members will now be appointed to one 3-year term and can be reappointed to one-year terms thereafter with no limit on the length that a member can serve.

Lindsey Carr stated that she will not be looking to serve another term of office after this year due to work commitments.

Melissa McNeill noted that Stephen Streeter had generously donated a new Shuck Park sign.

Park Reports

The Committee presented their monthly Park Reports.

Children's Park – Dana Young reported that Tom Erdmann had emailed him stating that Children's Park looks good. He added that the city crew has repaired the pavilion at Children's Park.

Village Hall Park – Dana Young reported that the gazebo at Village Hall has been repaired by the city crew. The City is looking for someone to paint both the pavilion at Children's Park and Village Hall Park this year.

Burton Park – Nothing to report.

Thorpe Park – Dana Young stated that the Eagle Scout Project the included the construction of a fence in front of the ball field benches turned out very well.

Further discussion was held regarding the on-going problems with vandalism in the Thorpe Park Warming House restrooms.

Deephaven Beach – Nothing to report.

Nocomo Beach – Nothing to report.

Cleveland Park – Nothing to report.

Linwood Beach – Nothing to report.

Robinson's Bay Beach – Lindsey Carr reported that she has reviewed the beach more frequently this past month after hearing reports of unruly behavior at the beach at last month's meeting. She stated that the beach has seemed quiet every time she has visited it.

Northome Trail – Kaisha Rafferty reported that some of the trail is eroding under the bridge.

Minnetonka Blvd – Dana Young reported that the entire City will be swept this Monday.

Sandy Beach – Nothing to report.

Haralson Park – Nothing to report.

Donkey Park – Nothing to report.

Park/Beach/Trail Amenity Audit

Wendy Duren stated that she would like to establish an amenity list for each park & beach with the intent to identify what's there and what amenities could be added.

Melissa McNeill suggested looking at adding amenities to your beach or park as if money didn't matter.

Wendy Duren asked the members to consider such issues as whether additional shade or trees are needed and to consider using the Strategic Park Plan to guide your creativity.

Discussion was held regarding when the amenity list should be compiled.

Wendy Duren suggested getting a start on it by our next Committee meeting and that she would have Dana Young send out a google sheet link of the amenity list.

Discuss Tennis Court Surface Subcommittee

Discussion on this issue was tabled until the November meeting.

Reschedule November Park Committee Meeting

The Committee selected November 10th as the date of the rescheduled Park Committee meeting.

Other

Discussion was held regarding Wendy Judd's request for a group of retired teachers and staff members of Deephaven Elementary School and Minnetonka Community Education to use the Thorpe Park Warming House on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Dana Young stated that he had informed Wendy that he didn't support providing her and her group access to the warming house because if it were offered to them, he would have to offer the facility to others.

After considerable discussion regarding whether it was appropriate to allow groups to have access to the warming house, the distribution of keys to the warming house, and developing guidelines and a waiver concerning the impact of COVID-19, the Committee recommended that all groups be allowed to use the warming house subject to having a same day check out and return of the warming house key, a suitable damage deposit, and signing an application / waiver on the use of the facility and guidelines on COVID-19 safeguards.

The Committee unanimously decided to keep future Park Committee meeting virtual.

Dana Young stated that a teaching clinic will be held at the platform courts on October 18th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on November 10, 2020.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Tracy Whitney. Seconded by Lindsey Carr. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.