

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**September 1, 2020**  
**Minutes**  
**Via Zoom Video Conferencing**

**Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Wendy Duren called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Tracy Whitney

**Approve July 7, 2020 Minutes**

Motion by Scott Hemink to approve the July 7, 2020 Park Committee minutes. Seconded by Lindsey Carr. Motion carried 6-0.

**Council Liaison Report**

Melissa McNeill stated that the locks at the Thorpe Park Warming House restroom have been changed yet again to allow residents to lock the restroom from the inside.

She stated that the garbage at Deephaven Beach is now being picked up twice per week due to complaints regarding excessive garbage. She stated that the garbage is picked up by Waste Management and permanent garbage cans would require more involvement from the public works crew.

Tom Erdmann asked if there has been any discussion regarding the sale of park property.

Melissa McNeill stated that there has not been any discussion.

**Park Reports**

Wendy Duren asked if we need to reallocate parks & beaches assigned to committee members. She stated that she wants everyone to review their particular park or beach prior to each meeting. She stated that this will help to assign funding for future improvement projects.

Children's Park – Tom Erdmann stated that the park looks great and noted that Stephen Streeter is still paying for the weeding of the fountain area. He asked if the gazebo was still scheduled for repair. Dana Young stated that public works intend to repair the gazebos at Children's Park and Village Hall Park within the next couple of months.

Shuck Park – Tom Erdmann stated that the park looks fantastic and loves the new basketball hoop. He stated that the mulch in the playground area could be raked out. Wendy Duren noted that the merry-go-round is located in the sun and several panels get extremely hot. She also noted that the merry-go-round is hard to turn and should be looked at.

Village Hall Park – Tom Erdmann stated that the ballfield looks good and asked about the possibility of installing permanent bases. Scott Hemink stated that each team usually brings their own bases as the distances between bases vary according to the age of the ball players. He stated that he would check with the Minnetonka Baseball Association with providing a home plate.

Burton Park – Wendy Duren stated that additional wood chips are needed further down the trail.

Thorpe Park – Scott Hemink stated that the tree cleanup went very well. He noted that the walkway gets covered in grass clippings and should be cleaned off as they get slippery. Wendy Duren suggested a better mulching system for the mowers and reported that there was a broken light at Thorpe Park. Scott Hemink stated that the Eagle Scout project installing fencing in front of the dugouts begins tomorrow. Kaisha Rafferty stated that there are weeds growing in the rocks around the warming house.

Deephaven Beach – Scott Hemink noted that the beach is in outstanding condition except for the trash. He noted that the lifeguards need to control the kids swimming outside of the ropes.

Nocomo Beach – Wendy Duren stated that there is a dead tree located near the bench that should be removed. She noted that the homeowner on the south side of the beach has repaired their fence.

Cleveland Park – Kaisha Rafferty stated that a branch has fallen along the trail and lodged itself in a tree. She stated that there are a lot of branches and twigs along the trail from the last storm.

Linwood Beach – Scott Hemink stated that the beach looks good.

Robinson's Bay Beach – Lindsey Carr stated that the beach has had a lot of use this year. She stated that this is a great beach. Melissa McNeill asked if anyone had noticed issues with dogs being allowed off of their leash at the beach. She stated that she had received a number of complaints on this issue.

Northome Trail – Kaisha Rafferty stated that the trail looks fine and the drainage appears to be working. She noted that, at some point, the stairs will have to be redone.

Minnetonka Blvd – Wendy Duren noted that more plants are growing along the shoulder.

Sandy Beach – Tom Erdmann stated that the beach looks good.

Haralson Park – Cory Lepper stated that there is quite a lot of patio chairs and a swing chair at the park.

Donkey Park – Cory Lepper stated that residents are maintaining the turf and noted that the turf is a little weedy.

### **Discuss Deephaven Beach Meeting with Mayor Skrede**

The Committee reviewed the notes from the Deephaven Beach meeting held with Mayor Skrede that had been written by Julie Mitchell. Dana Young stated that the original intent of the meeting was for the Mayor to meet with those property owners abutting Deephaven Beach to discuss their thoughts on the installation of the restroom and on common property line issues. He stated that it evolved into meeting of approximately 50 residents asking questions about the restroom project.

Scott Hemink stated that while he was invited to the meeting, he didn't forward the invitation. He stated that he attended the meeting because he was interested in the feedback. He stated that he has been clear in his support of the project ever since the survey results strongly supported the project.

Melissa McNeill thanked Scott for his comments. She stated that the City has had issues with other committee members in terms of not taking responsibility for stirring up issues.

Wendy Duren stated that the issue of communication keeps coming up. She stated that it has to be delivered in a manner that they are receptive to hearing.

Dana Young stated that any project, including the restroom project, needs the appropriate time to gather all the elements of project together before it can be presented to the public in a clear manner. He stated that there is no information regarding the restroom project on the city website because it lacks a design plan, project cost & funding plan, project timelines, a definitive location and a date for a public meeting to present the project. He stated that there is not nearly enough substantive information on this project to communicate with the public.

Further discussion was held on efforts to upgrade the city website as a more effective communication tool.

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

The Committee reviewed the Deephaven Beach Restroom Infrastructure Analysis prepared by Bolton & Menk.

- Option 1 includes the removal of the sports court and reconstruction of the parking area north of Lake Avenue at an estimated cost of \$265,210.
- Option 2 is a location near the existing canoe rack area at an estimated cost of \$107,310.
- Option 3 is the existing playground equipment area at an estimated cost of \$110,660.

Cory Lepper noted that estimated cost of well drilling at \$55,000 listed in the report was much too high. He stated that a typical cost of drilling a well in Deephaven is closer to \$12,000.

### **Discuss Frisbee Golf Proposal**

Scott Hemink stated that he discussed the possibility of installing a frisbee golf course at Thorpe Park and Burton Park with Gotta Go Gotta Throw, a leading disc golf company. He stated that he was told that both parks could each support a 6-hole course. The Committee reviewed a map showing a potential 6-hole course at Thorpe Park.

He stated that there is plenty of space available at Burton Park but a course would impact the pathway and the removal of a number of trees, which would be the downside to a potential course at Burton Park. He stated that Gotta Go Gotta Throw would walk the potential course and flag it for people to review.

He stated that he also looked at the Parkway but it is the least preferred option as it is too straight for a frisbee golf course.

Tom Erdmann asked about the posts and the costs of installing the frisbee golf course.

Scott Hemink stated that he would recommend just installing wooden posts and the course could be installed as part of an Eagle Scout project.

Lindsay Carr stated that she felt Thorpe Park would be a better location than Burton Park.

Wendy Duren stated that a frisbee golf course was included in the Strategic Plan for Thorpe Park, it would provide an amenity for different age groups, would have a low impact, and Thorpe Park has less of a sightline issue than Burton Park.

Tom Erdmann stated that he didn't think Burton Park would be a good location but liked Thorpe Park as a potential site.

Wendy Duren noted that the parking is better at Thorpe and has better accessibility.

Kaisha Rafferty added that it also has better visibility.

Cory Lepper stated that if the frisbee golf course costs nothing to install and is part of the Strategic Plan, it checks all the boxes.

Motion by Tom Erdmann to recommend a conceptual study of a multi-hole frisbee golf course at Thorpe Park for Council review and approval. Seconded by Cory Lepper. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Discuss Tennis Court Surface Subcommittee**

Discussion was postponed on this issue until next month.

### **Park/Beach/Trail Amenity Audit**

Wendy Duren asked each member to review the amenities listed in the Strategic Plan for each of their assigned parks & beaches and include any of these or their own amenities on a spreadsheet that would be used to develop a long-term financing plan to gradually improve the amenities at the parks and beaches. Further discussion of this issue will be held next month.

**Other**

Tom Erdmann noted that he has contacted Commissioner Jan Callison's staff to find out the status of the Hennepin County Youth Sports Equipment Grant application that was submitted several months ago. He stated that he will update the Committee when he learns more about the status of the grant application.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on October 6, 2020.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Kaisha Rafferty. Seconded by Scott Hemink. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.