

Regular Meeting.  
Parks Commission July 2, 2018 - 4:30 p.m.  
City Hall

Present: C. Martinson, J. Badger, T. Urbanski, M. Krick, T. Krohn, J. Fryc

Staff: C. Peterson, L. Peterson, K. Stedman, A. Chalberg, L. Anderson

Others: Ruth Reeves, Bill & Juanita Hoffman, Bill & Pat Berglund

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the June 4, 2018 regular meeting were presented. Motion by Martinson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Krick to approve, motion carried 4-0.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS, OTHER COMMENTS**

None

## **INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

### **a. Commissioners & Public Comments**

- Public Comments were received from the Hoffman's supporting the development of Pickle Ball Courts. The current set up with lines painted along with the tennis lines at Churchill is confusing, so a dedicated court would be preferable. Wentworth Park would be desirable due to less wind in that area. In addition, the Hoffman pickle ball group have their own personal nets which limits the number of folks who have access to play. Ruth Reeves from Community Ed states that they have nets that can be borrowed, but only during the week when the office is open, in addition they've been getting more calls for pickle ball courts. There is a real need for a space for all who want to play. A Minneapolis Tribune article had been shared highlighting the growth of this popular sport which can be enjoyed by all ages, partly due to the large number of baby boomers who are beginning to play.
- Commissioner Martinson supports repurposing Wentworth into a pickle ball court. If money will be spent to recondition the park anyhow, it would be an opportunity to support this sport vs taking away any existing tennis courts. He suggests that the Commission look to see if any of the funds not used on the Hwy 33 corridor might be available for parks. A pickle ball court in the west end would drive additional traffic to the area supporting the City's hope for revitalization. He does not want this project to be tabled indefinitely. Commissioner Krick also questioned the use of the EDA funds. Caleb Peterson explained that the EDA program is for businesses and the only future Capital improvement Plan fund is for a parking lot. Commissioner Badger stated that Pickle Ball is a growing sport and Wentworth Park is going unused. Lastly Commissioner Martinson expressed his support for the dog park and has community support. With the new mountain bike user group in Pine Valley, a dog park will eliminate some of the competition for time and space that may occur in Pine Valley.
- Commissioner Fryc went along with Commissioner Urbanski on a tour of the mountain bike trail and said it looks great and understands that it may come in under budget. Caleb Peterson explained that the cost of construction is trending low and the cost of signage remains. Commissioner Krohn said that even after the heavy rain the drainage and soils looked good.
- Commissioner Krohn checked out the life jacket box in Dunlop Park and noted the used wet jackets were not hung back up and just piled up which may pose a problem in the future. Also, there is a jack pine at the top of the hill at Pinehurst that has a dead snag in it. Lastly, he had a discussion with

resident Ken Ripp who had several concerns; he reported culverts on the back side of Pine Valley flooded and suggests larger ones, possible LED lighting for the trail and asked if the tubing hill could be used by snowboarders 2 or 3 days of the week. Ruth Reeves said snowboarders are using it now, the tow rope isn't on so they have to walk up the hill but it is allowed. The tubing hill has been open very little the last two years due to snow conditions.

**b. Community Education**

- The Beach has had to close a few days since opening due to weather.
- They had their first day of over 600 patrons on Wednesday June 20, 2018.
- Manager Kayla trained another 4 (four) lifeguards and 1 (one) junior lifeguard.
- Age to Age interns are doing a craft at The Beach every Friday from 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- The Beach will have special games, etc. on July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Youth tennis lessons are in progress at Pinehurst Park.
- Sundays are Grandparents free days, Wednesdays are Slip N Slide.
- There have been many Duluth and other outside area patrons.
- The School is resurfacing their tennis courts.
- Community Ed received a trail map from Caleb and is open to promoting other group's events and flyers.
- More focus will come for the Dunlap Park skating ribbon, with offerings of hot chocolate and the development of an equipment loaner program; skates that have been donated. It has been noted that there have been rain puddles on the ribbon.
- The warming house in Dunlap Park is now open for rentals during the summer and is already booked quite a few weekends.

**CITY STAFF REPORT**

- Caleb Peterson shared a copy of the new mountain bike trail and states the contractors at 99% complete. The two-way section will be built by the city crew.
- The skatepark ground breaking will be July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Completion should be sometime in September.
- Dunlap Island should be complete by July 3<sup>rd</sup> and the park closed signs should be coming down. There will be some concrete repair and clean-up to occur later this summer.
- Maintenance Activities include mowing, weeding and mulching in preparation for the July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities. Some graffiti was taken care of at Athletic park.
- Commissioner Krick added that he has reference materials for the Parks Department. Commissioner Badger mentioned that there is a large hole at the top of the hill at Pinehurst that should be filled, probably in part due to the heavy ATV traffic. Would there be a way to reroute or stop the ATVs from access to the park, possibly a designated trail? This topic to be tabled for another meeting.

**2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan**

Staff reviewed the current 5-year CIP along with a list of additional projects and estimated costs for consideration. The availability of Sales tax fund for Park Improvements is likely capped for the foreseeable future as the City has reached the expenditures allowed under legislation. The Commission had a length discussing regarding priorities for future projects given possible funding limitations. The proposed CIP revisions included the following:

- Move Pinehurst warming house to 2023 with recommendation to eliminate this project from consideration in the 5-year plan.

- Remove \$20,000 allocation for development planning.
- Add pickle ball development in Sunnyside Park and replacement of Braun scoreboards in 2019.
- Add dog park development and new hockey boards for the outdoor rink at Pine Valley in 2020.

Motion by Fryc and 2nd by Urbanski to recommend approval of the listed changes, motion carried 4-2.

**2019 Park Fund Budget**

Staff reviewed the proposed 2019 park fund operating budget. Highlighted changes include hiring of a full time Park Director to administer the department and the addition of property insurance for Northwoods Arena (previously paid by CAHA).

Motion by Urbanski and 2nd by Martinson to recommend approval of the 2019 budget, motion carried 6-0.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting to be held Monday, August 6, 2018 at Pine Valley.

On motion duly carried by a unanimous yea vote of all members present, the Parks Commission adjourned.

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Secretary