

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
April 16, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Chair Bethke at 7:00 PM.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Chair: Maxine Bethke

Vice Chair: Janet Cunningham

Commissioners: Jane Klein
Paul Lockhart
Jason Kuchenmeister
James Roettger

Also Present: Colleen Swedberg, City Council
Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, March 19, 2019

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER ROETTGER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOCKHART TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2019 AS PRESENTED.

6 AYES 0 NAYS

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Colleen Swedberg

Councilmember Swedberg informed the commission that their new replacement member, Jenny Nyberg, will be joining next month.

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Councilmember Swedberg attended the Wellness 50+ Virtual Walk Kick Off at the Discovery Center. Teams of two to six will count their physical activity, where 15 minutes of activity counts as a mile, to “walk” 651 miles across Minnesota. The program starts May 1.

She reminded that the Landscape Revival will be June 8, 9 AM to 1 PM, at City Hall. Exhibitors will be in the Council Chambers and growers in the parking lot. There will be a food truck, native plants, buying, and information from pollinators and exhibitors.

Commissioner Klein added that the Master Gardeners will be there to provide education on Emerald Ash Borer and ticks, along with answering general gardening questions.

SPRING PARK TOUR – Maxine Bethke

Chair Bethke organized a park tour that will concentrate on the north end of Oakdale, to include Northdale, Oakwood Lustre, Garden Boulevard, Tilsen 1 and Tilsen 2 Parks. Recreation Superintendent Williams will post a quorum for the meeting times on Sunday, May 5 at 1:30 PM, and Tuesday, May 7 at 5:30 PM. Chair Bethke noted that the playground equipment at Tilsen 1 was installed in 1998, Northdale was 1999, and Garden Boulevard does not have playground equipment (it has a pavilion and benches).

UPDATED COMMISSION BYLAWS – Julie Williams

The City Council will be updating the bylaws language. When the commission formed with five members, there was a certain number of members needed for a quorum. The commission is now seven members, and future bylaws will require there to be four members for a quorum. The code supports this, but the bylaws do not reflect the code. After updating, both will read the same. The official text will be brought to the commission after it is finalized.

PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling

Fields – The unexpected six inches of snow set Mr. Koesling’s crews back a couple weeks. The water table at Walton Park is up, and it is too wet to get out on the fields. They were able to begin field work at Transfiguration Church. Hopefully after the rain stops, crews will start getting on the fields next week. Rain is helpful in pulling the frost out of the ground. Teams are anxious to get onto the fields and Mr. Koesling is communicating with the organizers on field conditions. The park is packed and people are everywhere but the fields; we don’t want them torn up.

Oakfield Park Playground – The equipment has been delivered. An install date is still to be determined. While the rain and weather pushes the install date back, we want to install prior to the trail replacement.

Seasonal Staff – Five of the six seasonal staff were lost last year. They were a really great crew. Mr. Koesling is working on getting new seasonals on board. It will be a learning process for five of them.

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RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams

Warming House Updates 2014-2019 – Recreation Superintendent Williams provided reports on attendance, hours, and dates open. The number of skaters fluctuates depending on the weather.

Early Summer Program Guide Available – The youth programming for summer is now available in house and online inside the early summer program guide. Registration opens for these programs on April 25. The full newsletter is mailed the mid to end of May to all Oakdale Residents. It will include all youth programming and have the adult programs added too.

Egg Hunt – On Saturday, from 9 to 11 AM, the event is full with 200 kids. With their families, around 400 total attend and the event has a really good turnout. We are happy about the weather; last year there was four inches of snow. She thanked Larry and Vicki Eberhard who sponsor the event, providing donuts and two bikes that they raffle.

Best Snow Sculpture of Oakdale Contest – It was hard to choose a best snow sculpture. The winning family does a great job with snow sculptures; when Lydia's Wonder Woman by the Brown Family was selected, it was not known that they also had won last year. The theme was superheroes.

Community Walk – 180 Oakdale Residents have already signed up to get rewarded for tracking their miles walked in the Oakdale Nature Preserve. Gift card locations include Kwik Trip, Hy-Vee, Fleet Farm, and Target. It is fun to see the traffic increase now through October 31.

Scavenger Hunt – An all new alphabet scavenger hunt was developed by the local Girl Scout troop. Kids are asked to find things in the park that begin with each letter of the alphabet.

Artist of the Month – Betty Bryan has been with us a number of times with her nature photography. Her work is available for purchase in large prints.

Park Clean Up – Kicking off on the 22nd, volunteers pick up garbage bags at the Discovery Center then go out and clean their chosen park. To get involved, call the Oakdale Recreation office.

Vice Chair Cunningham is organizing a clean-up at Titan Park with the neighbors there.

Park and Play Event – Oakdale Recreation partners with Wahoo! Adventures and ISD 622 Community Education for the adult program that is in its second year. A variety of classes cover topics ranging from art, recreation, discussion, education, and nature on Friday, May 17. Choose one class, or sign up for four or five. There was a good first trial year last year. It is being brought back for people to enjoy.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Wellness 50+ Walk Initiative – Vice Chair Cunningham clarified that the Oakdale Recreation Community Walk at the Oakdale Discovery Center is a separate walk program from the Wellness 50+ Walk Initiative. Questions about the Wellness 50+ Walk Initiative can be directed to oakdalewellness50@yahoo.com.

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Arbor Day Tree Giveaway – On Saturday, trees will be given away at Walton Park. Numbers are given at 9 AM, and trees at 10 AM. There will be Catalpa, Mountain Ash, Asian Pear, and Spruce.

Oakfield Park Planting – On May 4 there will be a planting at Oakfield Park from 8 AM to 12 PM. Volunteers are needed and can sign up on the website.

Ticks – Commissioner Klein warned about wood tick season starting. Protect yourself from Lyme Disease.

Bylaws Changes – Commissioner Roettger presented two concerns relating to the proposed changes to the bylaws. First, the article relating to organization of the committee has a provision that the election of the chairperson is subject to veto by the major. He suggested that it also include being subject to review by the City Council. Second, the article relating to removal of commission members states that “commission members may be removed, at will, by action supported by the majority of the City Council.” He challenged what is meant by removing someone at will and the question it raises with the state statute rules and legal challenges. He recommended that those updating the bylaws take this into consideration.

Recreation Superintendent Williams clarified that what was presented to the commissioners was text taken from the code book, but not the official new text for the bylaws. The City Council and City Attorney are currently reviewing what they want the text to read in the bylaws when they are updated.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LOCKHART, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR CUNNINGHAM TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED APRIL 16, 2019, AT 7:33 P.M.

6 AYES 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Linzmeyer