

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**CALL OF ROLL**

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Vice Chair: Janet Cunningham

Commissioners: Jane Klein  
Paul Lockhart  
James Roettger  
Jenny Nyberg  
Debbie Xiong

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, May 21, 2019**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER KLEIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOCKHART TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 21, 2019 AS PRESENTED.**

**6 AYES      0 NAYS**

**WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONER – Debbie Xiong**

Vice Chair Cunningham introduced new Debbie Xiong, the new member joining the Parks and Recreation Commission tonight.

**OAKDALE NATURE PRESERVE DOCK – Jeff Koesling**

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Vice Chair Cunningham requested a status update on the Oakdale Nature Preserve Dock.

Parks Superintendent Koesling explained that the dock has not been removed yet because there is an issue with accessing the dock at this time of the year. Getting to the dock would require trimming multiple trees near the park's north entrance near Castle School. Those trees can't be trimmed during a wet weather season because rain promotes disease in trees located there. Four feet is needed for the loaders, back hoes, and trailers to access the dock. The removal was not able to be done in May because of the concern of sinking a loader or back hoe. When the boardwalk was put in, two skid steers were sunk. It took seven hours to get them back out as a tow truck can't get back there. The construction crews recommended opening the path using jersey barriers and that will only give four feet. There is also the challenge of preventing damage to the storm sewer there.

Vice Chair Cunningham asked if the dock is repairable.

Mr. Koesling replied that the dock is repairable but lacks a good access. It is a dirt path that steps down.

Commissioner Lockhart asked if the dock could be relocated to "T" off of the boardwalk.

Mr. Koesling asked what price we would be willing to pay. A handicap ramp must come down, turn, and cannot be going straight towards the water. If the ramp is 20 feet, it can only slope an inch per foot.

Commissioner Lockhart said that would be looking at more footings than building a step down.

Commissioner Xiong asked if the hole in the dock could be repaired in the meantime.

Mr. Koesling replied that the hole has now been repaired. It was discovered three weeks ago that the dock repair Mr. Koesling had ordered for the Oakdale Nature Preserve was accidentally fixed at Tanners Lake Park instead.

Commissioner Klein requested the dock be marked and blocked off until it is removed.

Mr. Koesling replied that it will probably be the Street, Parks, and Forestry crews removing the dock together. It will be at the time trees can be trimmed per City Forester Loren Cota's permission. If any trees are lost, they must be replaced. It can be blocked until it is removed.

### **CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Colleen Swedberg**

Landscape Revival – The June 8 event had a big turnout. Jeff Koesling and Julie Williams helped out. 450 people attended last year, and this year saw 962 in attendance. Vendors and growers sold a lot of plants and want to return next year. The exhibitors had room to move around inside. The event had great weather. Oscar's food truck did a wonderful job.

Commissioner Nyberg attended the landscape event and was disappointed that she had to have preapproval for anything planted outside of her townhome. She will be more prepared next year, and bring a list and budget. The event looked great.

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3M Development – The 208 acre housing development is moving forward, and may break ground with getting infrastructure started next spring.

Wellness 50+ Virtual Walk – Participants put in 651 miles with their teams of two to six people to start in St. Paul, walk all over Minnesota, and return to St. Paul. What sounds like a lot of miles, Team Cunningham (a team of six) knocked their goal out of the ball park and came in 2<sup>nd</sup> with 2,747 miles. First place was taken by the Eagle Watchers with 2,868 miles. Everyone did great at this fun event.

Intern Program – It was planned to have an intern visit parks and record park uses. Unfortunately, it won't happen this year. Due to staff shortages after a staff person has taken an extended leave of absence, the intern will be filling in other duties. We still want to do the study but it may not happen until 2020. We want to learn how the parks are being used, and by what age groups at each park.

Titan Park – In response to a question made by Vice Chair Cunningham, Councilmember Swedberg replied that the Titan Park recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission has not yet been reviewed by the City Council. It has not come on the agenda yet, and the Council is working on approving items from April. They should be reviewing the item soon and making a decision.

Walton Park Hockey Rink – In response to a question made by Commissioner Klein, Councilmember Swedberg replied that the Walton Park Hockey Rink recommendation is another item that the City Council has yet to discuss. It is on the queue. Per request of Commissioner Roettger, Councilmember Swedberg will inform the Parks and Recreation Commission when the Walton Park Hockey Rink will be put on the Council agenda.

### **PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling**

Fields – The wet weather has made for a tough ball season. Fields closings have been common, especially on Tuesday and Wednesdays. With ball season wrapping up, crews will start laying out soccer and football fields. The Oakdale Athletic ball tournament is this weekend and next weekend, and ball season is done after that.

Commissioner Lockhart added that the wet fields have cancelled the Oakdale Athletic Association activities planned at Walton Park tonight.

Summerfest – The celebration went very well and crews did a great job. The City Council and City Officials provided support that we couldn't do without. All four divisions of public works are involved with the event. We were happy to see the parade go on with the work that gets put into it, no one wants to see the event cancelled. It quit raining, but because of the weather the attendance was down quite a bit. Overall, the weather was great for Summerfest. Saturday was packed. The numbers on Friday were down.

Oakfield Park – The old playground equipment was torn out over a three day period July 1 through 3. On Monday, the equipment was in dumpsters, the footings were hauled out Tuesday, and sand

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was hauled out on Wednesday. Woodchips were chosen over sand because sand is not considered ADA accessible. The installer came the morning of July 8 and the two workers finished pouring concrete on Friday morning. After the concrete has sat for five days, then 12 inches of wood chips will be blown in. A corner was constructed for a sandbox. Two new eight foot benches will be put in tomorrow. Signs were posted two weeks before the equipment was removed. A lot of people have been asking about the park. It has only been ten working days; a pretty quick turnaround. Daycares located there want to use the park. On July 9, the holes were drilled and one play structure is installed. Once the woodchips are in, the swings will be hung. Seeding and seed matting will be put in. One entrance was made to limit damage to the ground. Bad timber was pulled out and replaced. The playground equipment color scheme is called "The Patriot" with colors red, white, and blue.

Commissioner Klein complimented Parks Superintendent Koesling and his crew for the trash always being empty at the parks, with extra trash bags on hand too. It is amazing with the many parks in Oakdale that they are all so well maintained.

Mr. Koesling replied that the trash is emptied daily, seven days a week. It is nice to hear the compliment.

Tanners Lake Beach - The sand from Oakfield Park is being held at the shop and the majority will be distributed at the Tanners Lake Beach on a rainy day (when guests aren't using the beach for safety). The weeds encroaching at Tanners Lake Beach from east to west will be removed by a company starting tomorrow. It will take three days to harvest the weeds and will address safety for swimmers who could get tangled.

### **RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams**

Summerfest 5K – Recreation Superintendent Williams introduced a new 5K route that kept participants inside the Oakdale Nature Preserve and dropped the 10K portion. The old route went outside the park and around Castle school. People loved the new route, saying it kept them shaded and it ran faster. They had been asking for a route inside the park for a number of years. Mrs. Williams gave a special thanks to Hope Church volunteers and to the Oakdale Recreation summer staff. Nathan Timmons did a fantastic job coordinating a smooth race. She thanked Citizens Community Federal for sponsoring the event year after year.

Summerfest Parade – We were happy that the rain cleared just in time. 86 parade units participated with only a few no shows. The entire parade can be watched by visiting the Suburban Community Channel's Youtube page.

Vice Chair Cunningham watched the parade because she wasn't able to attend. The two people emceeding the parade did very well.

Parks and Recreation Month – On July 9, the City Council proclaimed July as Parks and Recreation month in the City of Oakdale.

Movie in the Park – Last Friday at Walton, the Lego Movie 2: The Second Part had around 300 in attendance on a beautiful, warm night. By 9:30 PM it cooled down and the bugs were not too bad.

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Concessions were provided. Those in attendance were asked to bring nonperishable food items for the local food shelf. The next movie will be How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World on Friday, August 16. There were two movies this summer; one in July and one in August.

Wellness 50+ Oakdale Walks! Challenge – 15 teams participated, made up of 84 total participants. This was a great, new initiative. The total participant effort was over 23,000 miles and was just under 1,800 miles short of a walk around the world at the equator. Congratulations to Commissioner Cunningham and Councilmember Swedberg on their 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the team challenge.

Summer Camps – The time is flying by and camps are halfway through the season. A number of camps have been cancelled while battling the weather, but when possible camps can move indoors to the Discovery Center. The camps have had good attendance. The water camp at Walton Park was full during the hottest week of summer with close to 40 kids.

ITS Truck – Commissioner Klein complimented the quality of staff and programming at the ITS Truck program. Staff are organized, involved, and engaged. The program is open to all ages and is accessible. It is free for kids to drop in, the hamster balls are fun, and the program is impressive.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Wellness 50+ – Vice Chair Cunningham shared that the Wellness 50+ team is looking to do a CPR course this fall. The date is to be determined, but may be September 12. Guests can get updated on CPR and emergency items. The program will be partnered with the Oakdale Fire Department and Fire Chief Jeff Anderson. It is open to all ages.

Parks and Recreation Commission Opening – Vice Chair Cunningham informed that applications are being accepted for an opening on the commission. Those interested can get in touch with Recreation Superintendent Julie Williams about getting involved.

Tanners Lake Park Facility Use – Commissioner Klein suggested a senior center as a possible use of the facility at Tanners Lake Park. The city has an aging population. Seniors experience isolation when they've worked their whole career. When they come into retirement, they need a place for socializing. She recognized ISD 622 for their senior program at Gladstone and the Oakdale Wellness 50+ and cards for seniors that has taken off beautifully at the Discovery Center. Options for the Tanners facility may include adding a couple pool tables, darts, nutrition classes partnered with Second Harvest, programming for health, wellness, and socializing that would allow a group of seniors to use the building Monday through Friday. Walking could take place at the park. Coffee could be offered indoors. While ISD 622 focuses on older seniors, a new location could be programmed for more active seniors that may have grandchildren. It is a prime location, of value to consider. She asked if the building is suited for ADA accessibility. We wouldn't want new programming to conflict with other recreation uses. Senior volunteerism could help with activity programming.

Recreation Superintendent Williams can add Commissioner Klein's comments to discussions. There have been a lot of discussions on the facility use at Tanners Lake and different alternatives

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are being looked at. Discussions are occurring at staff level, and recommendations will be brought to the commission.

Oakdale Bark Park on Social Media – Commissioner Nyberg asked if the social media comments relating to the dog park were items that the commission will be addressing.

Mrs. Williams replied that Public Works Director Brian Bachmeier included the social media comments in the commission packet to inform the commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER NYBERG, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KLEIN TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED JULY 16, 2019, AT 7:43 P.M.**

**6 AYES    0 NAYS**

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Linzmeyer