

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
September 17, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 17, 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
Brian Bachmeier, Public Works Director
Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting, August 20, 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 AUGUST 20, 2019 AS PRESENTED.

6 AYES 0 NAYS

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Colleen Swedberg

City Council Workshop Meeting – Councilmember Swedberg thanked the commission for their attendance at the City Council workshop. It is good to hear recommendations and comments shared by the commission. They are appreciated.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 17, 2019

Page 2

Park Tours – Councilmember Swedberg urged the Parks and Recreation Commission to make a recommendation to City Council to take a field trip together and visit the Walton Complex to see the ballfields, backstops, paving, and see the project in person. Prior Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Maxine Bethke would organize commission park tours.

Vice Chair Cunningham will work at choosing dates, looking at October weekends. She will create a list of parks that are urgent to visit.

Councilmember Swedberg added that Parks Superintendent Jeff Koesling may be able to help out, as he did a great job helping at a City Council tour of the Public Works building.

2020-2024 PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – Brian Bachmeier

Public Works Director Brian Bachmeier reviewed the two projects that were discussed at the City Council Workshop.

Titan Park – The City is working with an appraiser to have the property appraised for a minor subdivision to sell as a single family home. We are hoping to have a contract in place shortly to move ahead with the appraisal.

Bark Park – The Council is seeking a recommendation from the commission regarding additional fencing at the dog park with two objectives; to fence off the wetland areas within the park and to provide a small dog play area.

When the dog park was initially developed, the perimeter of the area was fenced. The wetlands were delineated on the property in 2016 and some of the flags may still be out there. The wetland areas would probably have to be delineated again. The fencing would have to avoid the wetland areas and provide a buffer between the delineated wetland and fence. There is a ditch running along 50th Street and a culvert where the pipelines cross. The delineated wetlands are in two areas.

The fencing to separate the wetlands would start at Helena Road, run along the ditch, extend to the south around the wetland, run back up along 50th Street, then go along the easterly lobe of the wetland and tie into the fence along Heather Ridge Road.

There would be a second gate added where the pipelines cross where the current one is located to provide access for the pipeline company to do service and inspections, and also for maintenance crews to get in and clean the ditch periodically.

The other requested feature is a small dog play area. An initial objective was to find a space of about 10,000 square feet. In the original concept plan, an area was looked at just to the east of the parking lot in the corner. But that is where the trail runs through now, and there would have to be a second gate access to the parking lot developed.

Looking at the Bark Park today, there is a way to tie the fencing for a small dog play area into the wetland fencing. This will reduce the amount of required fencing and also provide access through the existing sally port area where the drinking fountain is. This area is a little over 10,000 square

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 17, 2019

Page 3

feet. It would involve fencing extending from the wetland fence, running south along Helena Road and tying into the midpoint of the sally port. A service gate would be added in this new fencing for public works maintenance crews to access the rest of the dog park.

The City Council has requested more firm numbers on the fencing cost. Our estimate of required fencing came in at 908 feet, with about 725 feet for the wetland fencing, and about 175 feet for the small dog play area. Two cost estimates were received. Century Fence estimated the cost of 925 feet of fence at slightly less than \$24,000. Action Fence estimated a cost of \$25,800. The other costs in addition to the fencing will include the clearing of brush and small trees. We can do as much as we can internally, but may have to contract some work out. The estimated project cost is \$30,000, providing \$5,000 to \$7,000 in additional cost for clearing that corridor.

The Council seeks recommendation from the commission that is twofold: one, do you support the installation of fencing for the wetland, and two, is the proposed location for the small dog play area acceptable. At this time Director Bachmeier stood for questions.

Commissioner Roettger asked if the waterway being fenced off has flowage that comes from across 50th Street. He asked if that was identified as contaminated wetland area back in the late 70's and 80's.

Mr. Bachmeier described the general drainage pattern of the area. The drainage comes from the west of 694, close to the intersection of Hadley Avenue and 50th Street. That area is the start of the drainage divide, draining to the east, coming underneath the 694 overpass, and running along the south side of 50th. Then it goes into a culvert control structure, flowing to the north up to the gateway trail. Regarding contamination, Mr. Bachmeier is not aware of contamination there. But the Shenandoah Valley Area up there at one time was a gravel pit. A lot of material was borrowed out of that area prior to development.

In response to a question made by Commissioner Lockhart, Mr. Bachmeier replied that everything from 48th Street to the north is about a two block neighborhood residential area that drains down to 50th into the wetland complex. When you drive south on Hadley, you get to about 48th Street where Hadley Avenue crests and starts draining to the south.

In response to a question made by Commissioner Nyberg, Mr. Bachmeier replied that the residents and park users have not identified a desired location for a small dog play area; only a need to have one.

In response to a question made by Vice Chair Cunningham, Mr. Bachmeier replied that a small dog area would be labeled with a sign restricting the dog size to a certain weight, probably 25-30 pounds.

Mr. Bachmeier replied to a question made by Commissioner Xiong that the ten foot wide service gates are used by public works and the pipeline company, and are not open to the public. The public would only use the walk gates.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 17, 2019

Page 4

Commissioner Xiong observed small dog owners using the space initially planned for the small dog play area, located to the east of the parking lot, over in the corner. She recommended observing users to see where the small dogs play.

Mr. Bachmeier replied that the challenge with the initial location is that the small dog owners would have to walk through the area with larger dogs to get to the small dog area. To avoid that interaction, in the proposed plan the only area that the large and small dogs would interact is the sally port with the two gate system. You have to first enter a gate, then decide if you want to enter the small or large dog area.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER ROETTGER, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR CUNNINGHAM TO ACCEPT THE STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR FENCING A SMALL DOG AREA AND THE WETLAND DELINEATION.

6 AYES 0 NAYS

Director Bachmeier asked the commission if there was discussion of scheduling a joint workshop to talk about the Parks CIP. He informed that at the next commission meeting in October, we'll be coming back with the CIP list and looking for a recommendation either to adopt the CIP that will go to council or make changes. At the last meeting, the draft CIP list was presented and discussion will be continued at the next meeting. The CIP booklet goes to the City Council for approval in November.

Commissioner Lockhart recommended scheduling a workshop for the purpose of filling the new commissioners in on the upcoming projects, and Vice Chair Cunningham agreed.

Councilmember Swedberg clarified for Commissioner Nyberg that the commission's first workshop will include the commission only.

Superintendent Williams will work with Vice Chair Cunningham to get a date scheduled for the commission workshop.

Commissioner Roettger stressed that the City Council is seeking a resolution for the ice rink and warming house issue, and that the commission should meet internally on that issue, if nothing else.

PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling

Eastside Park Temporary Warming House – Parks Superintendent Koesling obtained a couple bids while checking into adding a temporary warming house at Eastside Park last week. The cost ranges from \$3,000 to \$4,000 for a four month minimum commitment, December through March. The cost depends on the size of the warming house; either a 32' x 8' that is too large, or a 24' by 8' that is recommended.

There is a power box where the light controls are, and power requirements will be determined after talking to an electrician about what we need to do on our end and the cost.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 17, 2019

Page 5

The rink has been there for years without a warming house, and it could be asked if the warming house is needed. There hasn't been a pressing need for it that we've heard.

Commissioner Lockhart reasoned that with Walton Park Hockey Rink being closed, they would have a warming house option if one were added at Eastside Park.

Commissioner Roettger added that \$3,000 to \$4,000 is not a bad cost for a temporary solution, until we find out what we want to do on a permanent basis.

Mr. Koesling replied to a question made by Commissioner Lockhart, saying there is a cement slab to the east of the rink for a warming house no wider than eight feet. Area is needed to clear snow off the ice, so part of the slab needs to stay open to push the snow through the entrance and then north to the tennis area.

Vice Chair Cunningham expressed concern over repercussions of not opening Walton Hockey.

Mr. Koesling assured Vice Chair Cunningham that with the rink being full of snow, there will be no ice to skate on without the rink being flooded and maintained. Signs will be posted that the Walton Hockey rink is closed, and will inform skaters of the alternate hockey locations at Eastside and Northdale. The City Council's decision has been made to close Walton Hockey.

Councilmember Swedberg added that the Council is recommending that the Walton Hockey Rink resurfacing be moved up, not to wait, and that the rink and warming house projects are done together. This was discussed at the Council workshop last week.

Mr. Koesling will bring an update on the Eastside Park temporary warming house next month.

In response to a question made by Commissioner Nyberg, Mr. Koesling said that kids will shoot the temporary warming house with pucks and there is a \$1,000 deductible in their contract for damage. Kids shoot pucks at all the warming houses because they are not staffed at all hours. Every year, warming house windows are replaced. A security package for the temporary warming house can be chosen, where the windows are screened.

In response to a question made by Commissioner Xiong, Mr. Koesling said he is unsure the max occupancy but would lean toward the 24' x 8' size because of the area needed for snow removal. The Eastside Hockey Rink lights turn off at 8 PM.

Mrs. Williams added that the rink attendants lock the warming houses at the end of their shift.

LED Ballfield Lighting – In reply to a question made by Vice Chair Cunningham, Mr. Koesling said that the LED lighting for the ballfields at Walton have the ability to turn off and on individual fields at the complex. They will all be separate, and they are separate even now.

Mowing – Parks Superintendent Koesling reported that crews are busy mowing in September. While the seasonal staff have all returned to college, the work isn't slowing down.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 17, 2019

Page 6

Fall Soccer and Football – Soccer and football fields are being maintained, and crews are trying to keep them painted with the wet weather. Fields were painted yesterday, but it is forecasted that we will receive another 1-2” rainfall from tonight into Thursday.

Fall Softball – Fields 1 and 2 at the Walton Softball Complex are shut down for fall softball leagues to repair water drainage issues. Last year, Fields 3 and 4 were done. Three to four feet of sod is cut out, pulled back, and leveled so that water drains. There used to be two weeks in between to do maintenance, but not the last couple years due to rain outs. Kids drag the fields and the build up accumulates where the infield material meets the grass, and the water doesn't drain. It gets pushed back into the infield. Last year, all four fields were going to be worked on, but the Oakdale Adult Softball Association hated to cancel their fall league. Their popularity has declined over the last three to four years. To keep the league going, two fields were done last fall, and we will do the other two this fall. It will take a day or two to complete, then the fields sit to take before the frost. They will be good for play again in spring.

Eastside Tennis/Pickleball Courts – The Eastside Tennis Court was resurfaced. When they were striping a week and a half ago Friday, they called and asked if we wanted pickleball courts striped in. The timing was perfect for the popular sport, so, two pickleball courts were added.

Commissioner Information Books – Vice Chair Cunningham requested new information books be provided to the commissioners.

Mr. Koesling will work with the city GIS Coordinator Kelly Armstrong to create new information books using the new mapping program and drone images. He will work on the books this winter and have them ready for 2020.

RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams

Touch A Truck – Recreation Superintendent Williams reported great weather on Tuesday, September 10 for the event. The commissioners all attended, along with a great turnout of over 800 people. 800 ice cream sandwiches and push-ups were given away, and the Maplewood Oakdale Lions Club sold concessions. They sold out within an hour and a half. She gave a special thanks to Mr. Koesling and his crew for bringing the vehicles up to the great community event. Oakdale Police and Fire participate at the event too.

Commissioner Roettger attended the event with his five year old who told him the event was so cool. They don't have that in Woodbury. He loved the fire trucks and everything else.

Family Fun Flatables – At Walton Park on Saturday, September 28, from 11 AM to 4 PM, there will be 14 inflatables at this great event. There are 11 sponsors, with the following new sponsors this year: Oakdale First Baptist Church, Remedy Church, Renewal by Andersen, and Transfiguration Church. A kid's DJ will perform from 12 to 3 PM and concessions will be sold by the Tartan Soccer Booster Club (done as a fundraiser every year). New this year, a local Cub Scout pack will set up two mobile practice archery ranges.

Daddy Daughter Dance– On Friday, September 27, this annual, popular event fills up every year.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 17, 2019

Page 7

Artist of the Month – Painter Joe Hilyar continues his show from August into September this month.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Wellness 50+ CPR Hands On Training – Vice Chair Cunningham, serving as a liaison between Oakdale Wellness 50+ and the commission, passed out a Better Homes & Gardens article with the takeaway that you don't have to do mouth to mouth anymore, but you do have to do the chest compressions. A helpful reminder while doing chest compressions is humming the song "Stayin' Alive." Training was also given on using an AED, Automatic External Defibrillators. She instructed to start CPR hands on, make the 911 call, and get others involved to get an AED. She thanked Oakdale Fire for the training. The Wellness 50+ team is talking about adding a first aid class event with Oakdale Fire. She will share the date when it is determined.

Wellness 50+ Living Well with Chronic Conditions – Vice Chair Cunningham informed that classes will take place evenings from 6 to 8:30 PM on Tuesdays, October 22 through November 26. Those interested can register today at www.oakdalefun.com or by calling 651-747-3860.

City Council Workshop – Commissioner Roettger thanked Councilmember Swedberg, Mr. Koesling, and Mrs. Williams for their support and comments while discussing the CIP Plan. The air was cleared regarding miscommunications. This group is clear in their recommendations, but perhaps not everyone understood. The positive part is we were able to form a solution and make sure that the Council understands where we are coming from.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER ROETTGER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOCKHART TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED SEPTEMBER 17, 2019, AT 7:40 P.M.

6 AYES 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Linzmeyer