

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
August 18, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 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:

Chair: Paul Lockhart

Vice Chair: Janet Cunningham

Commissioners: Glen Giacoletto
Jenny Nyberg

Absent: Steve Meyer, Commissioner
Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent

Also Present: Colleen Swedberg, City Council
Brian Bachmeier, City Engineer
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent

Quorum Present: YES NO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes, June 16, 2020

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LOCKHART, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NYBERG TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2020 AS PRESENTED.

4 AYES 0 NAYS

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Colleen Swedberg

Storm Cleanup - Councilmember Swedberg thanked Jeff Koesling and Public Works for Saturday's impressive early removal of a tree blocking a neighborhood road following Friday's storm.

Titan Lot - The Titan Lot is now for sale. Those interested can contact City Engineer Brian Bachmeier.

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Walton Ice Hockey Rink – Renting after-hours rink time for organized sports is being considered. Mike from the Tartan Area Youth Hockey Association (TAYHA) said their indoor ice time is \$200 per hour. They do not have the money due to the COVID closure affecting their pull tab sales. Walton's outdoor ice being rented at \$35-40 an hour would be a deal for TAYHA and schools.

Batting Cage – Councilmember Swedberg assigned the commission to look into the addition of a batting cage at a park or school. The request was made by a resident who contacted Councilmember Zabel.

Commissioner Lockhart cited challenges at park locations that would not allow adding a batting cage. A storm sewer, electrical, and a wall on the first base line mean a batting cage wouldn't work at Bearth Field. Walton is too packed for any additions. Eastside has a gas line.

Director Bachmeier recalled that Goosepond Park had batting cages years ago on the west side off the parking lot.

Commissioner Lockhart said the Oakdale Athletic Association (OAA) would be interested in supporting the batting cage project. The maintenance of a batting cage would need to be put into account with the netting.

Councilmember Swedberg assigned the commission to look into a batting cage project for Goosepond Park. A cost needs to be determined. The project may be fitting for 2022.

Outdoor Meetings – Next year, Parks and Recreation Commission meetings may be held outdoors. By planning two months in advance, Recreation Superintendent Williams may be able to organize a food truck and have people from the park's surrounding area share input. The meeting would be audio recorded, but not require video. The location would need to be shared in advance.

Vice Chair Cunningham talked about the benefits of park tours to get acquainted with smaller parks and orient the new commissioners with Oakdale's park system. A date could be decided for a fall tour.

Councilmember Swedberg agreed that tours are beneficial and liked the ones that prior commission chair Maxine Bethke had organized. To experience the park allows decision makers to see what projects may be added, prioritized, delayed, or not needed.

Food Trucks in Parks – Vice Chair Cunningham asked if food trucks could be spaced out in different park locations rather than just Walton Park and the Oakdale Nature Preserve.

Councilmember Swedberg replied that Recreation Superintendent Williams is looking into food truck options.

Buckthorn Control – Removal of buckthorn is hard work and with City removal events being canceled due to weather and various reasons, Councilmember Swedberg assigned the commission to look into hiring goats like Washington County does in their parks. She will provide an article to be included in the next meeting minutes with contact information for the commission to research cost.

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Councilmember Swedberg replied to a question made by Vice Chair Cunningham, and said that if goats were hired to remove buckthorn, it would allow the Tree Board to work on cleaning and planting other areas, such as the dog park planting project. The Tree Board next meets in September to plan upcoming events.

Landscape Revival – The September event that had been postponed from the second Saturday in June has now been canceled due to high anticipated attendance with COVID. Last year, 965 people attended. The event is next planned for the second week in June for 2021. A decision on the event will be made early next spring, maybe March or February.

Budget – Commissioner Lockhart requested Councilmember Swedberg advocate for a parks budget increase.

Commission Openings – Councilmember Swedberg thanked Commissioner Nyberg for calling for new commission members on social media and sharing her experience. It may be how two more applications were received.

ELECTION OF 2020 CHAIR/VICE CHAIR

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LOCKHART, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR CUNNINGHAM TO ELECT PAUL LOCKHART AS CHAIR OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

4 AYES 0 NAYS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE CHAIR CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NYBERG TO ELECT JAN CUNNINGHAM AS VICE CHAIR OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

4 AYES 0 NAYS

2020 CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE – Brian Bachmeier

Walton Hockey Rink – Director Bachmeier shared that the Council awarded a contract in June to the low bidder, All Phase Contracting (out of Forest Lake), at \$200,000. Nine bids had been received for the project and the balance of the other bids were above \$250,000. The budget for the project was \$250,000. The contractor is doing a nice job on the replacing/reinstalling the dasher boards and the slab. By the end of next week, the project will be complete, with the back fencing installed, paths paved, and area restored.

Councilmember Swedberg added that a temporary warming house will be in place this year. The old warming house had been removed.

Walton Ballfield Fencing and Paving – Two weeks ago, the Council awarded a contract to Century Fence for the fencing and ACI Asphalt & Concrete, Inc. for the paving. The work will begin after September 15 and be completed by the end of October. The budget for the project was \$180,000 and the combination of the two low bids was a little over \$140,000. The Council accepted the Commission's recommendation to include a contingency for the project's unknowns. There is no record of associated drawings for the existing paving so we won't discover the variation of the depth

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of the pavement until it's removed. The bid quantity for the pavement is subject to change depending on the thickness removed. There is also a contingency for the extent of the foundations on all the poles for the fencing. A lot have concrete foundations, but some couldn't be determined. The final unknown is whether the fairly old dugout roofs can be salvaged and reinstalled. The framing is partial wood and metal. The wood may not hold together when dismantled and may need to be refabricated when reinstalling. The budget is now \$160,000 with the award and the contingency; still less than the original budget of \$180,000. Between the two projects, the money not spent stays with the park reserve fund and can be used on future park projects.

Director Bachmeier stood for questions.

Tilsen Park Accessible Swing – Director Bachmeier informed Chair Lockhart that the swing has been acquired but the wet weather and understaffing has delayed the installation. Usually there are seven to eight summer staff, and this year only three had been hired. The swing will be installed this fall.

Bearth Field – Director Bachmeier informed Chair Lockhart that he and Parks Superintendent Koesling looked at the existing storm sewer system and discussed where drain tile could be tied in behind the backstops. A plan needs to be laid out. The south east corner of the backstop has a manhole structure to tie in. A third party would be hired.

Chair Lockhart hopes that the OAA would have the drain tile as part of their Bearth Field project, depending on the dollar value. The OAA wanted to replace the pads on the first and third base side, and put dugouts in with tin roofing. But first, the water on that side needs to be managed. Chair Lockhart is waiting for Superintendent Koesling to report on a drainage solution after talking to Director Bachmeier.

Director Bachmeier and Superintendent Koesling will discuss the drainage solution next week when he returns to the office. He will report back to Chair Lockhart.

Chair Lockhart was surprised that the Minnesota Twins wanted a project update every six months. He thinks they want the project to get going for next year. If we are able to do the project this year, a ceremony could be held at Bearth Field with the Twins in September/October. They are going to give an award to the City for the field to display.

Director Bachmeier said it has been a few years since Oakdale has had a project like that.

Chair Lockhart said the project has been a fun one. Logo tarps are also planned for the home plate and new mound that Superintendent Koesling built. There will be an Oakdale Athletic Association logo and a logo for the City of Oakdale.

RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams

Limited Summer Programming – Recreation Superintendent Williams reported that summer programs are continuing. The flyer is updated weekly on the website and shows if programs are canceled, continuing, or to be determined.

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Beekeeping and Honey Extraction – Last Thursday, the annual class took place. It was nice to resume programming and have a return to normalcy.

Curious Critters Club – The program for preschoolers has resumed.

Amped Up Entertainment – Bruce the Bug Guy will stop by at 10 AM on Thursday to share his collection of live insects. 25 people are allowed. Spots are half full and can be reserved by calling.

Wellness 50+ Red Cross Blood Drive – Wellness 50+, Oakdale Recreation, and Washington County are partnering with the Red Cross for a blood drive on Thursday, August 27, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Those interested in signing up for the last couple slots can visit redcrossblood.org to register.

Fall/Winter Newsletter – The October through January newsletter is being put together to mail to residents in mid-September. Recreation is hoping to plan some programs in a modified version. Some big events may not be able to be held and are to be determined.

Farmers Market – Good traffic continues at the market. GOBBQ, a new food truck, came last week with great baked beans. They have been at Walton Park the last couple Saturdays. They are one of the newer food trucks that have been parking at Walton Park on the weekends. Tomorrow's market will have the KCM Eggroll food truck serving amazing egg rolls. Live music will also start at the markets in the next couple weeks.

Vice Chair Cunningham asked if the Farmers Market will be 2 to 6 PM next year, or be changed to 2:30 to 6:30 PM.

Superintendent Williams replied that surveys will help determine market hours for next year and will be discussed with Council at the end of the market season.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Congratulations Recreation Assistant Laura Linzmeyer – Vice Chair Cunningham congratulated Administrative Assistant Laura Linzmeyer on the birth of her baby, Miles.

Community Walk – Commissioner Nyberg is participating in the Oakdale Nature Preserve Community Walk program for the first time. She and her new dog walk 3.5 miles daily, that weather allows, and she loves seeing the different animals and deer.

Superintendent Williams said the Community Walk has had a great response this year, with a record number of participants signing up right away. Over 300 people are walking.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE CHAIR CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NYBERG TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED AUGUST 18, 2020, AT 7:34 P.M.

4 AYES 0 NAYS

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Respectfully submitted,
Laura Linzmeyer