

**Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 5:15 PM
CITY OF MINNETONKA BEACH
PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Mayor Lindstrom determined that an in-person Planning Commission meeting was not practical or prudent because of the COVID 19 health pandemic and that this meeting was held remotely using Zoom Teleconferencing. This was done in accordance with MN State 13D.02

Members Present: Co-Chair Kim Petersen, Co-Chair Julia Sharma; Commissioners: Chris Dovolis, Joe Pagano, Lucian Panait, Patty Rezabek
Absent: none
Staff Present: City Clerk Jane Burgess
Council Liaison: Tracey Breazeale
Guests:

Petersen and Sharma opened the meeting at 5:18 pm

1. Minnetonka Beach Business

1.1. Approve Agenda – January 25, 2022

Rezabek motion, Panait second to approve the January 25, 2022, meeting agenda. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

1.2. Approve Minutes – November 9, 2021

Rezabek and Pagano advised of a typo and an omission. Burgess will amend minutes as discussed.

Pagano motion, Rezabek second to approve the November 9, 2021, amended meeting minutes. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

1.3 Co-Chair’s Welcoming Comments

Petersen welcomed everyone to 2022 and stated she is looking forward to a peaceful, calm year enjoying the City Parks. Sharma agreed with Petersen and added that she is looking forward to a tranquil Parks year.

2.0 Administration

2.1 Status of Tree Canopy Grant – Sharma

Sharma stated that the Park Commission came to an understanding with Hennepin County at the end of 2021 regarding expenditures for the Hennepin County Tree Canopy Grant. The City received \$21,622.99 from Hennepin County prior to the end of 2021, and Park Commission has \$15,860 remaining to spend. The grant spending was extended until 7/1/22 according to Rezabek. She added that according to the spreadsheet, the remaining money will be spent on tree removal, and tree planting. Also, volunteers will do the tree mulching, maintaining, and fertilizing. Sharma added that Parks is working with Hennepin County, Hilgers, Petersen, and Rezabek to make sure the money will be spent in those two categories before June 30, 2022. Shane at Hennepin County is to confirm with a summary sheet to make sure Parks is aligned with the county. Pagano asked if Hennepin County will pre-approved the work done before doing it. Rezabek stated that yes they will.

2.2 March Council Update – Petersen and Sharma

Petersen credited and thanked Pagano for his prepared City Council update entitled *Focusing on The Basics, Year Three of a Five Year Plan* for the March 14, 2022, council meeting:

Take Aways

- › Continue on with the work of 5YP using proven processes and the SPOC system
- › Parks is well prepared for 2022's work
- › What residents will see



Platform for Success

- › Completed 15 Point Transition Plan
- › 2022's tasks, responsibilities and timeline are clearly defined and understood by the Park Commission
 - › SYP Update
 - › Administrative Calendar
 - › Approved Budget and CIPs



Platform for success....continued

- › 18 months of collaborative results in working with Jason Hilgers



Basics of protecting and maintaining the park system

- › Negotiate and oversee maintenance contracts
 - › Gardener
 - › Beach Cleanliness
 - › Invasive Species
 - › Turf Restoration
- › Monitor 2022 Budget spending
- › Implement Approved 2022 CIPs(2)
 - › Replace Lafayette Park Welcoming Sign
 - › Refurbish 6 Picnic Tables



Basics of maintaining and protecting the park system continued.....

- › Coming through with Key Deliverables
 - › Execute Asset Inspection Process
 - › Prepare Recommendations for 2023 CIPs and Budget



What residence will see this year

- ▶ General "beautification" throughout system
 - Seasonally themed planters and window boxes
 - Maintaining and updating existing gardens
 - Healthier turf
- ▶ Refurbishing of 6 picnic tables
- ▶ Replacement of iconic welcoming sign at Lafayette Park with replica
- ▶ Refurbishing of Ray Peters, Lifeguard and City Hall Playground signs
- ▶ Seal coating and court painting at RPP
- ▶ Crushed limestone on crossing path

- *** Semi-anonymous resident donor refurbishing picnic tables
- *** Pagano family refurbished RPP, Lifeguard and City Hall playground signs

What we need your help with

- ▶ Keeping Commission at full staffing (7)
- ▶ Continued communication of park usage regulations relating to motorized vehicles

Petersen added that the Activities Schedule has not changed, she pointed out the great pictures of the Character Preservation collage in this presentation of the City. She also complimented the Character Restoration photo collage page of work done throughout the City, and the library and Fond du Lac Stone Wall project photos. Petersen stated it is the City Volunteers who make a difference. Breazeale complimented everything included in the presentation and said how great all the work done is as many things were looking rather shabby. The photos bring everything to life she added.

2.3 Review of 2022 Administrative Calendar – Pagano

Pagano presented National Parks Month is in July and he requested that Burgess put an article in June Beachcomber for that. He pointed out that the November meeting needs a new date as it conflicts with Election Day. The calendar is all set up and ready to go and Parks will be very busy over the next 60-90 days.

2.4 SPOC Updates from the Beach – Panait and Pagano

2.4. i. Price increase from Life's A Beach – Panait

Panait presented that there is a nearly 100% price increase from 2021 with Life's A Beach, who has worked for the City for the last five years, for the 2022 swim beach cleanup contract. Their rate in 2021 was \$6000 and their quote for the 2022 season is \$11,500. That is \$250 per visit with 46 visits at 3 times each week. They informed Panait that there was an over 200% increase in weeds at our beach in each of the last two years, and they have staffing issues. Waterfront Restoration quoted \$6552 or \$436 per visit for once weekly service 15 times for 2022.

Sharma stated the budget for 2022 is \$6300. She also asked if the cleanup Life's A Beach does is for the weeds that come up onto the beach or do they go into the water and cut them. Panait said they remove the weeds that come up on beach. The weeds at our beach do not blow away and there is always an accumulation of weeds. The increased boat traffic in Lafayette Bay increases the weeds coming onto shore as the propellers cut the weeds causing more labor.

Panait presented an option to stay with Life's a Beach once weekly for 20 visits this year and supplement with hiring someone to clean up the beach also. Also the season could be shortened from Memorial Day – Labor Day saving 6 visits.

Petersen asked for clarification if Life's A Beach removes weeds all along the rip rap or just the sand beach area. Pagano and Panait said they do the entire rip rap shoreline once each week. Pagano said 200 feet is removed and there are two types of weeding they do. In the swimming area they weed a 50 x 100 foot rectangle and pull the weeds out of that area in the water. Once weekly they harvest the weeds from shore and bring them to a dump in St. Boni. Pagano suggested composting weeds at Public Works. He said most customers who use Life's A Beach have once weekly service, but because of geese droppings and sanitation Parks went to 3 times each week service. It was much more affordable then.

Rezabek said 2021 was unusual and there were many beach closures. She stated that from mid-July through the rest of the season swim beach usage is down. She suggested more service visits at beginning of season when there is peak use to mid-July. Petersen agreed with Rezabek.

Breazeale asked if Life's A Beach had ideas to stay within the City's budget. Although since they doubled the City's price are they negotiable, she asked. They might add additional Minnetonka Beach customers if their name is advertised more, she added. She asked that all options should be considered to continue working with them. Panait stated that no they did not negotiate with Life's a Beach yet, as they lost money on the Minnetonka Beach project last year. They said they did more work than they were paid for Panait stated. He wondered if the community would be willing to donate money to keep the beach clean.

Petersen suggested that perhaps Hilgers could help clean the beach if he has time. Pagano stated it is not in his job description but perhaps his assistant, Kolton, could help with this effort.

Sharma asked if the weeds were to pile up would the E. coli problem worsen. Petersen suggested that perhaps it could make it better due to filtration.

Pagano stated that the Commission discussed good ideas and suggested to resume the conversation at the April meeting. He said Panait and Pagano will come back with some other suggestions. He said they could perhaps explore using the drought impact fund.

Sharma acknowledged raising dock fees as an option and/or exploring donations to offset price increase and keep the service frequency as it was.

Breazeale suggested having Life's A Beach pull the weeds out of the water and perhaps hire kids to then get them removed from the beach.

2.4.ii. Proposal to Engage with Dock Committee – Pagano

Pagano presented his thoughts on the proposal he and Panait created for the Park Commission to form a purposeful, working relationship with the Dock Committee. It seems like a natural occurrence that the two groups would have a hand in glove relationship over the years especially at the swimming beach and it's never taken place he stated. The proposal is based on two premises. Docks and Parks each bring their own unique perspectives to the table Pagano stated. Docks has a deep understanding of the dock permitting process, the LMCD, dock installation processes and slip renters' point of view. Park Commission has a deeper understanding of the Comprehensive Plan, 5YP, City process and dealing with multiple residents' point of view. He stated this is a powerful combination to have especially as it relates to the swimming beach. Committee Chairman Jeff Steinke is receptive to the idea and expressed interest in collaborating and will bring the concept to the spring Dock Committee meeting.

Pagano then focused on "Protecting Community Character is in our DNA" from the Comprehensive Plan. He said that on page 7 of the Comp Plan it states: ***"The Comprehensive Plan articulates the official City policies used to sustain, build and guide the community to maintain and improve upon the City's unique character."*** The City is willing to invest in preserving its unique character because it wants to, Pagano added. The additional cost of the vintage look of the new water tower is an example of this. Mayor Lindstrom told Pagano that all residents who responded to the survey said they wanted the new water

tower to have the vintage look. He added that Rezabek obtained the Tree Canopy Grant to preserve the unique character of our community. Pagano restored various City to their original format with minimal cost and effort. Tom Enlow restored the skating trainers which are being used today at the City skating rink. Pagano mentioned the Dovolis/Forbes efforts in restoring the library to its natural look. He added that the Fond du Lac stone retaining wall cost more than cement block would have but matches the historic look of that wall. Pagano also credited the 13 volunteers who at the swim beach, the City's Crown Jewel, planted 700 plants (of which Holt's donated 200 of them) on a hot sunny day. Panait adopted the swim beach and cleaned it up regularly with his sons.

Pagano stated that the swim beach at .56 of an acre, and is a multi-use place. Many community events are held there throughout the year. He spoke of the views of the lake from the swim beach and how important they are for the non-riparian homeowners to enjoy the view of the lake. A great deal of money has been spent on grooming and accessorizing the beach over recent years- \$45,000 – and he cited all the examples of work done there. If there was a relationship between Park Commission and the Dock Committee Parks could encourage Docks to adopt a park. The Dock Committee or members who have their boats there could encourage and recruit volunteers to help with Junior Civic clean up days. He stated that it all seems like a natural fit.

Breazeale stated that she likes the idea of a joint collaboration between Docks and Parks. She agrees that the Swimming Beach Park is the most important and valuable overlap between the two groups. She said dock parts should not be left behind there longer as they have in the past few years. Sometimes parts are there early in the summer season when kids are playing there, and it is dangerous and unsightly.

Pagano cited an example of this when the volunteers were planting the 700 plants at the swim beach last fall, Hilgers pulled out two truck loads of dock parts left behind at the swim beach.

Pagano motion Rezabek second that Parks engage with Docks to define and align on the policies, practices and strategies that: 1. Protects the City Swimming Beach's character, safety and user experience for all residents and visitors. 2. Compliant with Comprehensive Plan. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.

3. Operations

3.1 Review of 2022 Operations Calendar – Pagano

Pagano presented the new format of the Operations Calendar. He combined the budget and CIP and inserted months that work will occur. It is simplified and the dollar amounts are included for the CIP process. Petersen stated that it is very nice.

4. FYI's

4.1 5YP Update is posted on City website - Pagano

Pagano stated that Burgess posted the 5YP to the City website and she is going to post the entire 5YP Appendix to the website for quick and easy reference.

4.2 Picnic Table Restoration - Pagano

Pagano stated that semi-anonymous resident donor Peter Scherer has volunteered to restore the City picnic tables

5. Commissioner and Liaison Comments

Rezabek stated that the Minneapolis Star Tribune published an article about the U of M Forestry Department is looking for segments of the Old Big Woods. Rezabek has lived here since 1969 and Minnetonka Beach is part of the Old Big Woods. She emailed the writer and he said that in addition to preserving the Old Big Woods he wants to preserve the forest floor. To Petersen's point he agrees that we could be losing the Old Big Woods. Rezabek wants to see what he suggests for future

preservation and maintenance. He agreed to a spring tour of the Minnetonka Beach Old Big Woods. Petersen is excited for that tour as well.

Breazeale stated that Park Commission is off to a great start this year and congratulated new Commission Co-Chairs Petersen and Sharma with a bit of Pagano too. She referenced the need to still fill a Park Commissioner position and they discussed possible residents who may be interested. Breazeale suggested advertising the position in the Beachcomber and eblasts which Burgess will do.

Sharma reported that boulders have been put in place to help deter snowmobiles from driving through City Parks and land where no motorized vehicles allowed signs are posted. There are still numerous snowmobiles going through Half Moon Park and other public land where they should not be. She suggested chain installation to stop them.

6. Closing Comments and Adjournment – Co-chairs Petersen and Sharma

Pagano motion, Rezabek second to adjourn the January 25, 2022, Park Commission meeting. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burgess, City Clerk