

**Tuesday, January 07, 2025, 5:30 PM
CITY OF MINNETONKA BEACH
PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Chair Kim Petersen,
Commissioners: Jolynn Gamble, Lucian Panait and Patty Rezabek
Absent: Curt Holt, Dave Christiansen, Laura Paine
Staff Present: City Clerk Jane Burgess and Public Works Superintendent Jason Hilgers
Council Liaison: Chris Dovolis
Guests:

Petersen opened the meeting at 5:31 pm.

1. Minnetonka Beach Business

1.1. Approve Agenda – January 07, 2025

Gamble motion, Panait second to approve the January 07, 2025 Park Commission Meeting Agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

- 1.2. Approve Park Commission meeting minutes from the November 14, 2024 meeting
Rezabek requested sentence removals in the Buckthorn removal section. Burgess will amend.

Rezabek motion, Gamble second to approve the November 14, 2024 Park Commission meeting minutes as amended. All ayes, motion carried.

- 1.3. Approve the Park Commission meeting minutes from the December 2, 2024 Special meeting.

Gamble motion, Rezabek second to approve the Park Commission meeting minutes from the December 2, 2024 Special Meeting. All ayes, motion carried.

- 1.4. Chair or Vice Chair Welcoming Comments
Petersen welcomed the small group of four commissioners to the meeting.

1.5. Summary of December City Council meeting regarding Swim Beach Docks.
Dovolis stated that the December City Council meeting minutes from this issue are provided in the packet for review by Park Commissioners. Dovolis stated that the City Council had a split vote of 2 to 2 with Mayor Pagano breaking the tie in support of Option #2 which relocates the two most inner slips closest to the swimming beach to another location in the City. This option would help get the Swim Beach closer to where it was historically. This is a start to get the vista back to where it was years ago at the Swim Beach, and they will revisit this in two years. All of the options considered were based on attrition and to vacate only two slips seemed reachable. He added that all the canopy boathouses at the Swim Beach will need to be dark green for consistency by 2035. Gamble stated that she liked that there was empathy for slip holders. Panait stated that in order to make this vision closer to reality from Parks point of view, would it be unreasonable for Minnetonka Beach to have an area like Wayzata who has plastic floating docks and is clear and defined where the swimming area is. Petersen stated that Wayzata beach is used by a larger group in the metro area.

2. Administration

2.1. Review of 2025 Administrative Calendar

Petersen reviewed the Administrative Calendar and Burgess added that February 2nd is the date for the Civic Committee resident skating party. Petersen stated that there was discussion about combining that event with the February 1st Klondike Dog Sled Race on Lake Minnetonka. She added that it was suggested that maybe fire pits

could be at beach to watch the dog sled race. They discussed past soccer and food truck events that Parks organized at Ray Peters Park and the possibility of Civic and Junior Civic taking over the planning of that event. Panait suggested that this idea could be further explored. Petersen suggested that perhaps soccer could be added to the summer picnic. Rezabek shared that historically there were pickup baseball games.

2.2. Review of 2024 Operational Calendar and discuss completion of 2025 Operational Calendar.

Petersen stated that Paine will update the 2025 Operational Calendar with budget numbers and added that this is a good document especially for new commissioners, so everyone knows who, when, and why something is being handled. She added that green is Parks' responsibility and yellow is Public Works.

2.3. Reminder of Meeting Dates for 2025 –

Park Commission meeting dates for 2025 are 1/7, 3/4, 4/1, 5/6, 6/3, 8/5, 10/7, and 11/4. Burgess will send out calendar invites to commissioners.

2.4. Review SPOC System Assignments for 2025

- **Hard Assets** – Petersen stated that Hard Asset inspections will take place TBD in February or March. Commissioners will stay in current SPOC assignments this year but with Commissioner Holt moving he will be resigning before his term is up at the end of August. Gamble will do join the Hard Asset inspection tour this spring. She asked if commissioners know of anyone who may want to fill Holt's vacant seat, they should suggest it. They could also consider being a special volunteer or fill Holt's vacant seat. She added that Pete Scherer is interested in forest restoration and working with the City as he is also a big advocate for planting trees. His father started that tradition. Petersen stated that she will connect Pete to Dave. She stated that Hard Assets have been completed and Panait created a new list. She added that some of the City stairs need attention like at the Arcola Bridge Docks and the stairs from the Dakota Trail up to Woodbridge Road. Hilgers stated that maybe Hennepin County Rail Authority may help replace those stairs as that is their land and they may need a total rebuild. A lot of people use those stairs. Hilgers added that he has left four messages with Tom Niccum regarding the Crystal Bay Rip Rap project they were supposed to do and is waiting to hear from him.
 - **Green Assets**
 - Gardener contract and management SPOC (Gardens by Lynn)
Petersen stated that since Holt is leaving Parks a new SPOC for the gardener contract is needed. Gamble volunteered to fill that role including the window boxes. She also expressed interest in native plantings.
 - Liza Creer Garden planning.
Petersen stated that she is unsure if Holt will design a plan for the Liza Creer Garden before he leaves. Hilgers suggested that the group should meet with Gardens by Lynn and see what Lynn recommends for this garden. Petersen stated that it is now a full sun garden. A plan could be implemented in late May or June. Gamble stated that she will also be working on the Hennepin County Grant writing submission now until that time.
- Hilgers also suggested a spring cleanup event could involve planting too or over different days. They will consider this. Gamble stated that April 26th from 10 - noon might be a good day for a spring cleanup or May 17th from 10 – noon. She is especially hoping for a big Junior Civic turnout. They will discuss this at the January 8th Civic Committee meeting.

Burgess will add Gamble to the SPOC for Grants and garden beds/gardener contract. Petersen asked the commissioners to keep CIP requests in mind too and Hilgers added that they should be large dollar amounts. Rezabek suggested that the City get a Zamboni for the ice rink like the one Wayzata has. Hilgers flooded the skating rink Saturday night and Panait stated that the ice has been really good.

- Forest Restoration assessment and planning

- Administrative & Financial Oversight
Petersen requested that Park Commissioners begin gathering vendor quotes and contracts for approval (see 2025 budget). Vendor contracts need to be signed by April. Petersen stated that she is waiting to hear from Cody of Prairie Restorations as they need to do a sight inspection. What the crews saw were Cherry trees instead of Buckthorn so they may need to issue the City a credit as the work per the contract was not really done in the three patches and they were paid. Rezabek stated that the Shiny Buckthorn was mixed in with Cherry trees.

3. FYI's

Helpful information

- Comprehensive (Comp) Plan, Ch, 3, pages 36-51
- 5 YR Plan link: <https://www.ci.minnetonka-beach.mn.us/index.asp?SEC=26D1DD99-2F3E-41B1-A51D-A69157257644&DE=836261BF-194B-4A12-BC8C-BD9E0BF686E1>.

Petersen stated that the focus will be on the new 5YP, reforestation and invasive eradication this year. Rezabek stated that she was pleased that the City Council made a decision to widen the view at the Swim Beach Docks area. She's been wanting this change since 2008. Petersen said Bennett Halverson and another resident named Brady Arnold may be good helpers for Hilgers this summer. Rezabek and Gamble will be working on the Hennepin County Opportunity Grant for shoreline restoration. She asked that commissioners bring vendor contracts to the March 4th meeting or the April 1st meeting at the latest for approval at the April 14th City Council meeting.

4. Commissioner and Liaison Comments

5. Closing Comments and Adjournment -KP

Rezabek motion, Gamble second to adjourn the January 07, 2024 Park Commission meeting. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Public in attendance:

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burgess, City Clerk