

**City of Minnetonka Beach
Park Commission Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2019**

Members Present: Chair Joe Pagano; Commissioners: Dan Forbes, Harlan Lehman, Katie Norman, and Patty Rezabek
Absent: Commissioners Chris Dovolis and Jody Sperduto
Staff Present: City Clerk Heidi Honey
Council Liaison: Tracey Breazeale
Guest: Mayor Jaci Lindstrom

Chair Pagano called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

1. Park Commission Administration

1.1. Oath of Office – Harlan Lehman

Commissioner Lehman was given the oath of office prior to the meeting.

1.2. Welcoming Comments

Pagano welcomed Lehman to the commission.

1.3. Approve the March 5, 2019 Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Forbes and seconded by Commissioner Rezabek to approve the March 5, 2019 meeting agenda. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

1.4. Grant Application for Paths to Median/Crossing on County Road 15

Pagano stated that at the February Council meeting the Park Commission was asked to provide their input on the city applying for a DNR grant for access paths to the median/crossing. The grant requires a ten-foot wide path made of a hard surface. Previously, the city applied for and was denied a grant for a six-foot wide path which cost \$45,000. The cost for a 10-foot wide path is \$74,586 and the grant would cover 75% (\$55,940). The city would be responsible for \$18,646. There is an additional cost of \$15,000 for tree removal, stump grinding, and planting associated with a ten-foot wide path. A six-foot wide path would cost the city \$11,354 more than the ten-foot wide path. Commissioners reviewed Comprehensive Plan excerpts related to the Park Commission, the affected parks, and the paths. They also reviewed a summary of the issue which was in the packet. Pagano stated that the diagrams and photos in the packet show the potential impact of a ten-foot wide path. Lehman stated that a five-foot wide path is ADA compliant. Commissioners discussed the costs associated with maintaining a wider path and the trade-off of spending less money but losing control over path material and width.

Forbes preferred a six-foot or smaller width path that allows the city to have more discretion and has less impact on the parks. He also stated it is a simpler project. Norman does not think the ten-foot wide path is suitable for the city's needs. That width would make it unsightly, trees would need to be removed, and the hard surface would require more maintenance. For esthetic beauty and how they are envisioning the path will be used, she recommends that the city not apply for the grant. Lehman stated that he is 100% opposed to a ten-foot wide asphalt path. It invites cars to drive through the park. He suggested the city explore a five foot path of other materials that are more subtle and earth toned such as wood chips or compacted granite. Rezabek agreed that a ten-foot wide path is not what the city needs. It needs an inviting pathway for pedestrians and bikers. She does not want any more trees taken down than necessary. Pagano stated that they are the stewards of the parks and they have a responsibility to protect the parks.

A motion was made by Commissioner Forbes and seconded by Commissioner Norman to recommend to council that they do not pursue the DNR grant for the ten-foot wide path. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners discussed that the six foot wide path design was for the previous grant application. Lehman stated that the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul use five-foot wide paths and any wider seems unnecessary. Rezabek discussed making the path inviting so people will use it.

Commissioners then discussed the location of the paths. The city engineer determined the location of the paths. Rezabek does not feel she has enough information about drainage to determine if the location is best. Lehman thinks the proposed location and elevation is wonderful and additional trees do not need to come down. Norman likes the location of proposed path. She suggested the city send out messaging to residents encouraging them to use the path instead of Shoreline Drive. Forbes has no objection to the location. Pagano likes that the path is discretely tucked behind the sign and meanders to the crossing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norman and seconded by Commissioner Lehman to accept the location of the proposed path on the south side. Those voting in favor: Forbes, Lehman, and Norman. Those opposed: Rezabek. The motion carried.

Commissioners discussed the proposed path on the north side of the crossing. Trees may not need to be removed if the path is a six foot wide or narrower. They provide a beautiful impact of color in the fall.

A motion was made by Commissioner Forbes and seconded by Commissioner Lehman to approve the location of the path as drawn on the north side. Those voting in favor: Forbes, Norman, and Rezabek. Abstained: Lehman (he has never been on that side). The motion carried.

Commissioners then discussed recommendations for council. Rezabek stated that although the commissioners support the paths, they would like more information from the city engineer regarding drainage. The commissioners agreed that a five foot wide path of varying materials should be explored. Rezabek recommended landscape design at both path entrances to encourage people to use it. Lehman strongly recommends a five foot wide path because less hardcover is more attractive. Norman agreed it is much more aesthetically pleasing and more in keeping with the look of the neighborhood. Norman said Council should be informed that a five-foot wide path is ADA compliant. Breazeale then reviewed the recommendations to bring to Council.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rezabek and seconded by Commissioner Lehman to recommend a five foot wide path. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.

1.5. Approve Minutes – January 8, 2019 Park Commission Meeting Minutes

Edits - Dovolis did not attend the January meeting. Bartlett is willing to come in to talk with residents.

A motion was made by Commissioner Norman and seconded by Commissioner Forbes to approve the January 8, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

1.6. Review Park Commission Activity Schedule - Administration

Pagano discussed the Activity Schedule. Civic events were added. The Five Year Plan will be worked on April through September and they will approve CIP requests at the April meeting.

2. Park Commission Operations

2.1. Review Park Commission 2019 Activity Schedule – Operations

Pagano reviewed the Activity Schedule Operations and the addendum project list with additional projects to consider in 2019.

Forbes discussed the AllStar bid for library updates. Forbes and Dovolis will research colors for the aluminum gutters and downspouts for the April meeting. Honey will submit the contract for Council approval that the March meeting.

2.2. Tree removal request by City Engineer – 2462 Lafayette Road

Rezabek stated the city engineer is recommending the ash tree at 2462 Lafayette Road be removed to improve drainage and road surface. The arborist does not consider the tree a valued ash and has recommended removal also. Bartlett Tree's bid is \$2,160 and Rezabek will get additional bids.

A motion was made by Commissioner Forbes and seconded by Commissioner Norman to authorize Rezabek to oversee the removal of the tree after getting an additional bid or two. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

2.3. Tree Removal Request – 2106 Lake Road, Right of Way

Resident Jill Bartel stated that two trees were topped by Asplundh when they trimmed near power lines. Erik Paulsen examined the trees and determined that they will live and are healthy. Bartel thinks they can reshape them so she is not requesting that the city remove them at this time. Paulsen also examined the oak tree on the corner of Brooks and Lake Road and determined it is not problematic at this time.

2.4. Five Year Plan – Looking Ahead to April

Pagano asked commissioners to think about what they want to see accomplished in the next five years. In April, they will discuss the details for completing the projects listed below.

2.4.1. Identify hard and green assets in each zone

2.4.2. Evaluate condition of assets in each zone

2.4.3. Determine what protection, maintenance and improvements are needed for each zone on annual and rotational basis

Rezabek will be working on EAB educational materials for the Beachcomber. If a tree is 30% infested, it can be saved. Minnesota has more ash trees than any other state in the county and it is estimated to be over one billion ash trees.

3. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Forbes and seconded by Commissioner Rezabek to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

Chair Pagano adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Signed the sheet: Jill Bartel

Next meeting: April 2, 2019 at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Honey, City Clerk