

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 5:30 PM
CITY OF MINNETONKA BEACH
PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Kim Petersen, Vice Chair Laura Paine
Commissioners: Curt Holt, Laura Paine, Lucian Panait, Patty Rezabek, and Chip Zawislak
Absent: Public Works Superintendent Jason Hilgers
Staff Present: City Clerk Jane Burgess
Council Liaison: Tracey Breazeale
Guests:

Petersen opened the meeting at 5:32 pm

1. Minnetonka Beach Business

- 1.1. Approve Agenda – March 7, 2023

Rezabek motion, Zawislak second to approve the March 7, 2023, meeting agenda. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

- 1.2. Approve Minutes – January 24, 2023
Several edits were recommended, and Burgess stated that she will make them and amend the minutes.

Holt motion, Panait second to approve the January 24, 2023 meeting amended minutes. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

- 1.3. Chairs Welcoming Comments KP and LP
Petersen stated that no inspections have been made yet due to the extended winter season, but the commission will ramp up for spring projects soon.

2. Administration

- 2.1 Calendar Review – KP

Petersen stated that contracts signed for seasonal work must be discussed at or prior to the next meeting on April 4th. Contracts are due to City Staff on April 21st for approval. **NOW REVISED TO APRIL 4th for April 10th City Council meeting approval.** Asset inspections will be either in late March or early April, and Petersen will look for a date.

- 2.2 Signed Seasonal Contracts due to Jane Burgess by April 21, 2023- KP **NOW REVISED TO April 4th.**

- i. Beach – Panait

Panait stated that he is waiting for Waterfront Restoration to provide him with a Swim Beach cleanup quote for 2023. He told them to quote on six visits this summer as they did last year. Kohlton Beck, seasonal Public Works employee, will be cleaning the beach as well this summer every weekday.

- ii. Gardener – Holt

Holt provided a recap that the previous gardening company, Garden Gate, charged the City \$55 an hour. He stated the rates for gardeners under consideration to date with the least expensive one, Being Strong in Nature at \$60/hour. The second bid was from Gardens By Lynn at \$75/hour, and the third bid was from Pleasant View Gardens at about \$80. Holt provided all vendors with the entire scope of work for the City. He stated that he does not know much about Lara Newberger of Fat Squirrel Forestry, but her focus seems to be on trees, and she charges \$75/hour. Marci Jordan, and Tanya DeYonge withdrew from consideration. Holt did not hear back from Sandy Bendickson and Ann Reed. He would like to interview the 1st and 2nd bidders with Petersen and his wife, Vicki, make a decision and get the contract approved at the April 4th Park Commission meeting. Commissions agreed that the first two bidders seemed to be the best choices.

iii. Turf – Holt and Hilgers

Holt reported that Hilgers requested a meeting with himself, Holt and Petersen to determine best practices management and make a plan for going forward. Holt spoke to John of Green Core Organics and now Holt will meet with Sam, their technical expert to determine what exactly was applied last year in the City. Holt stated that Hilgers wants to take the lead on this, and he will take an advisory role. Petersen stated that she has the history and Hilgers and Holt have the expertise. Holt stated that he had a pre-emergent conversation with Nate at AJ's to address Prostrate Knotweed that has taken over at the LRHA circle. He added that the first step is to apply the pre-emergent very early as soon as the snow melts.

iv. Crab Apple Trees – Rezabek

Rezabek stated that the Bartlett quotes and/or contracts should now be at City Hall for the April 4th Park Commission meeting and April 10th City Council meeting.

3. Operations

3.1 Calendar

i. Hard Asset Inspection – March/April

Petersen said inspections will be scheduled when weather is better.

ii. Green Asset Inspections - May/June

Petersen said that inspections will happen after the snow melts.

Zawislak asked is there are maps or surveys for the rip rap project. Petersen answered that the areas are really well marked what is City and resident property. She added that at City Docks 5-7A the only thing holding the shoreline bank in place is tree roots, but it will be budget dependent. The Hedeem's property is marked near those docks. She stated that any shoreline work will be done in the fall after the City docks are removed and before ice forms.

3.2 Work Assigned SPOC & Teams Updates

i. Skate Park Survey – Laura P

Paine presented skate park survey work done to date. Petersen stated that Administrator Honey asked if a resident survey is needed as a skate park is in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Petersen asked Breazeale's opinion of this and she stated that some residents like the skate park and we will get question of its future. Closure is needed if the City is not going to have a skate park. The existing equipment is broken and there is nothing budgeted for equipment replacement. She added that if there is demand and future need for the skate park then the level of interest can be assessed.

Breazeale stated that she would seek soft interest at the Civic Committee meeting tomorrow. She added that new residents who moved here during COVID probably were unaware that the City had a skate park. LP which one staid vandalism is a concern for a skate park no matter where it is located in the City. Who suggested placing it in plain sight at Lafayette Park to protect it from vandalism, but Petersen stated that is not an option as it is a green space park.

Rezabek expressed concern that a skate park could draw even more non-residents to the area whether it's at Ray Peters or elsewhere. She stated that at times at the old skate parks, parents were called to pick up their kids at as it didn't look good at that time due to non-residents there.

Paine stated that a resident survey could have just two questions. One could ask them if their family used the old skate park in the last five years. The other question could ask if they see their family using it going forward. She added that a quick cost analysis showed that it could cost over \$100,000 for a new yet to be determined location,

small, 3,000 sq ft., poured concrete, permanent park at \$55 a sq ft for installation. Equipment replacement could cost \$50,000 to replace what the City had before. Paine stated that site prep, drainage, maintenance, and location would need to be determined as well.

Breazeale suggested holding off on further research until next month once she sees what Civic says about skate part interest. She asked Burgess to put an article in Beachcombe about status of the skate park, and state that the existing skate park equipment is in bad shape and cannot be safely used this year. The City may do a survey of interest and ask for feedback. They discussed that a new skate park with a permanent location and new equipment could be a CIP topic of discussion for next year if there is a decision to move forward with pursuing it.

- ii. Gardener Contract – CH – see above 2.2. ii.
- iii. Beach Contract – Lucian P – see above 2.2. i.

iv. Restore the Shore and Forest Grant Options – PR

Petersen and Rezabek provided an update on a possible grant. Petersen stated that for Restore the Shore she wrote a grant in 2020 for the Hennepin County Good Steward Grant on behalf of the Park Commission for projects up to \$25,000. She stated that she received great feedback from Hennepin County, but due to their small budget the City was one off from getting it and they were willing to continue to work with Petersen to refine the project on the open spaces in the City for shoreline restoration. Phase One was installed at the Swim Beach with the shoreline plantings three years ago. They will phase in the other locations with rip rap buffers installed in the needed areas.

Rezabek stated that she has not heard back from Hennepin County Natural Resources yet and she needs more information. She said that although the Hennepin County Opportunity Grant is the big one, it will be best to focus on the Steward Grant for phase two. Petersen stated that Hennepin County wants the City to work on one smaller location at a time rather than a larger project all at once. Petersen worked with Natural Shores Technologies, walking the City to determine what would need to be done. She added that a buffer near the rip rap would be a geese deterrent, help eliminate runoff, eliminate a geese runway to come up on shore, and be a great pollinator.

Rezabek credited and thanked the Holts for their planting donations and efforts in the City.

v. Rip Rap – CZ

Zawislak stated that he can't do much until the snow melts and he can see the shoreline areas discussed needing work including City Dock 2 and maybe City Docks 5-7A. Petersen stated that when they do Hard Asset Inspections then Zawislak will learn more about the project. She asked Zawislak if he has contractors in mind and he said he does. Petersen suggested contacting Hagen Landscape and Barge Services in Chanhassen

vi. Pavers – Lucian and CZ

Petersen requested that Panait get three bids for the Swim Beach Paver Repair project. This will include labor to remove existing pavers, put in a proper base, drainage and re-lay the pavers. She added that Norling's is a good contractor per Hilgers. Burgess was asked to find out who installed the original walkway to the beach pavers at the Swim Beach Park in 2001. Zawislak will contact a vendor he has used to see if he is interested in this small project. There is concern the pavers may break when they are removed. Breazeale stated that the CIP has budgeted, and council approved \$3500 for the paver repair project.

vii. Green Assets Updated – KP

Petersen stated that she will be updating this spreadsheet which will be helpful in talking to potential gardeners. It needs to be determined if Hilgers does the shrub work in the City or not.

3.3 Punch List Update – Hilgers absent

4. FYI's

4.1 Mayor Monarch Pledge

Petersen stated that Mayor Pagano has completed the Mayor's Monarch Pledge for 2023, the third year for the City, and it will be submitted. This pledge shows the City's commitment to the National Wildlife Federation with the native planting areas and the Restore the Shore projects in Minnetonka Beach.

4.2 Spring Clean Up with Junior Civic – May (which parks to focus on?)

They discussed that the Swim Beach Park would be good for the Spring Clean Up day with Junior Civic. Lund's will once again be donating donuts and bottled water. Junior Civic President Madry Breazeale will be gone two Saturdays in May, the 17th and 31st so it will be discussed at Civic, and a date selected. Burgess will put the event flyer in the Beachcomber and in the weekly SPLASH! eblasts.

5. Commissioner and Liaison Comments

Panait suggested two soccer and food truck events this summer from 5:30 – 7pm, one on Wednesday, June 14, ahead of the Civic meeting which begins at 8pm. The second date could be either July 12, or July 19th and Pfeffer Meats in Navarre would like to have their food truck at one or both of the events. The date of the Summer Picnic is needed and Breazeale will get it at the Civic meeting. July 12th may be the best of the two.

Petersen stated that Hilgers and Honey met with the Hennepin County Rail Authority regarding the land the Dakota Trail is on in Minnetonka Beach that they own. They have a three-year plan in place to remove 5,000 Ash trees on all their properties. Most likely in 2024 or 2025 they will remove 10 large Ash trees along the trail in the City. They will plant small 1 inch caliper trees. She added that if the City wants to plant larger trees instead that can be done and location as well. Petersen stated that because the City has treated for EAB and the City's trees are healthy they probably won't be removed right away. She suggested that the City stop spending the money treating for EAB as they will be removed anyway.

Rezabek suggested that the tree watering bags purchased from AF Leonard be checked to see if they are in good condition as there is a five year guarantee. Petersen stated that some have holes so an inventory will be needed.

6. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Rezabek motion, Holt second to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Public in attendance:

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burgess, City Clerk