

Tuesday, April 05, 2022, 5:15 PM
CITY OF MINNETONKA BEACH
PARK COMMISSION AMENDED MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Co-Chair Kim Petersen, Co-Chair Julia Sharma; Commissioners: Chris Dovolis, Curt Holt, and Lucian Panait who arrived at 6:00 pm.
Special Volunteer: Joe Pagano
Absent: Patty Rezabek
Staff Present: City Clerk Jane Burgess
Council Liaison: Tracey Breazeale
Guests:

Petersen and Sharma opened the meeting at 5:15 pm

1. Minnetonka Beach Business

1.1. Approve Agenda – April 05, 2022

Pagano requested that an item be added to #4 FYI's regarding the Lafayette Ridge Homeowner's Association donation of \$300 towards the chemical free treatment in their cul de sac lawn circle.

Pagano motion, Dovolis second to approve the April 05, 2022, amended meeting agenda adding item 4.5 regarding the Lafayette Ridge donation. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

1.2. Approve Minutes – January 25, 2022

Dovolis motion, Sharma second to approve the January 25, 2022, meeting minutes. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

1.3 Co-Chair's Welcoming Comments

1.3.1 Welcoming of New Park Commissioners

Sharma and Petersen welcomed new Park Commissioner Curt Holt and noted that Commissioner Jody Sperduto will attend her first Park Commission meeting as a new commissioner in June. Holt asked if he can abstain from voting if he doesn't know about the topic in the motion which Petersen confirmed he can abstain. Sharma confirmed Holt was sworn in by Burgess before the meeting started.

1.3.2. Welcoming of New Park Special Volunteer

Petersen welcomed Pagano as the new Park Special Volunteer.

2.0 Administration -

2.1 Calendar Review – JP

Pagano called out the importance of April and May as there are due dates for contracts. Approved contracts need to be given to Burgess by 4/22/22 for approval at the May City Council meeting and signed by Mayor Lindstrom. Work begins in May as well. Hard Asset inspections are done in February, March and April and Hilgers will help this effort. Inspections tour will be done in April with Dovolis and Hilgers in charge, and the results will be presented at the May 3rd Park Commission meeting. The items that Hilgers will get accomplished this year will be presented as well.

2.1.1 National Park Month is July

Pagano stated there are a number of events planned and can be tied into National Park Month in July. Civic is planning the summer picnic July 17, Panait is planning summer soccer nights at Ray Peters Park like last year and National Night

Out is August 2nd. An insert can be created for the Beachcomber and Mayor Lindstrom will proclaim July as Minnetonka Beach Parks Month.

2.2 Status of Hennepin County Tree Canopy Grant - KP

Petersen said that one tree remains to be removed and Hilgers confirmed this. The remainder of the Grant needs to be used by the end of June. The money will be used to plant hardwood trees including oak and potentially hickory, birch, and evergreen trees in Lafayette Park. Demand has been way up for trees over the last few years so it is challenging to find them as supplies are low. Bids will be obtained from 3-4 providers. Black Hills Spruce evergreens, hardwoods and pine trees are planned for Ray Peters Park around the skating rink. 10-12 trees will be planted per park and must meet Hennepin County required standards including they must be bare root or potted, under 2 inch caliper, or under a certain height for coniferous trees. City Hall Park on back side of playground may receive some Cedar trees for privacy on the south side of playground.

Holt asked for clarification of when the trees must be planted as it pertains to the Grant spending, and stated that there is a shortage of vendors for planting as well. Petersen said that it is preferred to have them planted early so that is the plan at this time. The purchases must be made by the end of June and planting planned she added. Rum River, Otten Brothers and Gerten's and Garden by the Woods are being considered.

2.3 Healthier Turf and chemical Free Park System – KP

Petersen stated that she is working with Hilgers to create and implement a Best Management Practice Plan for turf at Half Moon, Lafayette Ridge Circle as trial, test sites. They then will create a 2-5 year Turf Plan for all of the other City parks as they've been neglected over the years. She requested Holt's input on this as he has extensive information on how to create a healthy, chemical-free city.

2.4 Hard Asset Inspection – CD; Jason Hilger's "punch list" at May 3, 2022 meeting

Dovolis is planning a date for inspections for Hilgers and him, weather dependent, and will review the list and have it ready for the May 3rd meeting. Pagano volunteered to take notes for them when they are conducting their inspection.

2.5 Signed Contracts due to Jane Burgess by April 22, 2022

Petersen presented this section.

2.5.1 Beach – LP

Panait presented options for swim beach cleanup this summer utilizing Public Works summer employee Kolton for perhaps 3 hours each day, 5 days each week beach clean up, and using Life's a Beach for maybe once weekly weed pulling in the water cleanup. Panait is still working on pricing and scheduling with Life's a Beach but the combination of LABB and Kolton would stay within the \$6,300 budget. Kolton is \$16.00 an hour or \$3350 for the summer with the above schedule (not set in stone yet,) and a one time each week weed pulling in the water by Life's A Beach would hopefully fit into the total budget. He is waiting for a LABB proposal. They discussed possibly using the organics recycling bin for seaweed recycling if possible, or the public works compost pile.

2.5.2 Gardener – KP

Petersen stated that the Garden Gate contract is in the packet and they came in under budget again for 2022 at \$4275 for cleanup and maintenance of garden beds. Petersen presented some changes in plan for this year that will work better for the City. More attention will be paid to the east side of City Hall perennial gardens.

2.5.3 Turf - KP

Petersen said while she doesn't have a contract for turf, she has been working with Green Core Organics and hopes that the grass at Half Moon Park will be good this year from the work performed there last year.

2.5.4 Crab Apple Trees – KP

Petersen stated that the Bartlett contract for spraying City Crab Apple trees for \$454.00 is to keep those trees healthy.

2.6. Status of Collaboration of Parks and Dock Committee – JP

Pagano stated that at the March 14th City Council meeting, several council members commented that they liked the idea for the Park Commission and Dock Committee to work together. He added that the installation window of the swim beach docks is being tightened up to avoid dock parts at swim beach park for a long period of time. The dock installer at the swim beach docks, Cody Rassatt, has been asked to make sure his team does not squish the new perennials planted at the swim beach park last fall. Pagano added that Cody will be asked to store docks parts at his facility not at dock slip renters' homes to control delivery and install better.

Pagano stated that he and Dock Committee co-chair Steinke would like to discuss further the swim beach docks as they relate to the swim beach and any improvements that can be made and submitted to the LMCD for 2023.

They discussed other options and the importance of tightening up the swim beach dock install process so parts are not on the beach as they are unsightly and dangerous for children playing at the beach.

Hilgers explained that Cody needs all the dock parts there all at once to do the installation.

Sharma stated that they have Cody store and deliver their dock parts, and if more people did that or everyone at swim beach it would speed up the installation and removal process.

3. Operations

3.1 Calendar JP

Petersen suggested moving Turf to budget from contracts and Pagano agreed.

3.2 SPOC System

Petersen asked Holt to pick a SPOC assignment spot and they will ask Sperduto to do so also. She suggested that Rezabek could use some help with her assignments. Pagano will be SPOC for keeping the Calendars updated. Pagano stated that Lindstrom may be looking to expand the Be a Villager campaign outside of Park Commission and looking for someone to lead that.

Petersen stated that Holt would be a good fit for Gardens, Shrubs, Soil and Turf and he agreed that this is his specialty. SPOC assignments will be reviewed at the May meeting.

4. FYI's

4.1 5YP and Appendices on City website

4.2 Picnic Table Restoration – Thank you Peter Scherer

Resident volunteer Pete Scherer's company refinished the City picnic tables beautifully.

4.3 Look for Soccer Nights Again This Summer – LP

Panait would like to continue these events and food trucks and he will work on it. It might be once a month but stated that food trucks are very busy and must be booked early. Commissioners thought once monthly is good.

4.4 Spring Clean Up with Junior Civic

Hilgers, Pagano and Madry Breazeale to meet to pick date and details of event T. Breazeale stated.

4.5 Lafayette Ridge Homeowner's Association - JP

Special Volunteer Pagano stated that the Lafayette Ridge Homeowner's Association donated \$300 towards chemical-free treatment for the grass in their circle cul de sac.

Holt had comments and questions as follows: He stated he and his wife, Vickie, donated money and requested that Butterfly Weed be planted to help butterflies provided by Natural Shore Technologies They were not of the best quality and lost 2/3 of the plants. They nursed the good ones and scattered thousands of seeds in Ray Peters Park parking lot and around boulders. Their efforts were in support of Mayor Lindstrom's signing of the Monarch Pledge. The plants will germinate this spring but won't bloom the first year. They will bloom year two so Holt's will sow California Poppy seeds after mulching for color. They also will stake and twine to protect them from being walked on. He added that once Milkweed is established there is no maintenance.

Holt asked if there is more planned for Lafayette Park than grass and trees. Petersen stated that she would like Holt's input on that and she hopes to have more native plants there. They discussed putting a prairie wildflower garden in with drifts and beds of flowers. Holt stated that deer don't eat native plants which would be good.

Panait asked the commission what the Grand Vision of Lafayette Park is as the entrance to Minnetonka Beach is and "the face of our town," he said. He stated he would like flowers along Lafayette Park.

Breazeale stated that children do play at Lafayette Park and that it does get used for sports and recreation play.

Pagano stated that Lafayette Park is the Great Green Space in the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that perhaps there are grants available.

Holt stated that he feels that the high E.coli readings at the swim beach is most likely from runoff from goose droppings. He asked if the City has topological elevation maps to see where the water goes in that park. Hilgers said the water goes into catch basins and then through a culvert towards the lake. He added that the drought probably contributed to the E.coli problem and confirmed that surrounding beaches to ours also had high level E.coli like Minnetonka Beach did. Holt added the benefit of rain gardens for this type of problem. They discussed that Stantec or the county may have these types of maps.

They discussed Jumping Worms that are here now and how damaging they are as they eat mulch and leaves and cause erosion around trees. The left behind product after they have chewed up mulch etc. looks like coffee grounds according to Petersen. They also discussed EAB and Petersen said it's good to companion plant trees next to Ash trees.

5. Commissioner and Liaison Comments

Discussed earlier in meeting.

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

Sharma motion, Holt second to adjourn the April 05, 2022, Park Commission meeting. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burgess, City Clerk