

**City of Minnetonka Beach  
Park Commission Meeting Minutes  
May 1, 2018**

**Members Present:** Chair: Dan Forbes (late); Vice Chair: Patty Rezabek; Commissioners: Joe Pagano, Betsy Taylor, Chris Dovolis, Diane Rogers  
**Absent:** Commissioner Gerry Boschwitz  
**Staff Present:** City Clerk Heidi Honey  
**Council Liaison:** Paul Kozloski

Rezabek called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

**1. Minnetonka Beach Business**

1.1. Approve the May 1, 2018 Meeting Agenda

**A motion was made by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Commissioner Dovolis to approve the May 1, 2018 meeting agenda. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

1.2. Approve Minutes - March 6, 2018 Park Commission Meeting Minutes

**A motion was made by Commissioner Pagano and seconded by Commissioner Rogers to approve the March 6, 2018 meeting minutes. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

1.3. Hennepin County Sports Grant for Utility Truck

Berent would like to purchase a utility truck. The bobcat ruins the turf and gets stuck in wet areas. A utility truck won't do that, it could be used to resurface the ice rink, it would be more efficient, and it would cost about \$33,500. Rezabek asked if it could be used to water trees and plants. Trees that were planted in the past are not doing well because they haven't been watered. He could use it for that but he won't have time to water newly planted trees in the fall because of leaf pickup. Commissioners supported the idea and Dovolis and Berent will research the grant prior to presenting it to Council. Typically, grants cover up to half the cost and the city pays the rest.

Rogers spoke with Mayor Taylor about drainage at Lafayette Park and Taylor said Parks needed to make a recommendation to Council. Berent explained that the drainage problem parallel to the road is from a partially raised elevation and that the outflow is close to lake level. Ben Young got a bid last year to excavate the ditch but it was not done. A resident expressed safety concerns to Rogers. Berent will ask Stantec for park elevations and the outflow drain location to see if it can be graded to help with drainage. He was not concerned about the center of the park because that dries out.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Pagano and seconded by Commissioner Rezabek that the Park Commission go to City Council with the recommendation that the drainage issue at Lafayette Park be addressed. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Commissioner Forbes that the Park Commission research purchasing a utility truck with potential grant financing and possibly recommending the purchase to council pending further information. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

1.4. Repair of Dock 2 Stairs

Berent referred to photos in the packet of the stairs. Rogers said it is the dock renters responsibility to pay for repairs. Based on that, the commissioners decided to refer it to the Dock Committee

**A motion was made by Commissioner Pagano and seconded by Commissioner Dovolis to refer the Dock 2 repair of the stairs to the Dock Committee. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

1.5. Weeds from beach maintenance to Public Works

Toward the end of last year, Life's a Beach dumped the weeds from the swim beach at Public Works. Berent agreed to allow them to do that again. The arrangement allows them to complete their work more quickly and saves the city money. They have now asked to park their truck and trailer at Public Works near the compost and weed pile. Berent would require a waiver so the city has no liability. Commissioners expressed many concerns such as: hours, where the crew would park, and if they use the truck for other jobs and come in and out. Josh Leddy and Berent would work out the details but Berent should not be inconvenienced.

1.6. Northview Wall Status Update

The heavy snow and rapid thaw caused an eight-foot portion of the wall to give way and another portion is leaning heavily. Administrator Griffin asked Engineer Amundsen to write up specs for the city to get bids. Kozloski asked about terracing instead of rebuilding it. Berent has concerns about the road being narrowed. Last year, Parks got the preliminary bids for the city to place the wall on the CIP and they do not have any additional responsibilities. Rogers stated that walls need to be maintained. Berent will update Council.

Berent provided updates on Ray Peters Park: a damaged post will be repaired and billed to Biffs, he will try to create an ice a path to the Biff next winter, and he will research covering the Biff floor with wood to prevent damage from skates. Next year, the Biff location will be by the partition if the truck can access it. Bartlett will remove a tree on the wire at the park which Parks will pay for. The timer for the skating rink lights was replaced. Rogers recommended a Beachcomber article reminding residents to behave at the park and call the police for illegal activity and illegal parking.

Berent stated that the new buoy for the swim beach is not durable enough and he found four buoys at the shop to install with weights. Commissioners discussed installing 2 dock pipes to attach the rope to instead of using weights. Berent and Rezabek will email Forbes with the details on how that would work and he will talk with the Dock Committee.

1.7. Crossing Update

Rezabek updated the commission on the proposed dual median refuge plan. A feasibility study will begin in May with delineators marking the area. Commissioners was supportive of the concept and providing access to parks. They could possibly get grants funds for the paths.

1.8. Expenses to Date

Forbes stated this is consistent with what is expected this time of the year. Rogers expressed concerns that Treasurer Howarth didn't like a majority of spending happening at the end of the year so she is talking with Otten Bros. about prepaying for trees and having them held until fall planting. Forbes will do a mid-year review for Council and also review the approved spending for the remainder of the year. They discussed getting bids from other vendors for tree purchases next year.

1.9. Life's a Beach Contract

Forbes stated the 2018 contract is \$5,000, up from \$3,500 last year. In 2017, the city was given a good rate to get the business and they may have underestimated how much work was involved due to large number of weeds. This contract added goose poop removal and weed pulling in the swim area. Owner Josh Leddy proposed \$6,000 but will agree to \$5,000 if he can store the truck and trailer at Public Works. Commissioners expressed many concerns about storing the truck and trailer at the city including how they access the equipment on Fridays, liability, and if they are going to be going in and out when they are not cleaning Minnetonka Beach. They asked to have "entire shoreline" defined. They also discussed keeping

the swim area clean and that the city should not be responsible for cleaning all of the dock area. Rezabek stated the beach is a public park for use by everyone in the city and you can't expect all of the dock renters there to maintain the area around their boat. Pagano suggested giving the Dock Committee the parameters of the city's beach cleaning contract and suggest that their slip renters work together if they want more extensive weed pulling. Rogers suggested that dock holders at the swim beach may have to pay more for their slip in the future to offset costs if more extensive weed cleaning is requested. Forbes will forward the concerns to Boschwitz to negotiate the contract. The commissioners agreed on the price of \$5,000 with the scope being in-water weeds, shoreland weeds, and goose poop removal with specific details to be negotiated by Boschwitz.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Commissioner Pagano that the Park Commission approves the Life's A Beach contract for \$5,000 for removal of items specified in the contract and specific details to be determined prior to Council approval. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

**2. Public Works**

2.1. Swim beach ropes/buoys install – discussed earlier

2.2. Playground/Park Inspection Form

Honey asked commissioners to review the form and forward any recommended changes to her.

**3. Park Commission Business**

3.1. Protect

3.1.1. Ray Peters warming house update - lockbox

Taylor stated that Civic liked the idea of a lockbox and asked that the police are consulted for their advice on the best deterrent. Taylor will follow up with police for recommendations and ask them how big the problem really is.

3.1.2. Swimming Beach Views

Pagano referenced the protection of sight lines in the Comprehensive Plan. If there are future dock reconfigurations at the swim beach, sight lines should be considered. Forbes will forward this discussion to the Dock Committee Chair Lee Goehring. Rezabek asked that a park commissioner be included in dock reconfiguration discussions involving the swim beach.

3.1.3. Goose prevention/removal

Rezabek discussed early prevention and not letting the geese nest in the area. Berent suggested a goose decoy laying on its side in the water. Rezabek asked about ribbons but that isn't a prevention solution. Rezabek, Boschwitz and Berent can brainstorm on solutions if they want to try a specific strategy.

3.2. Maintain

3.2.1. Trimming (swim beach shrubs, Wolff tree, Melin Tree, St. Martins)

Rogers coordinates trimming with Bartlett. Berent will do more trimming and thinning of shrubs at the swim beach. Rogers and Rezabek will identify what needs to be planted there for screening. Rogers is scheduling Melin and Wolff trees. Rogers and Rezabek have authority to work with Bartlett and use their best judgement on trimming needs. St. Martin's will be reimbursed for a dying tree they paid to have removed on the right of way.

3.2.2. Clean Up Ray Peters Park Woods

Rezabek wanted to keep this topic on people's radar.

3.2.3. Margaret Dahl Library

3.2.3.1. Needed Work

Pagano stated that he and Berent will inspect the library in the next couple of weeks and Dovolis will research if grant funding is available for any of the work.

3.2.3.2. Funding (grants) – np updates

3.3. Improve

3.3.1. Tree planting plan – 3 year

John O'Reilly from Otten drove through the city and identified areas that need trees planted. Rogers will meet with him May 15 to review his recommendations and create a long term plan. The focus for planting this year is on the west side of the city.

3.3.2. Tree Purchases – no discussion

3.3.3. Resident consent for tree trimming/planting/removal

Rezabek stated that a Lafayette Road resident did not think that the city could plant trees in the right of way in that area because they believe it is private property. Rogers gave the history of the Lafayette Road land vacation. A resident in different area of the city was also opposed to having a tree planted on city right of way. Kozloski suggested that the city has many areas to plant trees. Forbes suggested a policy for planting in the Lafayette Road area. The city attorney has reviewed the documentation from the land vacation and his memo is in the packet. Forbes will review the information and determine if any other research is needed. They could share it at a future council meeting because it is an issue that comes up. Honey reminded them that Tom Seuntjens was the Recorder at the time the vacation took place and is a good resource. Tree lined streets are a big part of the comprehensive plan.

3.3.4. Drainage on Lafayette Road to CSAH 15 – discussed earlier

3.3.5. Pollinator plant donation request for Ray Peters

Rezabek stated that 15 years ago, part of Ray Peters was planted with 100 perennials. The area could be replanted if residents wanted to donate specific varieties specified in the plan. Taylor will think about the logistics and it may need to be done this fall or next year.

3.3.6. Repairs

3.3.6.1. Grass along boulevards

Rezabek stated the grass along the roads is a mess and suggested a portion of building permit fees go toward repair of the boulevards. Forbes suggested that they assess boulevards when grass starts growing and revisit it later this year. There is direct and indirect impact from construction traffic. Contractors are required to repair the area by the construction site.

3.3.6.2. Planted area at corner of CSAH 15 and Woodbridge - no discussion

4. Adjournment

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

Chair Forbes adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Heidi Honey, City Clerk