

City of Minnetonka Beach
Park Commission Special Work Session Minutes
May 13, 2015

Members Present: **Chairperson: Jody Sperduto; Vice Chair: Signe Koehler**
 Commissioners: Patty Rezabek, Dan Forbes, Tom Seuntjens, Gerry
 Boschwitz
Absent: **City Clerk Heidi Honey**
Staff Present:
Council Liaison: **Council Member Jill Bartel**

Chair Sperduto opened the meeting at 7:00pm and stated that the purpose of the meeting is to go through the Parks System Plan and prioritize projects for the future.

- Chair Sperduto reported to Parks that Council agreed to allow Parks to use \$5,000 that was going to be used for playground equipment to paint the Minnetonka Beach signs. Painting the signs was considered Park Enhancement. The signs will be painted and the landscaping project will be completed.
- Discussion about the landscaping by the sign. Hostas are not part of the plan in that area so they will be removed. The landscaper recommended removing three cedar and replacing them with three Fat Albert spruce.

A motion was made by Commissioner Seuntjens and seconded by Commissioner Forbes to remove the cedar and replace with three Fat Albert spruce. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

- Commissioner Seuntjens asked to have the reference page updated with all of the park names. Margaret Dahl Library, the boulevard, and fire lanes are missing from the list.
- Commissioner Forbes had reviewed the Park System Plan and the Parks Commission mission statement. The mission is to meet the needs of our citizens of all ages, safety, accessibility, and to have historical integrity. He also mentioned the plan states to maintain, enhance and expand the parks. He feels there is a shortage of volunteers and thinks Parks need to focus on maintaining the parks. He thinks expanding is a good idea but not doable with the current resources. When faced with any proposal, Parks need to determine what category it falls under: maintain, enhance or expand to determine feasibility.
- Commissioner Seuntjens recommended that Parks make sure what they have is maintained and as functional as possible. Adding gardens, structures or equipment will require additional resources and maintenance. It also causes conflicts with the residents and affects their support.
- The Park System Plan was designed in 2002. After review, it was decided by Parks and Council that some items would not be completed. Those items need to be removed from the plan so they are not revisited every time the plan is reviewed. A lot of the Park Plan was written into the City Comprehensive plan. The City Comprehensive plan is updated every 10 years so the Park System Plan should be updated as well.
- Commissioner Rezabek stated Parks needs to determine what can be done to make the City look better. Look at boulevards, banks, the strip along Arcola, benches, old gardens that have not been maintained. Many areas look untended. By the beach, people park on the grass so now there is no grass. Maybe that area needs to look more like a parking area.
- Ask for more money in the budget for a gardener or people to get things done that need to be done.
- City Hall, p 3-2. Not very pretty around City Hall. It needs more perennials or a plan to have things blooming all seasons.
- Arcola Woods, p 3-4. Trails are proposed but it's not practical for trails. There was discussion about the meadow and about runoff from the maintenance buildings to that area. Leave the meadow as is.
- Lafayette Park, p 3-5. There is pooling of water and drainage is needed. Additional trails are not needed.
- Ray Peters, p 3-6. Trails have been put in since this plan was designed. This plan could be updated to show them. There was discussion about steps and the wooden partition by the Biff. Garden next to parking lot had prairie style grasses and perennials but 2/3 have died off. When Parks has a gardener, they can examine the gardens.

- Half Moon, p 3-7. It does not have walks except for to the ADA swing. Drainage is an issue and a drain is shown on the plan but was not put in. There will be a Utilities meeting to start reviewing drainage issues. When the drainage issues get resolved, that would be the time to put down a spongy material base. Drainage needs to be addressed first. It is an enhancement but affects a large part of the population. Engineers will have to work on that. This area on hold until drainage issues discussed.
- Beach, p.3-8. A lot of trees were recently removed by Bartlett. Need to prioritize this area. It has potential. Low level plants/shrubs needed to screen the beach from the road. Parking is a concern. If you make a parking area, it invites the general public. Police tend to only ticket if called. Ben has crushed limestone that could be used for now and asphalt can be added in the future when the street is paved. There was discussion about paving an area for parking but years ago there were a lot of meetings and the residents did not want that. The activity area and sidewalk area is done. May need landscape architect to help with plantings.
- Commissioner Forbes mentioned getting landscape architect students to work on the parks and they could possibly get credit for it.
- There was discussion about the plan for the retaining wall and sidewalk at City Hall. The current one will be removed and one will be installed on the other side of City Hall.

ACTION ITEMS

- Chair Spurduto will contact Kelly and ask him to dig up the hosta and other plants from the MB sign area that are not in the landscape plan and plant them elsewhere.
- Add discussion about additional man power/resources to the June 2, 2015 agenda as New Business.
- Chair Spurduto will check if the Park System Plan is available electronically so it can be updated. A few Commissioners can have a separate meeting at another time to update the plan.
- Commissioner Seuntjens will check fencing and steps at Ray Peters for possible repair.
- Discuss what is left in budget and prioritize projects based on budget at June 2, 2015 meeting.
- Commissioner Forbes will look into landscape students to work on park gardening plans.
- Chair Spurduto will have John O'Reilly from Otten Brothers give her some ideas for the lilac/curb area to screen from the road at the beach.
- Commissioners to send agenda items for the June 2nd meeting to Heidi by May 22.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Koehler and seconded by Commissioner Forbes to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Honey, City Clerk