

Tuesday, May 2, 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, and Patty Rezabek,
Absent: Chip Zawislak
Staff Present: City Clerk Jane Burgess, Public Works Superintendent Jason Hilgers
Council Liaison: Tracey Breazeale
Guests:

Petersen opened the meeting at 5:31 pm

1. Minnetonka Beach Business

1.1. Approve Agenda – May 2, 2023

Panait motion, Holt second to approve the May 2, 2023, meeting agenda. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

1.2. Approve Minutes – April 4, 2023

Holt requested that Burgess remove the sentence where Petersen stated that Holt's gardens are the best in Minnetonka Beach. Rezabek requested that Burgess add 2024 to the plant sale sentence as it would be next year not this year.

Rezabek motion, Panait to approve the April 4, 2023 amended meeting minutes. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

2. Administration

2.1. Calendar Review – KP

Petersen stated that Park Commission's CIP requests are due May 8th to Administrator Honey. She added that May 13th is the date for the Junior Civic/Park Commission/resident Spring Cleanup event at Swim Beach Park. Holt asked for the deadline date for docks parts to be removed from the Swim Beach. Hilgers said that the deadline is May 8th. Panait suggested the City have a resident photo contest for the Beachcomber in July for National Parks Month. Residents of all ages can submit photos they take in various City parks. All thought this was a great idea.

2.2. CIP Requests

Petersen briefly explained the CIP process and asked Hilgers if Zawislak had rip rap bids yet. Hilgers stated that he and Zawislak will obtain quotes and get the dimensions of the area needing work. Burgess stated that a City Dock slip renter emailed her with great concern for the erosion at City Docks 5-7A. Tree roots are literally all that is holding the shoreline in place, the renter included in his email to Burgess. The commissioners agreed that rip rap of City Dock areas on Crystal Bay is Parks' CIP priority, and their only request to be submitted to Administrator Honey by 5/8. Petersen reminded commissioners that there is \$5,750 already approved for 2023 for rip rap repair. On June 5th Petersen will meet with Administrator Honey to discuss Parks' CIP request along with the chairs of other City commissions.

Holt motion, Rezabek second, to recommend for approval by City Council, Park Commission's 2024 CIP request of up to \$20,000 for rip rap repair at City Docks 2 and 5-7. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.

3. Operations

3.1 Hard Asset Inspections - Hilgers, Panait and Zawislak

It was reported that a trash cart is missing from Ray Peters Park. Burgess is to follow up with resident Jans' son to see if he wants to service the City in some way for his Eagle Scout project. Hilgers stated that he installed the new benches at Swim Beach Park and removed the window boxes from the warming house. He also added that the city was able to get a Republic Services yard waste cart at no charge and it will be kept at City Hall. Hilgers and Panait agreed to review Punch List together.

3.2 Green Asset Inspections - KP

Petersen reported that the Green Assets Inspection commissioners will walk the City in a week or two when the weather improves and conduct their inspections.

3.3 SPOC Updates

i. The Future of Ray Peters Park – L. Paine

Petersen explained that some Civic Committee members shared ideas at their last meeting for what to add to Ray Peters Park including a pickleball court. She explained that there must be a directive from City Council before moving forward with a task force or any idea submissions. This project is on hold for now, Petersen added as there needs to be an overall plan, timeline, and budget for that park. Breazeale stated she would like to see this as a council agenda item for next month due to Civic's enthusiasm and ideas. She added that some ideas included a less expensive skate park, pickleball as mentioned earlier and looking for less expensive options. There was discussion that while Ray Peters is an active park it is underused. Rezabek added that there are grants available for equipment and facilities from Hennepin County. Breazeale will report back after the next council meeting if she can have the future of Ray Peters Park added to the agenda. Depending on the outcome, then perhaps Paine could begin to move forward with a task force to conduct research as to what the community would support at that park.

ii. Tree and Forest Care – PR

Rezabek stated that there are new open spaces in Ray Peters due to dead trees. Hilgers stated that some residents have complained that they would like the woods there cleaned up around the trails. He stated that he will have two volunteer resident teenagers helping him with those kinds of projects this summer. He added that there are a lot of potential hazard trees in the City. Petersen stated that a forester from our region could walk through City woods and provide informative guidance and direction for the best way to manage the forests. The first step would be looking at invasive species. Jason suggested that Shane from Hennepin County would be good to do this, and the commissioners agreed. Rezabek added that she has still not heard back from the person at the U of M she contacted.

iii. Restore the Shore – PR and KP

Rezabek said that she is waiting for the snow to melt and then she will take a look at the Swim Beach planting area. Natural Shore is maintaining this area and is in the third year of doing so. At the Spring Cleanup event at Swim Beach Park, they will mulch the area using mulch from public works.

iv. Rip Rap – CZ

Rip Rap projects were already addressed in the CIP discussion earlier, and Hilgers stated that he will work with Zawislak on this project and will measure and get estimates.

v. Pavers – L.Panait

No update provided as Zawislak took over the paver project at the Swim Beach. Norling's and Like's will bid on the project, and a third vendor Zawislak found looked at the paver project and will provide a bid which Petersen received today. They discussed possibly waiting to do the paver project in another year or two. Hilgers said that he could shave down the sand which would allow 90% of the water to drain off in that area.

vi. Garden Update – SPOC - CH

Holt provided an update about the City gardener, Gardens by Lynn whom he said is doing a great job and going above and beyond. They will be meeting soon and touring the areas they will be doing this summer.

3.4 Punch List Update – JH

Hilgers reviewed this earlier in the meeting.

4. FYIs

4.1 Spring Clean Up with Junior Civic on May 13th

They discussed who would help with each task to be done to prepare for the Spring Cleanup event at the Swim Beach. It will be rain or shine.

4.2. Soccer and Food Truck Events June 14 and July 12.

Pfeffer's Meat Wagon is booked for the June 14th Soccer and Food Truck event at Ray Peters Park from 5:30 – 7pm. Panait will contact Calaveras Food Truck to see if they can do the July 12th event. Burgess will advertise the event in the weekly SPLASH! eblast and Beachcomber and it will be posted on the Shoreline Drive message board.

4.3. Monday Funday changes

Changes are in the works for Monday Fundays as the two Civic members who are in charge of it have had to take Mondays off of work to host the event each week. Civic will discuss maybe changing it to Thursdays or another night. Civic will discuss this at their next meeting.

4.4. 2023 State of the Parks

Petersen attended a State of the Parks event at Hyland Hills. It was a very educational and informational event, and she learned that Three Rivers has their own nursery, and their forester and prairie restoration people were there. They hope to obtain funding from the legislature and the Secretary of Transportation's Office in Washington, DC for aging trails, and to add nine miles of trails to connect what they already have. There are 15,000,000 visitors per year at Three Rivers Parks. 45% of visitors are on the regional trails, 36% visit in the summer, and 24% visit in the fall and spring. 3 out of every 4 suburban Hennepin county residents have visited Three Rivers Park. There are 27,000 acres in their park system and of that 60% is Forest, 12% grassland, 12% is open water and 16% is wetland. They are willing to share plants from their nursery with cities. Petersen added that they stated that property values in areas that have nice parks increase 5-15%. She added that Marge Beard is our area District One commissioner.

5. Commissioner and Liaison Comments

Holt stated that he will purchase the soybean meal for LRHA's cul de sac circle and Swim Beach Park as children pay barefoot there, from Anoka Cooperative Grain. Last year it was \$24.00 per 50 lb. bag, and he is waiting for this year's pricing. Mid-late May and early August are the two application dates for AJ's to apply this product. It will be stored at Public Works.

Holt stated that he planted more California Poppies, red and orange, in Ray Peters Park near the parking lot. He fertilized in the Lafayette Park bulb patches near the Welcome Sign and the corner of Hill Rd. He would like to put in \$50 worth of daffodil bulbs each year in that area. He fertilized the two sections of bulbs and the River Birches with 10-10-10 granular fertilizer. Hilgers stated he will remove the rotted planter box at the Welcome Sign. Holt asked the commission if they want solar LED lights at the Welcome Sign. Hilgers stated that he estimated that he could buy them for less than \$2,000. Petersen stated that this might be good to do at the end of the year if there is spend down money available.

Holt added that he has been working on installing a native pollinator garden at Lafayette Park which is about 60 feet wide by 25 feet. As part of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, he suggested an informational podium sign concept to be placed at the pollinator garden, if council approves it. He showed a photo of an example with pollinator information and a QR code to the City's website or another site for educational information. This sign would satisfy the Mayor's Monarch Pledge education commitment. Holt also requested that the bulb foliage area next to Hill Rd and Shoreline drive not be mowed.

Holt motion, Panait second to recommend to City Council for concept approval, an informal marquee sign to be placed in Lafayette Park adjacent to the native pollinator garden there. All ayes, motion carried.

6. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Rezabek motion, Holt second to adjourn the May 2, 2023 Park Commission meeting. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Public in attendance:

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burgess, City Clerk