

Tuesday, June 07, 2022, 5:15 PM
CITY OF MINNETONKA BEACH
PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Co-Chair Kim Petersen, Co-Chair Julia Sharma; Commissioners: Curt Holt, and Lucian Panait, Patty Rezabek
Special Volunteer: Joe Pagano
Absent: Chris Dovolis, Tracey Breazeale
Staff Present: City Clerk Jane Burgess, City Admin Heidi Honey
Council Liaison: Tracey Breazeale
Guests:

Petersen and Sharma opened the meeting at 5:19 pm

1. Minnetonka Beach Business

1.1. Approve Agenda – June 07, 2022

Petersen motion, Panait second to approve the June 07, 2022, amended meeting agenda. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

1.2. Approve Minutes – May 3, 2022

Sharma said the Dovolis 2.1.2 comment is missing the part about the Hennepin County Youth Sports Grant.

Rezabek motion, Petersen second to approve the amended May 3, 2022, meeting minutes. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

An early FYI: Sharma announced that Sperduto is not coming back to the Park Commission and Pagano is staying on but can't vote yet.

2. Administration

2.1 Golf Cart Ordinance Update – JP

Pagano stated that the golf cart project was City Council's finest work collectively. Residents were fully vetted and provided plenty of input. Council made the decision to not permit golf carts. Residents will be informed in the Beachcomber that operating a golf cart on city streets is illegal per MN statute. Breazeale said the driving factor for council was that Minnetonka Beach would be responsible for enforcement, and Orono Police said they are not going to stop people driving on streets unless they are reckless etc. She added that City Hall is not "neighbor grievance central and should not be holding court on these issues." The ordinance will be reviewed in the fall to revise for accuracy and remove toys from it. Golf carts are still not allowed in City parks, on the Lafayette Club grounds and not on the Dakota Trail.

2.2 CIP Discussion – June 15th meeting with City Administrator Honey – JS

Sharma stated there is a meeting with Administrator Honey and Pagano representing the Park Commission on June 15th to review CIP requests. Parks can put forth suggestions, but that doesn't mean they will be approved. The commission reviewed their CIP list and agreed on the following items and timeline:

- 1) EAB Treatment – biannually \$7200 per year beginning in 2023 through 2031.

- 2) Tree Replacement – biannually \$5000 per year beginning in 2024 through 2032. #2 and #3 go together Sharma stated and are really not CIP items and most likely will be taken out by council and put in public works.
- 3) Tree Removal – biannually \$7500 per year beginning 2023 through 2031.
They discussed removal of items 1-3 to be placed in Public Works budget as Hilgers would like to take over entire tree budget. Hilgers praised Rezabek for the great job she has done in managing the EAB treatment process.
- 4) Dahl Library Roof Replacement \$4000 in 2023
- 5) 7 Cedar Benches Replaced as they’ve been patched and glued the last five years and Pagano said they are shot. \$5000 in 2022.
- 6) Lafayette Ridge Marquee Sign \$6000 in 2027
- 7) Replace 5 Picnic Tables \$6500 pushed out to 2028 as they were refurbished by a resident volunteer’s company last fall.
- 8) Replace Skateboard Ramps \$7000 in 2027
- 9) Ray Peters Warming Hut Roof \$4000 in 2028
- 10) Swim Beach Paver Repair \$3500 in 2023
- 11) East and West Entrance Signs \$3000 in 2025
- 12) Rip Rap Repair biannually \$5750 beginning in 2024 - 2030; this now goes tandem with #13
- 13) Restore the Shore biannually \$5000 beginning in 2024 - 2030; this now goes with #12
- 14) Trash Cans \$3600 in 2023. This was then eliminated as Pagano is sensitive to the tight economic environment and Hilgers stated it is easier to use the roll out Republic Services trash carts for servicing. Rezabek requested a concrete slab be placed under them and Breazeale suggested budgeting for trash can improvement as they discussed fencing around them so consider budgeting for the fencing. No dollar amount was mentioned.
- 15) NOW #14) Minnetonka Beach Entrance Sign \$6000 in 2022

Pagano expressed concern with loading up 2023 with a lot of CIP requests as the entire City CIP budget is \$150,000 total. He supports moving some items to 2024 or 2025.

Breazeale suggested putting EAB treatments for Ash trees under tree maintenance either in Parks budget or Public Works. She added that Hilgers could do the non-paperwork part of the treatments and Parks could do the paperwork projects. Rezabek said these treatments will be ongoing and she agrees that this does not have to be a Parks budgeted item. Hilgers said he would like this to be put in his budget and he will work closely with Rezabek on it.

Holt said if we move what was discussed then we only have 4 items left for 2023. Honey suggested leaving items in place for now, so they don’t get lost. Holt asked how long the CIP is approved for and Honey said even though council approves the full ten years they discuss and revise it each year. She added that it is good to have placeholders.

Petersen asked who is ordering the new Minnetonka Beach welcome sign and 7 cedar benches in 2022. Pagano suggested that someone on hard assets should do it and they will discuss later.

Pagano stated that he asked resident Harlan Lehman if his company can replace the cedar benches. He will pursue this with Lehman but new benches are definitely needed.

Holt motion, Rezabek to approve the CIP. With all voting in favor motion passes.

2.3 Status of Collaboration of Parks and Dock Committee – JP

Pagano stated that the Dock 10 lawsuit was settled, and the City prevailed so now there can be discussion with the Park Commission and Dock Committee about parks and docks. The first topic to address is the Swim Beach Dock installation process and vendor alignment. He added that this is the 9th week of the Swim Beach dock installation and there are still parts there. The same thing happened last fall for many weeks. The priority is that this is unsightly, unsafe, and the grass is withering.

He added that there is a Dock Committee meeting on June 16th. Chair Steinke invited all Swim Beach dock slip renters to attend and Pagano as an observer from the Park Commission. The meeting's goal is to hammer out issues with the dock installation at the Swim Beach and improve the process.

Pagano stated that there are four masters who need to be served in regard to the Swim Beach:

- 1) Safety of children playing at the Swim Beach
- 2) Swim Beach dock slip renters
- 2) Residents on the Swim Beach Docks waiting list
- 3) All people who use Swim Beach Park and whose views of the lake are impaired.

Pagano stated that 87.5 % of the space at swim beach has a boathouse in front of it. The opening to the lake at the beach is only 57 feet. He added that one of the guiding principles of the City's Comprehensive Plan states that the City is to preserve and protect lake views.

Rezabek said the view has been reduced at the Swim Beach over the years by adding additional docks. Pagano suggested that everyone should go there once docks are in and see it. It is significant that Docks and Parks work together Pagano said and they are meeting together soon.

Hilgers said the trucks with trailers driving on the lawn at the Swim Beach won't allow the flowers planted to grow and the ground is hard there. He said it would be best to bring in dock parts by barge in the spring and take them all away in the fall. There should be nothing be driving on City ground. Petersen stated that area needs aerating.

2.4 Rules of Procedure – JP

The co-chair concept required amendment to Rules of Procedure and expires on 7/31 reverting back to the former Rules of Procedure In order to have co-chairs the amended Rules of Procedure would have to be extended. Petersen recommended that it be extended and stated that Pagano is willing to be a co-chair.

Petersen motion Sharma second to extend the Rules of Procedure co-chair amendment due to expire 7/31/22 to 7/31/23. All ayes the motion passes.

2.5 Skate Park - KP

Petersen stated that preliminary seal coating has been done. Holt said it will still be bumpy. Hilgers said the skate park is up in air and will go back to City Council as some ramps are too worn out and have holes. He added that some residents don't like the skate park at City Hall and some don't like it at Ray Peters.

Petersen proposed forming a committee to give the skate park a permanent home, addressing safety, security, have signage that shows closing time, and have Orono Police patrol the area. She suggested to have it where the old swings are at Ray Peters Park with a poured concrete slab perhaps donated by someone. If it is tucked away this can be problematic for riff raff. Committee residents and Parks, and Council liaison could find a solution.

3. Operations

3.1 Status of Tree Canopy Grant - PR

Rezabek said Petersen noted some of newly planted trees from last year haven't budded out yet. Rezabek spoke to Rum River where these trees were purchased and they will replace if needed. Otten Bros has assured her that they will make the required timeline for the Tree canopy Grant guidelines. She stated that she needs a map of where the new trees are going. Everything must be done by 7/1 including financials for the grant. On 6/8 Petersen, Holt and Jason will stake where the trees will be planted at Lafayette Park.

3.2 Healthier Turf and Chemical Free Park System/No Mow May – KP

Petersen reported that Green Core Organics aerated, fertilized and overseeded City Hall and Lafayette Ridge lawn cul de sac. Burgess is to find out frequency of irrigation and report to Petersen. Lafayette Ridge grass looks good, much better than two years ago, but had a lot of dandelions. Hilgers could maybe do the aeration in these larger areas as it would be cheaper. She added that Half Moon Park needs deeper soil analysis there as some areas that don't germinate at all. And adding 3" of soil may help this fall.

They discussed No Mow May and Hilgers said that mowing took place as Lafayette Park grass was very thick. He stated that he doesn't want No Mow May as this doesn't fit this community which is kept neat. Petersen said there are other ways to achieve the same results with early pollinators according to a guru she follows.

3.3 Beach Cleaning – LP

Waterfront Restoration is on board to service the Swim Beach by pulling weeds in the water according to our terms and within budget along with Kohlton, Public Works Summer Employee doing beach cleanup. Waterfront Restoration's contract for six treatments this summer is on the agenda for City Council approval at their June 13th meeting.

3.4 Lafayette Park plantings – CH

Holt said he is working on site drawings for Lafayette Park and coordinate with Google Earth images. He is looking at four areas in main small areas of Lafayette Park that will be native areas and it is a long process that takes a lot of time. Mid-summer Holt stated that he will put down herbicide. In August he will look at seed mixes to put it. The River Birches will be so nice in the park, he added. Milkweed seeds are doing some germination, although unevenly. He is filling in with California Poppies now and he's planted three varieties and they are germinating. Butterfly weed is bright orange and is a great host for monarchs who feed here and fly all the way to Mexico. He will have a preliminary drawing of Lafayette Park by the August meeting. Petersen will help him with that. Rezabek said Hennepin County has a Youth Sports grant and there are two parts, equipment and facilities.

3.5 Adopt a Park Update – JP

Pagano stated that the City has two adopted parks, the Grand Promenade, and the cul de sac circle at Lafayette Ridge. All other parks are open for adoption.

3.6 Jason Hilgers "punch list" progress

Hilgers stated that his summer helper, Kohlton, will be in full swing by next Monday. Then Hilgers can focus more on parks with Kohlton here. Pagano asked when the picnic tables will be stained and Hilgers said next week.

4. FYI's

4.1 Soccer Nights Dates - LP

Panait stated that there will be three Soccer and Food Truck events this summer on 6/29, 7/27 and 8/17. He is waiting for replies from various food trucks as they are very busy and many have a minimum requirement dollar amount. Burgess will help Panait secure food trucks.

5. Commissioner and Liaison Comments

Holt asked for clarification on where Green Core Organics will be servicing the City. Hilgers stated that dandelions are bad everywhere, and Petersen said that John at Green Core will come up with a plan. They can work together for best practices management and determine what Hilgers can do and what needs to be contracted out. Holt stated that he was misquoted, and soybean is now \$24 a bag not \$45 or so as he was told so it would be \$900 to do Lafayette Park for materials if Parks or the City provides the labor.

Petersen told the commissioners to think about their interests for SPOC assignments at the August meeting.

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

Rezabek motion, Petersen second to adjourn the June 7, 2022, Park Commission meeting. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Public in attendance:

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burgess, City Clerk