

**City of Minnetonka Beach  
Park Commission Meeting Minutes  
July 5, 2017**

**Members Present:** Chair: Dan Forbes; Vice Chair: Patty Rezabek; Commissioners: Joe Pagano, Diane Rogers, Jody Sperduto, Gerry Boschwitz

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Susanne Griffin

**Council Liaison:** Council Member Andrew Myers

Chair Forbes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1. Approve the July 5, 2017 Meeting Agenda**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Commissioner Sperduto to approve the July 5, 2017 meeting agenda. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

**2. Approve the June 6, 2017 Park Commission Meeting Minutes**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Sperduto and seconded by Commissioner Rogers to approve the June 6, 2017 meeting minutes. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.**

**3. Maintenance Reports**

**3.1. Beach Cleaning Contract**

Chair Forbes updated the Commission with information that the beach cleaning contractor is concerned that the volume of weeds was greater than they anticipated and wondered if the city might consider amending the contract. Commissioner Boschwitz did talk with them and his comment to the contractor at that time was the city was going to abide by the contract. The consensus is that the work they are performing is great. Boschwitz said the volume is about double that what they expected. Commissioner Pagano talked about his observations of the beach and asked whether the beach area is the only area covered under the contract. Boschwitz clarified that the contract covers from the south end of the fire lane to the north end of the swimming beach. Council Member Myers stated that the contractor's employees actually get in the water and remove weeds from the entire area covered in the contract. Commissioners talked about the fake dogs and members felt they were effective as there seems to be fewer geese. Commissioners consensus was the city shouldn't renegotiate the contract at this point. While the city doesn't want to alienate the vendor, the City does have a contract amount that was approved by the City Council. Boschwitz stated that he thinks the city should wait until August and he will check in with the contractor at that time.

**3.2. Half Moon**

Commissioner Rezabek stated that Flagship has completed the project. She and staff will review the invoice and compare it to what was bid and what the city has already paid. She updated members on the swing situation. They do need to purchase a new infant seat because one of the two at City Hall Park needs replacement. Ben Young has put down some extra class 5 for the new bay, but more may be needed. She hopes that it will be completed by the City Picnic so that

a ribbon cutting ceremony can take place. Chair Forbes asked for clarification on the grant and wanted to make sure we were within required timelines. Rezabek felt that the City is still within the guidelines of the contract. Griffin stated that the City needs to submit the invoices once the project is completed so the City can get reimbursed.

Diane Rogers talked about the turquoise colored pipe that is no longer gushing out when it rains and has concerns about where that water goes now. Rezabek reminded members that a new drainage system was put in place to remove water from the park. The pipe has been discussed at the Utilities Commission and they are aware of it as is Ben Young.

Rezabek stated that Half Moon needs a new garbage can be emptied easily. She had offered to empty it but cannot do it on her own. Emptying it should be on the list for the new Public Works employee.

Chair Forbes asked about some emails that had been sent by a resident who was very unhappy with the service of the Flagship Recreation and the time it took them to finish the project. Rezabek has talked with the resident. Chair Forbes stated that this topic came up at the City Council meeting as well.

### 3.3. Wall Update

Commissioner Pagano coordinated with Ben Young and city staff, and is scheduled to meet with Norling on Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> to clarify the bid from them in relation to the Stantec estimate. Once that information is received he will pass it along to City staff for the CIP. Pagano also mentioned that this is a preliminary bid and, assuming the project is approved in the CIP, additional bids will be done to get the best possible price.

Rezabek also talked about some issues with graffiti at the Margaret Dahl library. When she was there she noticed that the windows needed some repair/replacement. Forbes investigated also and found two panes of glass were cracked but didn't think it was critical. He also thought there was confusion about the door combination because someone posted a sign to reenter the code when leaving which isn't necessary so the sign was removed. He suggested changing the lock code, but he doesn't think that is necessary yet. Commissioners discussed general building maintenance issues and may want to add that as a new category in the 2018 budget.

Chair Forbes also added that Ben Young was able to repair the basketball hoops so they now move up and down again. The bad news is that the backboard at Ray Peters was accidentally broken when they were being repaired which will cost about \$200. Sperduto thought the budget should include a budget for building maintenance for things like the library and Pagano thought it would be good to inventory these items to better anticipate maintenance of these items. Commissioner Rogers asked if the library roof has been looked at lately, and they may want to anticipate replacement.

## 4. Old Business

### 4.1. 2018 Budget

Commissioner Rezabek stated that she had hoped to meet with a subcommittee of members to discuss and propose a draft 2018 budget but they were unable to meet. Commissioners tabled any discussion on the budget until the August 1<sup>st</sup> Park Commission meeting and the subcommittee will meet prior to that time if they want to come up with a proposed budget for the commission to consider. Griffin explained the budget process and timeline which is that the City Council will

take a preliminary look at the 2018 budget in August and they are required to set a preliminary budget and tax levy at the September Council meeting. Submittal of the proposed Park budget should be forwarded to Administrator Griffin immediately after the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Rogers asked the Park Commissioners to consider making the categories higher for the 2018 budget. Chair Forbes stated that he would like the Park Commission to have the people in place to actually get the work done if they plan to ask for more money. He'd like to see more members on the Commission and brought this up to Council, which would involve an ordinance change.

Council Member Myers stated that council does look to the commission for their recommendations and they should be able to articulate why they need additional funds, and to be specific. Myers stated that his role is to help facilitate the goals and vision of the Park Commission for parks and open spaces, but they need to be prepared to argue their case and have a plan. Chair Forbes stated that the City Council expects a Commissioner, if not the chair, to attend each council meeting. Myers appreciates a Commissioner being present at Council meetings.

There was discussion about communication of the Park Commission's work, not only to Council but possibly an article in the Beachcomber on occasion to update residents on the activities and work being done by the Park Commission and how tax dollars are being spent.

Forbes again stated that he is in favor of more funds being proposed as long as there were Commission members on board to get the work done.

Rogers asked about Liza's garden and the funds allocated. It was explained that it was combined into the gardener category. City hall pots were increased in error. Rogers asked about the mulch budget being \$1500 when Ben makes mulch. She stated that the miscellaneous category should be higher. The numbers in column labeled "2018 proposed" were only suggested as conversation starters. Chair Forbes stated that the subcommittee is not bound to these numbers.

#### 4.2. Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Assignments – Pagano

Commissioner Pagano said that this was suggested two meetings ago and explained the idea again. He has put together a draft list that he has shared with Heidi Honey and Chair Forbes.

SPOC draft assignments:

1. Council liaison, budget and Park Commission's Long-Term Documentation-Chair Forbes
2. Maintenance Green Space-Patty Rezabek
3. Maintenance Beach/Lake-Gerry Boschwitz
4. Maintenance Hard Cover and Public Works-Joe Pagano
5. Requests for City Rulings on Existing Codes and Regulations-Heidi Honey/City staff

Commissioners discussed that they liked the idea and generally felt that they do this already by default. Pagano thought they could proceed informally with this plan and could make it more formal after a trial run.

## 5. New Business

### 5.1. Swim area and docks

#### 5.1.1. Private Dock signs at Swim Beach

Chair Forbes stated that this issue was raised by a resident and the concern is that the docks are being accessed by people to get on or off boats that do not have dock permits at the swimming beach. The resident has asked for signs to be placed on the docks that say private property. The Park Commission was consulted because while the docks are private property, the public park is not. Chair Forbes did look for signs and found nice ones that say private docks, no trespassing. There was discussion about who should pay for the signs and Park Commissioners did not think it was appropriate for them to buy them. Griffin pointed out that at other dock permit locations, the dock permit holder has purchased and installed their own signs.

Commissioner Pagano expressed concern about elitism at the beach. He had an experience that he relayed to Commissioners where he felt unwelcome at the beach by a resident. He is concerned about how he was treated and that this could happen to anyone and is not consistent with the community.

Council Member Myers saw this weekend where someone was picked up on one of the permitted docks.

Commissioner Sperduto stated she was under the impression that putting “private docks” on the dock helps with liability issues.

Chair Forbes was also concerned about the treatment Pagano received and he is sensitive to that and feels it is unacceptable.

As it relates to the sign issue, the Park Commissioners agreed that someone should get back to the resident to thank them and suggest signs that are discreet and on the dock itself, not on public property. Park Commissioners felt that signage is not their responsibility but they want the signs to be respectful of the public park. Forbes proposed that an email be mailed back to the resident and Dock Committee Chair Goehring stating: 1) be sensitive to the public nature of the park, 2) signs be consistent with aesthetic of the area. Forbes could work with the Dock Committee chair on the language of the signs if commissioners are comfortable with that and all were in agreement.

Chair Myers asked Commissioners how they felt about restricting parking at beach and Ray Peters with “permit parking only”. Chair Forbes likes the permit parking at the beach so it allows for residents and dock slip holders to access those amenities. Myers asked if the City was being elitist by having permit parking. The general consensus was that permit parking makes sense to balance the needs and access to amenities for the residents and the general public. Myers stated that there have been discussions at the Planning Commission about adding more permit parking.

Rezabek suggested that staff notify the Westonka community services and let them know that the docks at the swimming beach are private property.

#### 5.1.2. Boat launching at fire lane

Chair Forbes talked about the issue of people using the fire lane for a boat launch. Sperduto believes that the DNR has stated that the fire lane is a point of public access and couldn't be used selectively (i.e. residents only). Commissioners reviewed the language of the current

city code which states that only snowmobiles and ATV's can use the access to get to the frozen lake implying that no one should be using it for boat launching. They discussed the impact to residents and all agreed that it may need more public discussion. The Park Commission supports the current city code until the city at large has a bigger discussion about this issue and the City Council makes a change to the current code. Sperduto reminded members that it must be accessible to all not just residents.

Pagano motion, Boschwitz second to support enforcement of the current code until such time as the city at large determines what and when the appropriate access is if different than the current code, all in favor.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Pagano and seconded by Commissioner Boschwitz that the Park Commission supports enforcement of the current code until such time as the City at large determines whether other access is appropriate or changes to the code should be made. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.**

Council Member Myers will bring this to the City Council. Forbes will get back to the resident with the Commission's recommendations.

#### 5.1.3. Abandoned watercraft on boat racks

Chair Forbes stated that a resident brought up concerns about a large silver canoe that has been on the rack for years. We don't know who the owner is but there is a registration sticker on the canoe. Griffin stated that it is essentially abandoned property and could be removed. The Orono Police can run the registration and attempt to contact the owner. If there attempts fail, it is abandoned property and can be removed. Publish in beachcomber that if it isn't removed and the owner isn't contacted, it will be removed.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Commissioner Sperduto that a notice be put in the next Beachcomber that the silver canoe that has been on the canoe rack and unused for several years will be removed within 30 days if not claimed, and that the Police Department will be asked to attempt to contact the owner. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.**

## 6. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Susanne Griffin, City Administrator**