

**Tuesday, August 05, 2025, 5:30 PM  
CITY OF MINNETONKA BEACH  
PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Chair Kim Petersen, Vice-Chair Laura Paine  
Commissioners: Dave Christiansen, Jace Dovolis, Jolynn Gamble, Lucian Panait and  
Patty Rezabek

**Absent:**

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Heidi Honey and Public Works Superintendent Jason Hilgers

**Council Liaison:** Chris Dovolis

**Guests:**

**Petersen opened the meeting at 5:30 pm.**

**1. Minnetonka Beach Business**

1.1. Approve August 5, 2025 Park Commission Agenda

**Rezabek motion, Gamble second to approve the August 5, 2025 meeting agenda. All ayes, motion carried.**

1.2. Approve Park Commission Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2025

**Gamble motion, Paine second to approve the June 3, 2025 Park Commission meeting minutes. All ayes, motion carried.**

**2. Administration**

2.1. 2026 New Budget Review and Approval

Petersen reviewed the draft budget. She noted the only change was \$4000 for Liza Crear garden in 2025 will now go to tree replacements which are budgeted every even year.

**Paine motion, Gamble second to approve the budget for 2026 as presented. All ayes, motion carried.**

Public works budget will have seal coating and painting sport court. When asked if Public Works items will move to a public works budget, Petersen explained that Parks oversees and makes recommendations on some items and those continue to stay in the Parks budget. Public works has an additional park operation budget.

2.2. Officers for 2025/2026

Petersen and Paine have asked to be reappointed to the Park Commission. Petersen would like to step down as Chair. Paine and Gamble have offered to serve as Chair and Vice Chair.

**Rezabek motion, Dovolis second to elect Laura Paine as Chair of the Park Commission for the term September 2025 – August 2026. All ayes, motion carried.**

**Rezabek motion, Dovolis second to elect Jolynn Gamble as Vice Chair of the Park Commission for the term September 2025 – August 2026. All ayes, motion carried.**

Petersen stated that J. Dovolis' term is up the end of August. Petersen presented him with a certificate of appreciation noting he was the youngest park commissioner, and they are proud of him. He is leaving for college out of state. Rezabek noted he asked many good questions.

### 3. Operations

#### 3.1. SPOC Updates

##### Green Assets

- Gardens and Planters – JG

Gamble provided photos of areas managed by the garden and public works. She stated that Mayor Pagano had commented on how beautiful everything looks. She reported the Liza Crear garden looks beautiful and she also thanked Hilgers for fixing the irrigation system. Gamble noted that the gardener still has 19 hours left in their contract. Fall and winter pots will take 6 hrs., so they have 11 hours left in their contract. She asked what they wanted the garden to look like with weeding. Pariat suggested they get the most work for the money and focus on the most visited locations, which they agreed was City Hall first and library second. They may wish to redo the library garden in the winter to eradicate the snow on the mountain. Hilgers can contact HCRRRA. They discussed the City Hall garden on the hill. They need to reclaim the area of invasives and also do work on the area with natives. They discussed mulch and commissioners offered to help spread mulch. Petersen stated many city hall beds need mulch and it would be volunteer project that could be done with city mulch and topped with clean, professional mulch. Preen could be put down prior to mulch. Gardens by Lynn needs to be directed to weed, and where to do so. Gardens by Lynn to weed in August and Jason will dump mulch for September.

Petersen and Hilgers will be sharing with council the remaining work to be done by year end.

- Native Plantings – KP

Petersen stated native plantings look great and Natural Shore has been out twice. It is advantageous to have them come three times per year.

- Tree Plantings – PR - Christiansen stated the trees that were planted look good. The hill needs to be weed whipped.
- Forest Restoration – DC – no report
- Turf – JH – Petersen reached out to Excelsior to learn about their natural turf program.
- Swim Beach and Docks – no update, beach looks great and its very clean with no weeds. V. Hilgers is done cleaning the beach. Hilgers will check with Waterfront Restoration and Burgess to see if they can do additional cleaning within the budget.
- Environmental – KP – Native plantings already discussed.

##### Hard Assets

- Punch List – JH – Hilgers has been dealing with storms. He has completed most items on the punch list, but it has been too wet to get the bobcat in there to do the work. Petersen noted the steps to Arcola docks off 15 may have been hit. Hilgers will check.
- Educational Signage – JD – Petersen sent an email to the sign designer and added J. Dovolis' suggestions to text to personalize the sign. When they get the final graphic, it will be ordered. Council will approve the location for installation.

#### Administrative & Financial

- Budget 2025 Review – KP

Petersen stated that they are on track and will have an overage of approximately \$1,500. They will use the money for mulch. Rezabek stated she does not think they will spend the \$1,000 on invasives and could be spent elsewhere. Commissioners discussed Gardens by Lynn to do weeding on the side hill at City Hall and Hilgers will continue to remove large brush and spray. Volunteers will lay the mulch. Gardens by Lynn can clean up behind the welcome sign and library. There was discussion that Gardens by Lynn should check in and out with City Hall. Burgess can email Gamble to update her.

- Grant Writing – PR, JG – On hold

- Volunteer Opportunities – JG

Rezabek stated that resident Susan Carlson is on the board for MN Wildlife Refuge Center. She suggested that Civic host an educational event and a songbird release. Jr. Civic is sharing some responsibility. The event is scheduled for Saturday, August 9 at Ray Peters Park at 10 am.

Fall cleanup was rescheduled to September 20<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to noon. She submitted a donation request to Lunds and will work with Burgess on a flyer. Hilgers asked that they do the same as last year cleaning up the trails.

#### Resident Tree Sale - LAP

Paine stated they will meet with the Tree Ordinance Work Group to discuss educational opportunities and things like tree sales to offer trees to residents. They will meet in September.

#### 4. FYI's

##### 4.1. National Night Out – Tonight 6:30 – 8pm

Junior Civic volunteers Reilly Johnson and Mary Jane Whitaker manned the ice cream sales for the event. Ice Cream provided by Lost Lake Creamery of Mound - \$2.00/cup. They made pre-scooped cups of four of their most popular flavors. Orono PD and Long Lake Fire are attending with officers, fire fighters and trucks and patrol cars.

##### 4.2. Punch List Update to City Council, September 8

#### 5. Commissioner and Liaison Comments – Gamble asked to add next meeting dates to the agenda.

Hilgers will be presenting his idea for opening the space at Swim Beach Park with Ash tree removal and replacement. He will be presenting this to City Council on August 11<sup>th</sup>. He was able to get a lower estimate for tree removal. He would like to remove the row of bushes that separate the park in half. He would use the 2025 CIP Tree Treatment/Management money to remove trees and the next Tree Replacement funds to plant trees. This should all be done within CIP or Parks budget categories. He worked with Jennifer Halverson to get input on how Civic uses the park for City events. He would also like to add perpendicular parking on the already crumbled road. This will be a project that spans over several years to keep the costs in the existing budgets. The small garden will be removed as part of this project. The commissioners were supportive of the project. Petersen was supportive of the use of the those funds for the project.

Petersen asked about the rip rap. The docks are in the way for installation, so the contractor will be there November 1<sup>st</sup>. A message has already been sent to slip renters to have their boats and docks out by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Closing Comments and Adjournment: Co-Chairs**

**Dovolis motion, Panait second to adjourn the August 5, 2025 Park Commission meeting. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Public in attendance: Pamela and Brent Hasselbring. Hasselbrings offered to help with the mulching and fall cleanup.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Heidi Honey, City Administrator**

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