

**City of Minnetonka Beach  
Park Commission Meeting Minutes  
August 2, 2016**

**Members Present:** Chairperson: Jody Sperduto; Vice Chair: Dan Forbes; Commissioners: Patty Rezabek, Signe Koehler, Diane Rogers, Gerry Boschwitz  
**Absent:** None  
**Staff Present:** City Clerk Heidi Honey  
**Council Liaison:** Council Member Jill Bartel  
**Resident present:** Planning Commission Chair, Andrew Myers

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

**1) Approve Agenda**

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Forbes and seconded by Commissioner Rogers to approve the agenda. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

**2) Approve Minutes for June 7, 2016 Park Commission Meeting**

**A motion was made by Chair Sperduto and seconded by Commissioner Rezabek to approve the June 7, 2016 meeting minutes. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

**3) Maintenance Reports**

a) Beach

i) Summer Employees

Commissioner Forbes referenced a beach cleaning update from Andrew Myers which was in the packet. Many residents are very happy with the beach cleaner, Liz Honey. She's been willing to get dirty and take the time to do a great job. Andrew Myers was shocked when he saw the quantity of weeds she moves a day which is approximately 500 lbs. a day. She has moved thousands of pounds of weeds. He has had numerous compliments on how well she is doing. He also said Ben Young would prefer to have the weeds disposed of instead of hauling them. Chair Sperduto suggested raising the amount for beach cleanup payroll next year because they have learned it takes more hours than budgeted to do a thorough job. They will be over the \$600 budgeted. She went on to say that the likelihood of the city finding someone who will be as diligent as this year's worker is very slim. Chair Sperduto stated that Andrew Myers has been helping and Ben Young spends approximately two hours per week on weeds too. Park Commissioners discussed hiring a weed clean up contractor to do the work. Commissioner Rezabek said they contracted someone in the past but he quit because there was too much work. They also talked about the number of hours Liz worked weekly and what would be reasonable pay. Commissioner Boschwitz offered to get bids for beach cleaning 2-3 times per week from mid-May till Labor Day.

**A motion was made by Chair Sperduto and seconded by Vice Chair Forbes for Park Commission to approve the dollar amount that Commissioner Boschwitz determines as the best value and service for beach weed removal from the bids he receives. He will submit that amount to City Hall and it will be submitted as the beach weed raking/removal cost not to exceed \$5,000 for the 2017 budget. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

ii) Summer Employees

Commissioner Forbes stated that removing geese is a lengthy process and they may need to experiment with other deterrent methods. Commissioner Rogers mentioned decoy dogs. They are \$30 at Home Depot. Andrew Myers discussed staking reflective strip on the rip rap as a test and to see how it works. Commissioner Rezabek told the Civic Committee she would buy something to deter the geese and wishes to keep her promise.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Commissioner Boschwitz to purchase appropriate equipment to test goose deterrence, not to exceed \$200. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

(1) Beach Sampling Report

Clerk Honey reported the year to date beach sampling results. The beach has been closed one time with high E.coli levels. The other beaches closed on the same date also had extremely high levels. It could be that the

sampling was not performed as it usually is or it could have been an accurate test. Commissioners discussed the possibility of replacing the sand annually to help keep the beach clean and attractive.

b) Boulevard and Forest

i) Tree Removal and Replacements

Chair Spurduto said that last year they compared different companies to use for tree purchases and replacements. They decided to work with Otten Brothers based on the discount they give the city for early tree purchase and they will guarantee the trees even though they are discounted. John O'Reilly from Otten Brothers walked Shoreline Drive where some trees have been removed and where lilacs are overgrown as well as Woodbridge Road where ash trees were removed. Otten Brothers main landscaper, Doug, then proposed pruning the existing lilacs and installing two 8 foot black hills spruce and two balsam firs along Shoreline Drive. On Woodbridge, he suggested three 2-foot tree form lilacs. Commissioner Rogers would like Woodbridge to look more like a boulevard. Commissioner Rezabek agreed and would prefer trees instead of the lilacs. Chair Spurduto said Erik Paulsen would only recommend 3 trees in that area. Commissioner Rezabek said more trees were removed than that. Chair Spurduto asked how they want to proceed. After discussing potential trees for the area, Commissioners Rezabek and Rogers offered to contact Otten Brothers to advise them on the number of types of trees for the area.

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Forbes and seconded by Commissioner Boschwitz to authorize Park Commission to spend up to \$4,000 to plant and prune as proposed by Otten Brothers along Shoreline Drive and to take the remaining money to also plant trees on Woodbridge with specific varieties and quantities to be determined by Commissioners Rezabek and Rogers after consulting with Otten Brothers. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

ii) Buckthorn – Patty

Commissioner Rezabek explained there are different ways to remove buckthorn. There is buckthorn on the boulevard. She suggested asking Ben Young if he has time to remove and spray buckthorn. The commissioners decided he is too busy to take care of it. In October, they will have a better idea of the budget, and if there is money available, Commissioner Rezabek will ask Tom Houston to remove it this fall.

Commissioner Rezabek asked to have Erik Paulsen look at the dead tree by the Forbes residence for removal.

She also said there are 3-4 dead shrubs up the south walkway up the hill to Ray Peters Park. She asked to place them on the list to have them removed. She didn't think they needed to be replaced because it is too shady in the area for them to grow.

She also reported the areas that were not treated for buckthorn last time will be treated this time for the same price as last year which is \$850.

iii) Ray Peters Woods

(1) Patty supply estimate for foresters to assess woods

Commissioner Rezabek stated it will cost approximately \$225 to \$300 to have foresters from the City of Minnetonka come to Minnetonka Beach for 3 to 4 hours to assess the woods area. She will follow up with them.

c) Parks

i) Status of playground with Hennepin County grant

Commissioner Rezabek has been calling every two weeks to find out when they will start. They are scheduled to be here next week. Rain keeps pushing their schedule back. They need a 5-point harness swing which are no longer available in tan. Green is available. Clerk Honey will send an email to residents when they start work.

4) CIP/Budget Review

a) Review Budget

Chair Spurduto reviewed the proposed 2017 budget. Commissioner Rogers suggested spending more money on replacing trees because many dead and storm damaged trees have been removed. She suggested raising the budget from \$4,000 to \$6,000 or \$7,000 for tree replacement. She also suggested the trees be large enough that they don't take so long to grow. Chair Spurduto said five trees were replaced in 2015 for \$5,000. Commissioners discussed a reasonable amount to have in the budget for tree replacement. Commissioners agreed that they need to spend more in order to maintain the city better than it had been done in the past. In the past, Park Commission budget was not being spent so they were not given money. They need to be accountable. They agreed that planting trees and cleaning the beach are important. Need to have a plan in place and it is coming together.

Chair Sperduto recommended moving Liza's Garden weeding to the gardener budget making it \$4,000. Kelly Jackson is no longer weeding Liza's garden. She also suggested increasing City Hall pots and perennials because the garden areas to the west need to be improved. Her bid includes time and material but they could adjust the time if some materials are donated or split from other plants. Park Commissioners agreed to \$1,600 for City Hall and can decide later how to allocate it.

The beach cleaner cost will depend on the bids that Commissioner Boschwitz receives but it is not to exceed \$5,000. The proposed budget would be \$30,225 with modifications. Park Commissioners agreed this would cover the costs they feel are needed to work on the maintenance needs. This budget would also provide maintenance at the beach, improve city gardens and allow for more tree replacements. Residents value these areas and want to see visible changes. Council removed CIP funds because they do not have any Capital Improvement Plans so the increase in budget would be covered by what they would have received for CIP.

Commissioner Rezabek discussed the paver walkway to the beach area. She thinks it needs to be leveled again. They will need to get bids for that so the commissioners decided to build the repair into the 2018 budget.

In summary, the following changes were made to the budget.

- Tree Replacement from \$4,000 to 6,000
- Gardener from \$3,600 to \$4,000
- City Hall gardens from 0 to \$1,600
- Misc. from \$2,500 to \$2,000
- Porta Potty from \$300 to \$600
- Beach Sand replacement from \$400 to \$500
- Beach Cleaning from \$600 to \$5,000

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Forbes and seconded by Chair Sperduto to approve proposed 2017 budget as amended. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

b) Review CIP 2017-2021

Chair Sperduto reported that EAB will remain in the CIP. Park Enhancements was removed from the budget.

**5) New Business**

a) New Commissioners

Chair Sperduto stated that Joe Pagano will join Parks Commission to fill the spot vacated by Signe Koehler and Commissioner Boschwitz will be re-appointed. Their terms begin at the October 2, 2016 meeting.

Commissioner Rezabek handed out a proposal from Carol Knudsen to install some plants where a large tree was removed near dock sites 8 & 9 to prevent weeds, invasive plants and buckthorn from establishing themselves. She requested three hydrangeas, garden soil and mulch be paid by the Park Commission for \$189 to \$208. She would donate the remaining plants for the small gardening plan.

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Forbes and seconded by Commissioner Rezabek to allow Carol Knudsen to proceed with her proposed garden plan for a value up to \$255 with the funds coming from the miscellaneous budget. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

**6) Adjournment**

**A motion was made by Chair Sperduto and seconded by Commissioner Rogers to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Heidi Honey, City Clerk