

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 5:15 PM
CITY OF MINNETONKA BEACH
PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Lindstrom determined that an in-person Council meeting was not practical or prudent because of the COVID 19 health pandemic and that this Council meeting was held remotely using Zoom Teleconferencing. This was done in accordance with MN State 13D.02

Roll Call: Park Commission Vice Chair Katie Norman; Commissioners: Dan Forbes, Kim Petersen, Patty Rezabek. Absent: Chair Joe Pagano, Commissioner Chris Dovolis.

Staff Present: City Clerk Heidi Honey, City Administrator Pat Melvin, Public Works Superintendent Jason Hilgers

1. Administration

1.1. Welcome Comments – Norman called meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

1.2. Approve Agenda – November 10, 2020

Norman asked to add item 2.1. Discussion of moving the Livingstonstrong donation of a gaga pit to Ray Peters Park.

Forbes motion, Rezabek second to add this item and approve the November 10, 2020 agenda as amended. Roll Call Vote: Forbes – aye, Petersen – aye, Rezabek - aye. All ayes, the motion carried.

1.3. Approve Minutes

1.3.1. September 1, 2020 Park Commission Regular Meeting

Forbes motion, Rezabek second to approve the September 1, 2020 Park Commission Regular Meeting Minutes. Roll Call Vote: Forbes – aye, Petersen – aye, Rezabek - aye. All ayes, the motion carried.

1.3.2. September 29, 2020 Park Commission Special Meeting

Forbes asked to remove “but that was not the case” from p.2 under 5YP for clarity.

Forbes motion, Rezabek second to approve the September 29, 2020 Park Commission Special Meeting Minutes as amended. Roll Call Vote: Forbes – aye, Petersen – aye, Rezabek - aye. All ayes, the motion carried.

1.3.3. October 19, 2020 Park Commission Special Meeting Input Session

Rezabek motion, Forbes second to approve the October 19, 2020 Park Commission Special Meeting minutes. Roll Call Vote: Forbes – aye, Petersen – aye, Rezabek - aye. All ayes, the motion carried.

2. City Hall Playground Grant – Considerations and Public Input Session

Melvin provided background information on the status of the project. He stated that the city was awarded a grant for playground equipment from GameTime. City Hall playground equipment replacement was added to the CIP in 2017. In 2019, Park Commissioners looked at replacing the equipment due to a number of safety concerns. The current structure does not comply with Consumer Product Safety Commission safety standards. It does not comply with ASTM standards, and it is not ADA compliant. Entrapments and pinch points have been identified. The railing space is not compliant and could allow children to fall. The arch climber does not have the correct spacing and the double slide does not have the correct hood. There is corrosion also. In 2020, a grant application was approved by city council and submitted. The criteria for selecting equipment with the grant by park commissioner Lehman and Chair Pagano was to select a comparable size and age range as current equipment (5-12 year old) and they wanted it to fit in the same space. They looked at three different vendors of the equipment and they obtained three quotes and reviewed costs. They were trying to get the most engaging playground for the money available. The swing and balance beam currently there would remain. The balance beam would need to be moved to a different location within the playground. Part of the playground caters to 2-5-year olds in addition to the 5-12 year old components. It meets all safety requirements. Colors can change but there cannot be significant changes for the grant.

Melvin stated it is up to Parks and Council if they want to move ahead or reapply next year. For this grant, the city has to commit to it by November 17. If they do not commit, they can apply again next year but costs may go up. Melvin reviewed quotes from GameTime (\$21,580), Cortes & Lee (\$40,000), and PlayCore (\$41,681) for equipment. He reviewed three installation quotes from GameTime contractors for \$17,622, \$18,693 and \$12,374 (Impact Builders was lowest quote). Melvin stated the total cost would be \$33,954 for equipment and installation. Melvin went on to say the city had \$30,000 in 2021 and \$10,000 in 2022 and \$10,000 in 2023 CIP for this project. He added that the Finance Committee did not recommend moving the playground from 2021 to 2020 because of the rigorous process of input and review the Livingston playground donation went through. Melvin stated they should consider if this needs to go through the same process as well. Hilgers is willing to oversee construction of the playground. Some references provided by GameTime have been contacted and they had good feedback. Melvin has asked GameTime for an extension and, depending on the results of tonight's discussion, he is willing to ask for an additional extension.

Rezabek stated the community process is missing. She expressed concerns that there is no neighborhood participation and input. Forbes asked about the timeline and if they should jump at the grant or wait and reconsider the configuration of City Hall Park in early 2021. He supported waiting until 2021. Petersen agreed and stated they have an obligation to get public input. Rezabek and Norman agreed.

Forbes motion, Petersen second to not move forward with this particular grant with these particular time parameters. Forbes tabled his motion until after public input.

Norman opened the public input 5:42 pm.

Jill Bartel – Bartel appreciated their thought into the project and appreciated them tabling the project.

Davida Suiter – Suiter suggested a simple task force and resident input with children included for their feedback. She sees the need for the playground replacement.

Vibhu Sharma – Sharma concurred with the commissioners to do additional work before making a decision. He researched grants and observed that GameTime does a grant model on an annual basis and noted that other manufacturers also do grants which should be researched also.

Laura Inglis – Inglis is in favor of this being tabled and suggested it be a community project. She supported input from everyone affected by it and liked the idea of including kids.

Norman closed the public input session at 5:52 pm.

Forbes reintroduced his motion. Forbes motion, Petersen second to decline the grant and decline to move forward with this particular plan for City Hall Park. Roll Call Vote: Forbes – aye, Petersen – aye, Rezabek - aye. All ayes, the motion carried.

2.1. Discussion to move the Livingstonstrong gaga pit donation to Ray Peters Park and public input Norman stated that at the November 2, 2020 City Council meeting, Council made a motion that the gaga pit in the Livingstonstrong proposal be moved to Ray Peters Park subject to approval from the Park Commission.

Norman opened the public input session at 5:53 pm.

Laura Inglis was unclear on what they wanted to discuss. Norman explained that the Livingstonstrong proposal wanted the gaga pit at Half Moon Park but at the November 2 Council meeting, they agreed for it to be moved to Ray Peters if the Park Commission supports that. The Park Commission wants to hear public comments before their discussion.

Jill Bartel – Bartel stated there are no nearby neighbors in attendance to speak. She thinks nearby neighbors have consensus about it.

Laura Inglis – Inglis was confused by this and stated that neighbors need to know what is going on in their parks.

Vibhu Sharma – Sharma agreed it should not be at Half Moon Park. He added that there should be broader awareness that the gaga pit is being considered to be moved to Ray Peters Park.

Ann Brilley – Brilley agreed with Sharma that it should not be at Half Moon Park. Neighbors of Ray Peters should provide input but it is a better fit at Ray Peters Park.

Norman closed the public input session at 5:58 pm

Jason Hilgers recommended placing the gaga pit on the grass. His kids play it a lot and they prefer grass for safety. He recommended behind the basketball hoops which is closer to homes and by the parking lot or south of the parking lot between the two walkways.

Rezabek in favor of it moving to Ray Peters Park but agrees it is a short timeline for the residents there. She had concerns about the basketball court location because of cars and preferred the other location Hilgers mentioned.

Petersen asked Hilgers' opinion on it being movable. He stated even though they are bolted to the ground, they are movable and he had no concerns about it on the grass and being able to move it.

Forbes preferred grass surface because it could be movable but he did not have strong views and also had concerns that they should have notification to nearby neighbors and get their input on a final determination of where to put it.

Forbes motion, Petersen second that they not make a decision about the location tonight and that they plan to have an input session in early 2021. Roll call – Forbes -aye, Petersen – aye, Rezabek -aye. The motion carried.

Council Liaison Breazeale stated that she understands they want resident input but asked that they set a timeline soon so Livingston can move on. The Half Moon donation has been pretty much finalized and Livingston will want to know if the gaga pit can be part of the donation at Ray Peters Park or if the money should be spent some other way. Forbes responded that he is comfortable with the idea of a gaga pit at Ray Peters Park based on the fact that they had a lot of discussion during the Half Moon Park inputs sessions about various pieces of equipment and at several points he heard a number of residents say they would be comfortable with the gaga pit at Ray Peters Park. He did not recall hearing any specific objection to a gaga pit at Ray Peters Park but he did recall emails expressing concerns about additional noise or traffic at Ray Peters Park. Since the proposal was originally specific to Half Moon Park, he thinks they are in a position to give Livingston a provisional acceptance because they did not have extensive consideration for it at Ray Peters when they reviewed it. He was comfortable with a gaga pit at Ray Peters at least provisionally provided they give residents time to consider a location targeted donation before giving a final donation. Rezabek agreed.

Breazeale asked that they put together a timeline and steps to get nearby neighbors input either one on one or get larger input. She thinks it is more important to get the nearby neighbors' input. The sooner that can get gathered, the better for Livingston to plan their donation.

Forbes motion that the Park Commission adopt a timetable for determining whether and where to place a gaga pit at Ray Peters Park in conjunction with a donation from the Livingstonstrong group and also that they favor the acceptance of the donation subject to neighborly input.

He stated it will be snowing soon so the pit won't be installed right away. He stated he thinks they can tell Lauren Livingston they can accept it conditional on resident input related to final placement. He does not think there is major pushback tonight but they are drawing on their memories of who spoke on the donation. He does not think they can give final approval because they had not considered that specific location in a public setting. Forbes stated the timetable will be observed. Forbes withdrew his motion to simplify it.

Forbes motion, Rezabek second to accept the intended donation of a gaga pit at Ray Peters Park subject to final approval and discussion with neighbors. Roll call – Forbes -aye, Petersen – aye, Rezabek -aye. The motion carried.

Rezabek asked if this conflicts with the previous voted on motion. Honey incorrectly referred to the City Hall Park motion earlier. Forbes did not see a conflict with this motion.

3. Administrative Calendar

3.1. Budget Audit to Date

Norman asked for budget updates. Rezabek stated they have not yet been invoiced for the arborist work. She needs to purchase a computer/ipad to manage the tree management licensing program that was part of the grant application. She has spent \$5,800 and will easily spend the rest of the tree maintenance budget. The inventory lists 12 trees for removal that are dead or dying and priority trimming needs to be done. Forbes stated the remaining work for the hard asset team is window boxes for the library and warming house. The plan is to buy the materials and have Jason Hilgers build them. Hilgers agreed to do the work. Forbes stated that cedar is needed for the warming house (\$60 per box x 4) and plywood at library (\$25 per box), self-watering inserts (\$25 per box), \$50 gallon for water proofing. The request is for approximately \$600 for materials. Petersen has not received the final clean up invoice from Garden Gate. Honey received an invoice for \$289 but they may do additional clean up. Petersen stated they are under what was budgeted. Flowers were donated and spruce tips for window boxes were donated as well. City Hall needs spruce tip pots for approximately \$100. Petersen discussed turf restoration and a maintenance plan needed for the parks for next year. She added that restore the shore will be done in 2021 and she is working with the county on shoreline restoration. Petersen will report back her final number after she gets the final invoice from the gardener. Parks discussed having a December meeting. Forbes stated that in the past they have given the Chair discretion to allocate minor differences with remaining funds. Rezabek supported having another meeting but was comfortable with Forbes' recommendation. Petersen supported the chair making final decisions on overages.

Forbes motion, Rezabek second to enable the Park Commission Chair to resolve any minor details involving reallocations of the budget between now and December 31, 2020 in consultation with Honey and whoever else is appropriate. Roll Call Vote: Forbes – aye, Petersen – aye, Rezabek - aye. All ayes, the motion carried.

3.2. 2021 Administrative Calendar Review – set meeting dates for 2021

Rezabek motion, Forbes second to approve the 2021 meeting dates at 5:15 pm as presented: January 5, February 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, August 3, September 7, November 2. All meetings at 5:15 pm. Roll Call Vote: Forbes – aye, Petersen – aye, Rezabek - aye. All ayes, the motion carried.

4. Adjourn

Forbes motion, Rezabek second to adjourn the November 10, 2020 Park Commission meeting. Roll Call Vote: Forbes – aye, Petersen – aye, Rezabek - aye. All ayes, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE – The following people were noted on the zoom teleconference: Vibhu and Julia Sharma, Susan Enlow, Jill Bartel, Nell Mathews, Joann Anderson, Lucien Panait, Mike Lindstrom, Laura Inglis, Davida Suiter

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Honey, City Clerk