

Thursday, November 14, 2024, 5:30 PM
CITY OF MINNETONKA BEACH
PARK COMMISSION AMENDED MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Kim Petersen, Vice Chair Laura Paine
Commissioners: Dave Christiansen, Jolynn Gamble, Curt Holt, Lucian Panait and Patty Rezabek

Absent:

Staff Present: City Clerk Jane Burgess and Public Works Superintendent Jason Hilgers

Council Liaison: Tracey Breazeale

Guests:

Petersen opened the meeting at 5:30 pm.

1. Administration

1.1. Call to Order

1.2. Approve Agenda – November 14, 2024

Panait motion, Paine second to approve the November 14, 2024 Park Commission Meeting Agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

1.3. Approve Park Comm meeting minutes from October 1, 2024 meeting

Paine motion, Gamble second to approve the October 1, 2024 Park Commission meeting minutes. All ayes, motion carried. All ayes, motion carried.

1.4. 2024 Administrative Calendar Updates

Petersen reminded commissioners that November 22nd is the last day for charging at Navarre Hardware and those receipts along with any reimbursable receipts and vendor invoices are due to Burgess by December 2nd. Burgess stated that she asked to let everyone know that the annual Civic Committee Tea & Toddies holiday party is on December 15th at Breazeale's home from 5:00 – 8:00 pm.

* Petersen stated that 2025 SPOC Assignments will be determined at the January meeting.

1.5. 2025 Meeting Dates

* 1/7, 3/4, 4/1, 5/6, 6/3, 8/5, 10/7, and 11/4

Panait requested that Burgess send out calendar invites for meetings going forward.

Paine motion Panait second to approve Park Commission meeting dates for 2025 as listed above. All ayes, motion carried.

1.6. The Next 5 Years, 2025 – 2029 5YP

Petersen shared with commissioners an overview of the 2025 - 2029 5YP deck she presented at the October City Council meeting. The plan was unanimously approved by the Council. She explained that the plan is a great tool and guideline for going forward. Just as 2024 was the year for City Hard Asset inspections, 2025 will be focused on an assessment and prioritization mode for what makes sense to accomplish. An example is the Crystal Bay shoreline restoration plan. She asked for commissioner input for 2025. She suggested that commissioners visit the Big Woods habitat in the NW corner of Long Lake at the Wood-Rill Scientific Nature Center which is a preserve area with trails on the north side of Long Lake maintained by the DNR. They can see how animals, mainly deer, affect the beautiful

Maple/Basswood forest and its regeneration. Wolfson Woods is close by too near Spring Hill Golf Course off Highway 12.

Council Breazeale joined the meeting.

Panait asked for a hard asset update for possible Pickleball at Ray Peters Park. Petersen explained that there is no money in the budget set aside for that so grants would have to be considered. Rezabek stated there is grant money for that through Hennepin County and Hilgers asked if matching funds are required. Petersen stated that there are grants for grants that can be pursued, but at this time the City's priorities do not include that kind of expenditure.

Gamble asked if when the Parks Usage survey results were reviewed was pickleball mentioned and Paine said that of the 24 surveys returned four listed an interest in pickleball. One said tennis court.

2.0 Operations Updates

- **SPOC Updates**

Paine provided a brief summary of the Park Surveys completed by residents. They discussed that any hard asset funds would be best allocated to reforestation and shoreline restoration over pickleball etc. unless there were grants awarded. They discussed safety concerns with ebikes on the Dakota Trail and Paine said she will talk to Three Rivers Park District about it.

Gamble praised everyone's efforts who participated in the fall cleanup, especially City Council members, Junior Civic Co-President Ballard Breazeale, Mayor Pagano and Park Commissioners. There was a conflict due to homecoming for some kids. Hilgers stated that the event was great and said everything he wanted done was accomplished. They discussed ways to increase Junior Civic engagement in City activities including recruitment and ages of kids. Breazeale said that she will speak about this at a Civic meeting.

Petersen said the Council approved Parks moving forward with the opportunity grant for shoreline restoration on Crystal Bay.

Rezabek stated that she is obtaining bids for work to be completed on Crystal Bay. They discussed the delay in the Crystal Bay rip rap project using CIP funds due to staffing shortage at Niccum. It could get bumped to 2025.

Panait is a member of both the Park Commission and Dock Committee and said Docks will meet next on November 25th to discuss the Swim Beach Docks issue.

Christiansen and Rezabek covered forest restoration with Rezabek stating that Prairie Restoration provided a quote, although expensive, to eradicate invasive Buckthorn on Crystal Bay at Docks 2, 3 and 5-7 at the Arcola Bridge, and at Ray Peters. They will give the City a discount. Sam's Landscape did a site visit as well. She also met with Tree Trust, and they looked at Ray Peters Park and he took samples with him as he is not an expert on this subject. Rezabek will get a bid from them next week so then there will be three bids. Rezabek thanked Hilgers for the \$1,000 he gave to Parks for Buckthorn removal in 2024 from his warming house repair budget.

Holt advised that all that needs to be done at the pollinator garden is to mow it in spring and that's it. He added that Gardens by Lynn did a fantastic job on the new spruce tip pots. He expects they will finish the year under or right at budget as Lynn has been sticking to the budget. He is waiting on one invoice which should include 10.5 hours for fall cleanup and the winter greens will be on there too. The crew worked on the west slope along Lake Road too, which was nice and recommended that be done every year going forward.

- **2024 Budget Spend Down**

Petersen stated that the remaining money in the budget totals \$3,222.34 and will be used for Buckthorn removal. Some items came in over budget and others were under budget. She asked Hilgers if Parks could have some of

his Buckthorn budget and he said he would give them \$1,000 from his warming house budget. She reiterated that Rezabek is waiting for bids from Tree Trust and Sam's. She has a bid from Prairie Restoration. Petersen stated that there are other invasive Buckthorn needs in the City to consider and most bids are for Common Buckthorn. There is also Glossy Buckthorn and Cherry trees that grow with them, but the Cherry trees should not be removed as they will survive.

Gamble Motion, Christiansen second to allocate the 2024 budget spend down of remaining funds of \$3,222.34 with Petersen's input for vendor selection and payment details for Buckthorn removal at Ray Peters Park. All ayes, motion carried.

3. Commission Comments

4. Liaison Comments

Council Liaison Breazeale presented an update on the Swim Beach Docks and beach lake views expansion project. She provided summaries of both the City Council's discussion on the topic and the Dock Committee meeting. She noted that the Dock Committee put in over 100 hours for many months looking at a range of options in working towards the goal that was given to them by the Council. The goal was to find a solution to enhance the broader resident experience at and around the Swim Beach to improve lake views, safety and water quality. The water quality issue has been removed as there were no beach closures in 2024 due to failed e coli tests. Parks will continue to monitor water quality going forward.

Breazeale stated that Mayor Pagano's words, "*Share the Shore*" will provide improved park and beach experience for all residents. The Dock Committee had asked for a quantifiable goal. Parks recommended opening the view to 150 feet from the current 57 feet. This equates to the relocation of six or so docks. Docks continued to explore other layouts at the beach maintain existing slips including north vs south options, a pier concept similar to one at Lake Okoboji, Iowa. None of the options are viable due to safety concerns, cost, the mucky lake bottom and big winds and waves on Lafayette Bay.

Breazeale added that the Council discussed having the Dock Committee and Park Commission collaborate on this issue. Mayor Pagano wants a decision made by the Council by the end of 2024 as there will be a new council member starting his term in January. Four options were identified by the Council that they would like Parks and Docks to evaluate. Any changes at the Swim Beach Docks would be made through attrition not taking away docks from those who currently have a dock at the beach. If someone has a dock there they are grandfathered in. If someone is on the Swim Beach Docks waiting list the wait may take longer.

OPTION 1: Dock Committee recommendation: Keep the docks the way there are currently at the Swim Beach as they did not think reaching the 150 feet opening goal was achievable. They also recommended that forest green boathouse canopy color uniformity be achieved upon canopy replacement.

OPTION 2: This was discussed at a Dock Committee meeting when Whitaker and Pottebaum suggested relocating the two inner slips closest to the Swim Beach to other locations elsewhere in the City. This might be achievable.

OPTION 3: Combine Option #2 with another idea of eliminating all the boathouses at the Swim Beach to possibly improve the lake views less vertically blocked. An 87-foot opening could perhaps be reached from the 57-feet that is presently there. Also, the remainder of the docks at Docks 14 and 15 through attrition could perhaps not have boathouses through attrition. They could have snap down covers on their lifts.

OPTION 4: Parks' recommendation to relocate 6 to 7 slips or what is required to reach the opening of 150 feet. This might not be feasible to find places to relocate this many slips. Breazeale explained the City is licensed by the LMCD for a certain number of BSU's (total feet) and that will be maintained and unchanged according to the City's Guiding Principles. To reach that full opening will be challenging as it will be difficult to relocate 6 or 7 slips to other locations in the City.

Panait stated that it may have been a good idea to hire professional consultants to look at this project.

Breazeale stated that the Council asked Parks to look at all the information and the 4 options and rank them on their own time for discussion at a future meeting. Docks will do the same ranking at a future meeting as well. Each group should categorize each option (preferred and why, could live with and why, could not support and why), and also rank each of the options from most preferred to least preferred. She acknowledged there is no other location like the Swim Beach docks as there is parking, there is a biff, trash removal and it is safe to park and access. Council is looking for a reasonable compromise to meet the project's goals.

They discussed meeting on December 2nd at 4:30 or 5:00 ahead of the Truth in Taxation meeting or on December 3rd anytime. Burgess will ask Panait of his availability as he had to leave the meeting early. Burgess will reach out to the commission after contacting Panait.

5. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Rezabek motion, Christiansen second to adjourn the November 14, 2024 Park Commission meeting. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Public in attendance: none

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Burgess, City Clerk