

**Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 5:30 PM**  
**CITY OF MINNETONKA BEACH**  
**PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Chair Laura Paine, Vice-Chair Jolynn Gamble  
Commissioners: Dave Christiansen, Pamela Hasselbring, Kim Petersen, and Patty Rezabek  
**Absent:** Lucian Panait  
**Staff Present:** City Clerk Jane Burgess and Public Works Superintendent Jason Hilgers  
**Council Liaison:** Jason Mohr  
**Guests:** Mayor Joe Pagano

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

**1. Minnetonka Beach Business**

1.1. Call to Order

1.1.1. Mayor Pagano Message to Park Commissioners

Mayor Pagano thanked the commissioners for all the work they do. Council packets contain the Park Commission minutes, so it is very clear what the commission does and how they exemplify collaboration especially in working with Public works. Over the last decade the Park commission's commitment to the community has made a huge difference in what the City looks like. He added that it is nice to see new faces including Commissioner Hasselbring on the commission and stated that this is Christiansen's second term as a commissioner. Mayor Pagano noted that Grand Dame Rezabek has served the City on this commission for over 40 years and he praised former Chair Petersen for her leadership and commitment to the commission and the City. He praised them for their efforts in working with Junior Civic for community engagement. He invited them to periodically attend city council meetings to share their accomplishments with the council and the community.

Mayor Pagano provided a handout to the commissioners which highlighted the work done in working with Representative Myers and Senator Ann Johnson Stewart to secure state funding for future infrastructure projects. He explained the inclusion of Minnetonka Beach in the Senate and House Capital Investment Committee Bonding Bus Tours and his informative speeches to them to help them as they make decisions in 2026 for infrastructure funding awards. He reviewed the comprehensive handout which included items such as the city's infrastructure needs, debt service detail, financial impact to residents from infrastructure bonding, and the legislative process for funding. The commissioners thanked Mayor Pagano for all his work with legislative funding pursuits. Additional thank you's included Gamble thanking Petersen for all her work as Parks chair for the last three years to which the commission joined in with appreciation. The commission also thanked Rezabek for her work as a Park Commissioner and in this community for over 50 years.

1.2. Approve November 18, 2025 Park Commission Agenda

**Rezabek motion, Hasselbring second to approve the October 7, 2025 meeting agenda. All ayes, motion carried.**

1.3. Approve Park Commission Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2025

Petersen stated that there were two typos which Burgess will correct.

**Rezabek motion, Christiansen second to approve the October 7, 2025 Park Commission amended meeting minutes. All ayes, motion carried.**

## **2. Administration**

### **2.1. 2025 Administrative Calendar Updates**

Paine noted the addition of the Civic Committee events to the calendar, Tea & Toddies at Breazeale's on 12/14/25, and Candy Cane Lane at Ray Peters Park on 12/7/25. Paine reminded commissioners that 12/2 is the last day to turn in receipts and vendor invoices to City Hall. She stated that the commission will determine SPOC Assignments at the January 2026 meeting. They will likely stay the same unless a commissioner would like to make a change. They reviewed 2026 Meeting Dates – January 6, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, August 4, October 6, and chose November 17<sup>th</sup> due to the Election on November 3. Parks meetings are generally the first Tuesday of select months and are at 5:30pm. Commissioners should plan for 90-minute meetings. There are no meetings in February, July, September, or December.

**Gamble motion, Rezabek second to approve the 2026 Park Commission meeting dates are presented. All ayes, motion carried.**

### **2.2. Discussion on Planning Commission Tree Protective Ordinance Work Group and Park Commission delegates meeting of September 11, 2025**

Gamble presented this agenda item, providing a detailed update and input from the September 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes from the meeting of Planning Commission members of the Tree Protection Ordinance (TPO) Work Group and three Park Commissioners. The purpose of that meeting, requested by City Council, was to see if and how Parks and Planning can collaborate to inspire resident support for the City's tree canopy and related green assets. The goal of the meeting was to generate large scale, community-wide strategies that support long-term canopy health and align with the City's broader environmental priorities. Gamble reviewed the meeting context and purpose, brainstorming highlights of ideas generated to engage, inspire and educate residents, and what they learned from it. Gamble stated that the group discussed revising Parks Mission Statement to better reflect an expanded scope that includes tree canopy, biodiversity, and sustainability. The words improve and innovate were discussed for inclusion in the statement after the word restore. This would clarify Parks role and serve as a guiding document for future initiatives and strengthen shared purpose.

Gamble had commissioners review the meeting summary and generate questions. The goal was to identify which proposed ideas are realistically achievable, determine which ideas are likely to resonate with the community without being overly burdensome, and identify any new big-picture ideas that Park Commissioners may have. They also discussed the Resident Home Certification Program and the program called Lake Smart that Planning Commission Chair Breazeale's parents are involved in at their Maine home. They discussed integrating lake and watershed health as well and possibly approaching sustainability holistically. This would include trees, water quality, runoff management, and other natural resources that influence the well-being of residents and the environment. Gamble asked that commissioners provide input to a chart that was divided into categories. Ideas Most Achievable was a category where ideas the commissioners had were listed. They discussed that ideas that are most achievable means that the commission has both the capacity and community support to implement them.

New Ideas/Gaps and Questions was another category to which expanded use of the Beachcomber newsletter for Parks' communications was added and also inclusion of the Arbor Day Foundation resources. They also discussed grant opportunities both for residents and for the City, although the commission was ready to submit an application to Hennepin County and the grant program was

suspended prior to submission due to funding cuts. They discussed educating new residents about the importance of maintaining the City's tree canopy and creating initiatives that promote community engagement and environmental awareness such as community gardening efforts. They also discussed the strong participation at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center educational event that took place in Minnetonka Beach. They also discussed the possibility of future tree planting ceremonies at City park cleanup events. Burgess stated that the Margaret Dahl Children's Library held summer reading programs for resident kids in the past. Resident Mary Monson has volunteered to care for the library from a maintenance perspective and as a librarian of sorts. Hilgers stated that he will begin the Swim Beach Tree/Landscape Refresh project beginning with planned EAB infested Ash tree removal in December and January.

Gamble stated that at the January Parks meeting, Gamble, Paine and Petersen will bring forward refined recommendations for discussion by commissioners. At the February joint meeting with the TPO Workgroup and Gamble, Paine and Petersen, a final collaborative recommendation will be made to bring to the City Council.

### **3. Operations**

#### **3.1. SPOC Updates**

##### **Green Asset Team**

- Gardens and Planters; continued watering – JG, PR  
Kim will water in the spruce tips at the library and Burgess will also do that at City Hall.
- Native Plantings – KP  
Petersen stated that maintenance of the native plantings at the Swim Beach will begin this spring.
- Tree Plantings – PR –  
Rezabek did not have anything additional to add that was not already mentioned.
- Forest Restoration – DC  
Christiansen stated that bushes and trees were trimmed at the entrance to Ray Peters Park and Hilgers chipped them. Both of them will trim the Cedar Forest in the middle of winter.
- Turf, Beach Tree Removal and Plantings – JH  
Hilgers stated that he will begin tree removal at Swim Beach Park as planned and will provide a project update at the January meeting.
- Swim Beach and Docks – LP  
In Panait's absence, Burgess and Hilgers reported that the Swim Beach City docks and parts were removed the fastest since they have been working in the City. Burgess praised dock installer John Cody for the fantastic job he did with direction provided by Jim Dudley and Wayne Ramaker. Hilgers said that the 25 residents renting there are to be given credit for following the removal schedule for docks and removal of all dock parts off the beach.
- Environmental – KP –  
Nothing to report.

##### **Hard Asset Team**

- Punch List – JH  
Hilgers reported that he has been very busy picking up and disposing of resident leaves in the City.

- Educational Signage – KP, JH  
Petersen stated that the new Shoreline Habitat educational sign for Swim Beach Park is here and the location on the north side of the swim beach was approved by City Council. Hilgers stated that he will install it next spring.

Administrative & Financial

- 2025 Budget Spend Down – KP and JB  
Petersen recommended that money remaining in the 2025 Park Commission budget be allocated to the Swim Beach Park tree refresh project. Burgess stated that as of today there is approximately \$5,002.71 left in the budget, but that could change if any Gardens by Lynn or other vendor invoices are received.

**Petersen motion, Christiansen second, to reallocate remaining 2025 Park Commission budgeted funds to the Public Works Swim Beach Park Tree and Landscape Project once that final amount is determined in December by City Staff and Parks' Chair and Vice Chair. All ayes, motion carried.**

**4. Commissioner Comments**

**5. Liaison Comments**

Burgess stated that she and Mayor Pagano will submit the 2025 Monarch Pledge report in December and include the new educational sign information and a pollinator garden update.

**6. Closing Comments and Adjournment:**

**Hasselbring motion, Petersen second to adjourn the November 18, 2025 Park Commission meeting. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Public in attendance: none

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Jane Burgess, City Clerk**