

**Monday, December 2, 2024, 4:30 PM
CITY OF MINNETONKA BEACH
PARK COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Chair Kim Petersen, Vice Chair Laura Paine
Commissioners: Dave Christiansen, Jolynn Gamble, Lucian Panait and Patty Rezabek
Absent: Commissioner Curt Holt
Staff Present: City Administrator Heidi Honey and Public Works Superintendent Jason Hilgers
Council Liaison: Tracey Breazeale
Guests:

1. Call to Order

Petersen called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

2. Approve Agenda – December 2, 2024

Paine motion, Rezabek second to approve the December 2, 2024, meeting agenda. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

3. Old Business – City Council Objective Explore Improved Configuration at Swim Beach Docks 12-16 and Recommendation

The five Options, criteria and task were in the packet as follows:

- 1. Keep current configuration at the swim beach docks (no improvement to views)
- 2. Relocate the two interior slips at dock locations #14 and #15 (improve open vista by 30')
- 3. Relocate the two interior slips at #14 and #15 AND eliminate boathouses but allow lifts without canopies at five of the seven remaining slips at #14 and #15 (improves vista by 30' feet and partially improve 75' of vistas)
- 4. Relocating all seven of the nine slips at #14 and #15. (improves vista by a full 105' to 162')
- 5. Relocate 5 docks at #14 and #15 (improve vista by approximately 150')

Criteria for evaluating each of the five Options:

- 1. Provides all lake users a reasonable view
- 2. Reduce risk of boats encroaching on swimming area
- 3. Demonstrates empathy for current Swim Beach slip renters
- 4. Demonstrates empathy for park users and slip renters
- 5. Preserves the number of slips within the City's dock rental program

Categorize each of the five Options using the following criteria:

- 1. This is our preferred Option and why
- 2. We could live with this Option
- 3. We could not support this Option and why

Petersen asked that they each share their thoughts on the options and rank them.

Christiansen – Option #1 – Not supported by the Comp Plan and not an option. Options 2,3,4,5 all refer to relocation. Option #2 is straightforward to relocate 2 slips but does not accomplish the original goal to gain 150 ft or more of views. He supports relocation, but 7 slips is a bit extreme and does not show empathy. Attrition feels like it makes the most sense and asked if the City knows how long this would take. Breazeale stated from Council's perspective, which could change, they don't want anyone who is currently at the beach to suffer and they don't want anything to be done to a current swim beach slip renter. Attrition would take the time it takes. There is currently one slip open to relocate. She added that Parks and Docks are determining what they think is idea and Council will have to marry those ideals

and determine what is best for the whole community. They will also need to research where boats could be relocated to. Council wants to make sure there are no slips or square footage lost. Council would have to look into the feasibility. Christiansen stated it would be the most palatable to move one slip as it becomes open and continue to not fill slips as they open up. Christiansen supported Option 5 via attrition. Option 3 talks about removing canopies and he doesn't know if it is good or bad, but all green canopies are visually uniform regardless of different boats and sizes.

Rezabek stated basic guidelines is that everyone is grandfathered in right now and one is vacant. The City can't lose any slips or square footage. She feels the City's Comp Plan is the City guideline and they need to look to that for guidance. There will have to be some compromise. They will need to review as needs emerge with whatever decision is made.

Christiansen asked if slips could be moved to Arcola. He said if the goal is to remove slips from the swim beach, then they will lose square footage unless they can be moved elsewhere. Breazeale explained they want to maintain docks/footage throughout the City and they could relocate it elsewhere if there is somewhere for it to go. Rezabek stated they may need to be a joined system. Petersen stated the feasibility of relocation is a big unknown which makes decision making difficult.

Rezabek #1 is not acceptable, doesn't support parks to maintain and improve beach area, #2 – relocate 2 total slips she would rate it higher if it was two at 14 and 0 at 15. #3 – highest rating, but to reduce number of slips with least complication, she would relocate 2 at 14 and eliminate boathouses at 14. #4 & #5 – she cannot support as she does not know if this many slips can be moved.

Paine - #3 is 1st choice relocating with attrition and safety in mind. She supported taking 2 slips from 14. For boat house removal, it could be a few through attrition. #2 is 2nd choice, #4 safety concerns, #5 safety concerns. #1 – least favorite.

Gamble – Option #1 – no progress toward goal. #2 – first choice for some improvement of views and minimal impact, and over time could work toward option #5. Evaluation later could determine if they will continue to remove slips. Option #3 – too disruptive too quickly but could work toward it through time. She likes aesthetics and consistency. #4 – too disruptive and limits access to residents. She thanked the Dock Committee for their work on this process.

Curt Razlaff asked if there is enough space to add two slips at Arcola. Honey said this would be the next step in the process to see if any relocation can happen and where. Honey stated each dock location has its own variances or things that have been grandfathered. Ratzlaff stated property values are higher in the city because of the city dock program.

Lucian – Prefers to keep things as they are with no change. He supported #2. He does not agree with the process and said they should have found out what can be done for relocation of slips first and then they could have done the work based on the results.

Petersen – She stated that the motion made by Parks at the last meeting was a goal to achieve 150ft which is 25% of the beach park shoreline. She does not see any one option as the be all end all. #1 – does not meet the goal, #2 – her number 1 compromise to move 2 slips from either 14 & 15 or both from 14 with the caveat of standardizing all canopies to green. #3 – not cohesive and unknown what it will look like with size of boat and size of slip. #4 – meets least of criteria and too disruptive. #5 – does not meet enough of the criteria, not viable. Prefers #2 as it is a wider view, more swimmable space and removes boats from being too close to the swim area.

Christiansen discussed property values. Minnetonka Beach non-riparian residents do not have a right to a dock, but they have an opportunity for access.

Jim Dudley echoed Petersen's concerns about removal of canopies because there would not be a cohesive look. He stated use of the beach has changed over time, and less people are home during the day to use the beach.

There was discussion about relocating 2 slips through attrition and viability of moving them. There was discussion about how the one open slip would be dealt with and it may be complicated to move the people into slips that someone vacates. Petersen stated they need to include that if it is viable, they support the relocation of two slips, but it must be viable. Commissioners supported relocating 2 slips on 14 because it opens views to the preferred direction. They discussed assessing the views after initial relocations. The open slip is at Dock 16 and there may need to be some movement of people at the beach to fill it.

Jim Dudley stated people wait for years to get into the swim beach. In order to fill the open slip, you would have to move someone from docks there that are more preferable than 16. Petersen stated how it is done is not for the Park Commission to figure out. She understood his concern but added that they have to also look out for all residents.

They discussed detailed information regarding the canopies on page 21 of the meeting packet.

Gamble motion, Paine second to that if it is viable and safe, the Park Commission recommendation is starting with the relocation of 2 slips at Dock 14 through attrition with an ultimate goal of restoring 150 ft of open vista. Ayes – Christiansen, Gamble, Paine, Petersen, Rezabek. Abstain - Paniat because he had voted at the Dock Committee meeting.

Paine motion, Gamble second to recommend to Council to transition to green canopies at the swim beach docks by 2030 for the following reasons: minimal disruption; aesthetic improvement; and safety and long-term view enhancement. All ayes, motion passed.

4. Adjourn

Rezabek motion, Gamble second to adjourn the December 2, 2024 Park Commission Special meeting. With all members voting in favor, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm.

Public in attendance: Curt Ratzlaff, Jim Dudley, Jeff Steinke, Jeff Melin

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Honey, City Administrator