

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

MARCH 28, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members present: Scott Creighton, Kristi DeCamillis, Cory Ellingson, Ken Halverson, Jack Merwin, and Doug Peterson. Committee Members absent: Ketti Green.

Also present: Streets, Parks, and Fleet Superintendent Norm Michels, City Planner Lucinda Spanier, and Recreation and Communication Coordinator Corrie Scott.

3. ADOPT AGENDA

Committee Member Halverson motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Committee Member Merwin, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Merwin motioned to accept the February 28, 2022 Parks Advisory Committee minutes as presented. Seconded by Committee Member DeCamillis, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

5. BUSINESS

5A. AEON BIG LAKE STATION SENIOR LIVING

Spanier reviewed that the City received an application for concept plan review from Aeon, 901 N. 3rd Street, Suite 150, Minneapolis, MN, for a proposed high-density residential development in the Transit Oriented district. The property is located south of the North Star Commuter Rail station east of Station Street NW. She reviewed that the development concept features a 74-unit, 4-story building with one- and two-bedroom units designed with seniors in mind and that the concept does not include dedicated land but rather cash-in-lieu of dedicated land. She asked the Committee to review the concept and make a motion providing a recommendation to the Planning Commission and City Council on park land dedication or cash-in-lieu associated with the Aeon Big Lake Station Senior Living Development.

Halverson asked if there are any parks in the area where the development is proposed. Spanier stated that there are not any City owned parks in the immediate vicinity, but that the developer is planning to incorporate a dog run, gardening area, and some trails within their development. Halverson asked who owns the private drive. Spanier stated that it is owned by the Metropolitan Council. Peterson asked if there is a timeline regarding acquiring land and building a future park near the development. Spanier stated that this type of planning is likely to be initiated once the developments are completed nearby.

Committee Member Peterson motioned to recommend to the Planning Commission and City Council that cash-in-lieu of dedicated land be accepted for the Aeon Big Lake Station Senior Living Development. Seconded by Committee Member Merwin, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Spanier reviewed that the concept plan will next be brought to the Planning Commission for review and then it will go to City Council along with the recommendation made by the Parks Committee.

5B. POWELL PARK UPDATE

Michels reviewed that Powell Park playground equipment was delivered on March 21, 2022 to Public Works. He stated that the goal is to have the park fully completed by July 1, 2022 and staff will continue to update the Committee if this timeline changes.

Peterson asked if volunteers will be needed for installation of the equipment. Michels stated that Public Works will be removing the equipment and that installation will be completed by Midwest Playscapes. After equipment is installed, Public Works will install the irrigation system.

5C. 2022 CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR POSITIONS

Michels asked the Committee to discuss and make a motion to recommend appointments to the Parks Advisory Committee Chair and Vice-Chair positions for 2022.

Committee Member Creighton motioned to recommend Doug Peterson to the 2022 Chair position. Seconded by Committee Member Halverson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Committee Member Halverson motioned to recommend Kristi DeCamillis to the 2022 Vice-Chair position. Seconded by Committee Member Creighton, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

5D. STAFF UPDATES

Scott reviewed the status of various programs and recreation taking place in the community's parks. She asked if any of the Parks Committee Members are interested in volunteering during Movie in the Park to help with parking. Merwin stated that he would

volunteer for Movie in the Park.

Michels stated that depending on the weather he is hoping to start playground inspections in late March or early April. He stated that he is meeting with Gina Hugo to put together a route at Highline Park for a story stroll that will be open to the public in the summer. Peterson stated that he is excited to see Public Works doing park inspections and he let the Committee know that if they ever see anything in the parks that need fixing, to let Michels know.

Scott asked the Committee if anyone is interested in drawing the winning photo for the Chamber Parks Challenge sometime between 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 11 & 18 either at City Hall or a local park. She stated that staff will take a video of the drawing each week to post to Facebook and bring awareness to our local parks.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORTS

Halverson asked if cash-in-lieu of dedicated park land is paid as phases are completed by a developer or if it is paid in full during the first phase. Spanier stated that cash-in-lieu payments will come in as the phases are approved.

Halverson recommended having a conversation about expanding Bluff Park. Peterson asked Michels if he can put that conversation on a future agenda. Halverson stated that he would like to see more natural park amenities. Spanier stated that it is important to engage neighborhood residents when planning park improvements. She stated that this can be done by canvassing an area or direct mailers sent to a specific area.

7. OTHER – None.

8. ADJOURN

Committee Member Merwin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member Creighton, unanimous ayes, meeting adjourned.