

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

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

3. ADOPT AGENDA

Committee Member Green 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 July 25, 2022 Parks Advisory Committee minutes as presented. Seconded by Committee Member Halverson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

5. BUSINESS

5A. STREETS, PARKS, AND FLEET SUPERINTENENDENT UPDATES

Michels reviewed the status of various park improvements and maintenance. Merwin asked if the sprinklers have been blown out for the season. Michels stated that it is scheduled for the first or second week in October. Merwin asked when the sprinklers go off each day as someone mentioned that they were caught on a walk while they went off. Michels explained that sprinklers only go off after 10 p.m. and that they shouldn't be reaching the sidewalks.

5B. COMMUNICATION AND RECREATION COORDINATOR UPDATES

Scott reviewed the status of various programs and recreation taking place in the community's parks. Halverson asked if the City utilizes grant funding for Music in the Park. Scott stated that in the past the City and Legacy Foundation would apply for CMAB grants,

but that they are pretty competitive and time consuming. She stated that at this time the program has been funded by sponsorships, but if more funding is needed in the future that applying for a grant could be a good option. Merwin asked if a grant could be used for something like a permanent stage or other costs that are not related to directly paying bands. Michels stated that the PAC has looked at introducing a band shell at Lakeside Park in the past, but that the project never went anywhere. Scott stated that a new location for a permanent stage would need to be researched as the current location where the portable stage is placed wouldn't be ideal. She stated that the cost for the portable stage is quite affordable in the meantime.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORTS

Halverson stated that he would like to see a Strategic Plan for the Parks Committee that has annual goals. He stated that it would be great to have some type of parks replacement schedule. He stated that Powell Park seemed to take longer than necessary. Michels stated that Powell Park took longer than other park installations have in the past due to the Streets and Utilities project and weather related issues. He stated that we can put together a plan for park replacement/improvements, but that there will always be unexpected issues regarding things like supply chain issues, contractors, and weather.

Scott stated that the BLEDA and Planning Commission both have Strategic Plans with objectives and action items that can be used as an example when creating a Strategic Plan for the Parks Committee. Halverson stated that he specifically wants to have some type of plan for when developments come into the City regarding where to create new parks with the Park Dedication Funds. DeCamillis asked if Halverson is specifically talking about a plan regarding current parks. Halverson stated that he would like to see a plan for current and future parks. Green stated that a Strategic Plan could have an objective such as creating a new amphitheater and that this type of objective could potentially take multiple years, but that having it outlined in a Strategic Plan that is revisited would be a good starting point.

Green stated that it is important to have objectives decided before June when the budgeting process begins to ensure that they are budgeted for. Halverson spoke about the difference between the general fund that is used to maintain existing parks and the Parks Dedication Fund that is used to introduce new parks and equipment. He stated that he would like to see Council put more money into the general fund that is used for maintaining existing parks. Michels stated that replacing a portion of an existing playground would need to come from the general fund rather than the Parks Dedication Fund. Halverson reiterated that he would like to build the general fund up in regards to park maintenance.

Green reviewed that the Ribs for the Ribbon event is taking place the weekend of September 24, 2022. She stated that they sell out of tickets very quickly, so it is best to arrive early if people want to participate.

Green stated that she noticed the old A&W lot is being actively marketed and she is interested in researching the purchase of the land as it is heavily used for City events and

other Special Events that take place at Lakeside Park. Halverson asked what the cost of the land is at this time. Scott stated she believes it is around \$375,000, but she would have to ask. Halverson stated that he doesn't like the idea of the City purchasing the land. He recommended having people park on the roads.

Green stated that parking on Lakeshore Drive would not be a possibility. Halverson stated that people could park on back roads such as Sherburne Avenue. Scott commented that during a typical Music in the Park event there can be anywhere from 50-75 cars parked in the A&W lot and that it isn't feasible for those who are handicapped or have children to park and walk over a half mile to Lakeside Park. Halverson reiterated that he doesn't agree with the City purchasing the land. Green commented that the land has been on the market for over ten years at this point and that if the Committee isn't interested in pursuing the option of researching purchasing the land, she will go to City Council on her own time.

DeCamillis asked if the PAC would be involved in the purchase of land near a park. Scott stated that the PAC can make a recommendation to City Council, but that they make the final decision regarding purchase of future parkland. Halverson stated that the cost of purchasing and reconstructing the land would be substantial and he doesn't advise the purchase of the old A&W lot. DeCamillis asked if there would be time to research the purchase of the land as a possibility if it is being actively marketed. Scott stated that the land has been on the market for over ten years, and that it is possible to have the conversation before it is purchased. Michels stated that he understands Halverson's concerns, but that Lakeside Park could benefit from having more parking.

7. OTHER

Michels stated that he has drafted a plan for playground equipment that is in need of repair. He stated that it needs to be reviewed by the Finance Director before it goes to the PAC and then to City Council. Halverson asked if there could be a discussion regarding a Strategic Plan at a future meeting. Halverson recommended that members think about a few items that they would like included in the Strategic Plan before the next meeting.

Halverson asked about Brom Park. Michels stated that they are waiting for the completion of Powell Park before moving forward with Brom Park.

8. ADJOURN

Committee Member Green motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member Merwin, unanimous ayes, meeting adjourned.