

**MAHTOMEDI PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2018**

A Park Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Works Facility.

Present were Commissioners: Chair Charlesworth, Vice Chair Eldredge, Commissioner Fischer and Commissioner Lindberg

Also present were: PW Director, Bob Goebel; PW Office Asst., Jeannie Novak; Council Liaison, Tim Deans; Community Ed. Director, Cathy Wyland and City Administrator, Scott Neilson

Absent: Commissioner Metz

AGENDA

Upon motion by, Commissioner Fischer; seconded by, Commissioner Lindberg all members voting in favor, the agenda was approved as presented.

MINUTES

Upon motion by Vice Chair Eldredge, seconded by Commissioner Fischer, all members voting in favor, the January 17, 2018 Park Commission meeting minutes were approved as presented.

STAFF REPORTS

Director Goebel gave a brief update on current public works activities. He stated that public works has had a busy couple weeks with snow and ice control. He stated that our salt usage is down about 45 tons from January 2017 and the crew has been out 2 more times this January than last January. We are trying to reduce the amount of salt that we put down each year, 3 employees went to the Annual Salt Symposium where they received information on how to reduce salt usage. He also stated that Natalie & Tom have returned to work, we are back at full staff and the crew have been working to remove all the snow on County 12, which is our responsibility since the construction project was complete last fall. Director Goebel also reminded the commission members that there is an open house tomorrow night regarding the County 12 construction project from the Dugout to west of Hilton Trail. There will be a trail on the north side and a sidewalk on the south side, the drive lanes will be narrowed to add a center turn lane and a signal light will be added at East Avenue.

He also stated that the skating party was held and was a success. The public works crew has started working on mowers and ordered fertilizer to get last year's pricing. He also briefly discussed an Adopt a Bench program and that Wedgewood Park has already received a request and that this could be a successful way to replace a lot of our aging benches in the City parks and could possibly be expanded to include picnic tables.

A brief discussion was held about changing the name of Triangle Park to Veterans Park. City Administrator Neilson suggested that we revisit this after MN DOT turns back Hwy. 244 from Ash to Hwy. 120 to the County, then the County will give it to the City.

Director Goebel stated that bids for Phase III of the historic district are due on Friday, Feb. 23rd. This is a large project from Doover Lane to Wildwood Beach Road.

About 22 Oak Wilt & Dutch Elm diseased trees were removed from Katherine Abbott Park last week.

OPEN FORUM

Community Ed Director, Cathy Wyland informed the group that the search for a new superintendent is underway. She also stated that the school district is facing a \$1 million dollar deficit but with the retirement incentive it will be less as 14 teachers will retire. The baseball association is getting dugout covers. 100 White Pines were planted at the high school last summer, Swamp White Oaks will replace the dead trees. They are currently working on the summer brochure. There is some money left over from the parking lot project and discussed a partnership for a sidewalk or trail. Grant is still pursuing an arena on school district property.

Council Liaison Deans briefly discussed the DNR lawsuit regarding White Bear Lake, he stated that there will be an irrigation ban for all residents of Mahtomedi as well as surrounding communities.

NEW BUSINESS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Wrap Up – 2018 Skating Party

Chair Charlesworth stated that it was well attended, good weather and everything went well. The wagon ride was successful, the City did a great job and a great turnout by the Park Commission members. Best turnout in 3 yrs. Commissioner Fischer suggested that the bon fire be moved back to the original spot as not a lot of people sit at the fire because it's not conveniently located to the rinks.

b. Update – Lake Links Trail

City Administrator, Neilson informed the commission that the cost of The Lake Links trail is higher than projected, approximately 4.1 million for Mahtomedi and Dellwood; and 12 million for White Bear Lake. The committee is preparing to go to the Legislature again to ask for more money.

c. Update –Comprehensive Plan and Parks & Open Space Plan

City Administrator Neilson reminded the Commission members that Monday, Feb. 26th is the joint council, park commission work session to wrap up the Parks Chapter of the Parks & Open Space Plan.

NEXT PARK COMMISSION MEETING

The next Park Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Works Facility.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by, Commissioner Lindberg, seconded by, Commissioner Fischer, all members voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jeannie Novak

Jeannie Novak, PW Office Asst.