

**MAHTOMEDI PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2018**

A Park Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Works Facility.

Present were Commissioners: Chair Charlesworth, Commissioner Metz, 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: Vice Chair Eldredge

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Upon motion by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Lindberg, all members voting in favor, the February 21, 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 is still plowing with the latest snowfall which was a challenge due to all the moisture in the snow. It was very, heavy wet snow which made the plowing difficult. The public works crew is ready to start spring projects, getting the parks and fields open.

Director Goebel also stated that Phase III of the historic district project was awarded to Kuechle Underground and as soon as the weather cooperates the project will get started, this will be Doover Lane to Wildwood Beach Road; Hickory from Hwy.244 to Warner Ave and the Quail/Briarwood Trail. This will include, storm sewers, curb & gutters, new water main, valves & hydrants. Besides the Phase III project there is a sewer lining project and 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.

WSB Engineering will start up our pavement rating program which will include the trails so we can prioritize repairing/replacing deteriorating asphalt.

Commissioner Fischer asked about plans for Triangle Park this summer and Director Goebel stated that there will be a new raised flower bed around the park sign, possibly planters on the 5 concrete slabs. Commissioner Fischer stated that the Garden Club has almost 100 volunteers now and they are willing to help with beautifying the park and they are contributing money for flowers for the Gateway signs. Director Goebel stated that he would like to start an Adopt A Bench/Planter/Picnic Table program as a way to replace the aging benches and picnic tables in all our parks.

OPEN FORUM

Community Ed Director, Cathy Wyland informed the group that the summer brochure is out and the search for a new superintendent is underway, interviews will take place in May and hopefully a new hire will be in place in June. She also stated that the school district is facing a \$1 million dollar deficit but with the retirement incentive, increased enrollment and with the staff development director acting as the temporary principle at Wildwood they were able to clear the deficit for this upcoming school year. There is support for a levy/referendum this fall after a poll of residents was taken. The hockey association is wanting to put a pod near there building to store equipment as there is a mice problem in the current space. Director Goebel said he would have to check with our City Planner to make sure a pod is legal in that area and that the mice problem will be taken care of in the building the City owns.

NEW BUSINESS

a. City Owned Lots on Ivy Street

Chair Charlesworth, Commissioner Fischer and Commissioner Lindberg were all able to look at the lots on Ivy and have determined that there is no interest in keeping these lots for open space. Any potential sale proceeds would go to the Park Fund.

Upon motion by, Chair Charlesworth seconded by, Commissioner Fischer, all members voting in favor, the Parks Commission recommends to the City Council that they see no use for the City owned lots on Ivy Street and to proceed with any potential sale.

b. Adopt a Bench, Picnic Table & Planter Program

Director Goebel stated that he would like to start an Adopt A Bench/Planter/Picnic Table program as a way to replace the aging benches and picnic tables in all our parks. The Commission members agreed that this could be a great program. It was suggested to feel out the residents at the Rite of Spring event on Saturday, April 28th to see if there is any interest.

c. Triangle Park Name Change

A brief discussion was held about changing the name of Triangle Park to Veterans Memorial Park. The Commission members are in favor of this and the timing is right as the new name could be unveiled at the Memorial Day celebration.

Upon motion by, Commissioner Lindberg seconded by, Commissioner Metz, all members voting in favor, the Parks Commission recommends to the City Council that Triangle Park be renamed Veterans Memorial Park to better acknowledge and honor those who have served our Country.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Update – Lake Links Trail

City Administrator, Neilson informed the Commission members that the Lake Links group will be going in front of the Senate tomorrow, April 19th at 3 pm to request funding. The bonding bill is approximately \$8.8 million dollars and they are hoping to get a portion of that money for the trail which would be good for 3 years.

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

City Administrator Neilson informed the Commission members that on Tuesday, May 1st the Comprehensive Plan and Parks & Open Space Plan will be adopted by the City Council. Candace Amberg, WSB Landscape Architect, will give a presentation and suggested that some Commission members also be present. Chair Charlesworth stated that he will be able to attend.

NEXT PARK COMMISSION MEETING

The next Park Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Works Facility.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by, Commissioner Fischer, seconded by, Commissioner Lindberg, all members voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jeannie Novak

Jeannie Novak, PW Office Asst.