

**MAHTOMEDI PARKS COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
APRIL 28, 2020**

Chair Charlesworth convened the special Park Commission meeting telephonically at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

Present were Commissioners: Vice-Chair Eldredge, Commissioner Metz, Commissioner Lindberg, Commissioner Fischer, Commissioner Thompson and Commissioner Strehlow

Also present were: PW Director, Bob Goebel, PW Office Asst., Jeannie Novak; Kate Andersen, Mahtomedi Community Ed Director and WSB Landscape Architect, Candace Amberg

Absent: None

**AGENDA**

Upon motion by, Commissioner Lindberg; seconded by, Commissioner Thompson, all members voting in favor, the agenda was approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Yea: Charlesworth, Eldredge, Metz, Lindberg, Fischer, Thompson, Strehlow. Nay: None

**MINUTES**

Upon motion by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Lindberg, all members voting in favor, the February 19, 2020 Park Commission meeting minutes were approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Yea: Charlesworth, Eldredge, Metz, Lindberg, Fischer, Thompson, Strehlow. Nay: None

**STAFF REPORTS**

Director Goebel gave a brief update on current public works activities. He stated that the Dahlia Street project has started. The Phase 4 West Historic District project has not started. The sewer lining has started as well as the gas main relocation. Birchwood Road project will start soon as well. Streets Maintenance: The crew has been busy pothole patching and flushing hydrants.

**OPEN FORUM**

Council Liaison Schneeweis stated that the Mahtomedi Beach sign looks like someone hacked on the top of it. Director Goebel stated that is the works of a red headed guy with wings, a woodpecker is responsible for the damage. The wood is starting to rot and the sign needs to be replaced. Commissioner Thompson asked what is going to happen with our parks for the summer with social distancing. Director Goebel stated that as of right now all of our parks are open but the playgrounds are closed, the ball fields are currently open and we have seen coaches getting to together with kids so this is something that needs to be addressed. We don't plan to close any of the parks or ball fields unless we start having issues then we can lock up 3 of the 4 ball fields. As far as the beach this summer, the lifeguards will not be starting on time. My goal is to have buoys out by the end of the week to prevent the boats from coming in. We know people are going to swim whether the beach is open or closed, it's their way of relaxing, cooling down or whatever. We have not made a decision yet if we're going to close the beach or not. We're going to follow suit with Ramsey County, if they are going to open Bellaire and Ramsey beaches or not. If those beaches stay open we will probably keep ours open. If they close them for the summer we will probably close ours as well so ours does not get overwhelmed like we've seen in the past, however we know people are still going to go past our signs. The plan right now is not to put the dock out, I feel it will be safer for us to keep the dock in if we don't have the lifeguards in for the duration of the summer. If we put the dock out I feel like there is more of a danger of small kids falling off and drowning if we don't have the lifeguards.

**OPEN FORUM con't**

I know we put the dock out early every year and there are many hours where there are no lifeguards but we feel if we don't put it out that it may deter people from coming to the beach. Council Liaison Schneeweis stated that she is very much in favor of this and loves that the City is going to try to keep the beach open. Commissioner Thompson agrees with everything that was said by Council Liaison Schneeweis. Director Goebel also stated that we have not opened any of the bathrooms or turned on any of the drinking fountains yet, we are avoiding that at this point however all of the parks do have outhouses unfortunately they are starting to steal all the hand sanitizer out of them so we have made the decision not to replace the hand sanitizer at this point as the company will only replace them for free once and then it's a \$20 fee for every outhouse, every occurrence which we determined is too costly. Commissioner Fischer asked if signs could be printed and put up notifying people as to why there is no hand sanitizer. Director Goebel stated that we would make signs for each of the outhouses. Commissioner Fischer asked how it would look if the City has to close the beach, would the parking lot be chained off or put up barricades. Director Goebel stated that we would probably just sign it Beach Closed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. None**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Update – Aaron's Playground SW Park –** WSB Landscape Architect, Candace Amberg stated that the playground is currently out for bid and the bid opening will be Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Update - Hallam Park Improvements –** WSB Landscape Architect, Candace Amberg stated that Hallam Park was bid out and that we got great bids. Bituminous Roadways was the contractor that was selected and the preconstruction meeting should be coming up in about a week. We're waiting for the Watershed District to approve and then we can proceed. WSB Landscape Architect, Candace Amberg stated that we are here tonight because we want to take a look at the 5 different playground designs to evaluate and decide which one to select. A very lengthy discussion was held with the Commission Members about the pros and cons of each playground design. The Commission Members had a lot of great input for each playground design and possible suggestions for upcoming playgrounds. WSB Landscape Architect, Candace Amberg is going to check with the contractor to see what other color combinations are available for playground option #1.

**Upon motion by, Commissioner Lindberg; seconded by, Vice Chair Eldredge, the motion was approved by the majority via roll call vote to accept playground option number 1. Yea: Charlesworth, Eldredge, Metz, Fischer, Lindberg, Strehlow. Nay: Thompson.**

**NEXT PARK COMMISSION MEETING**

The next Park Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via telephonically.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by, Commissioner Lindberg, seconded by, Commissioner Fischer, all members voting in favor by roll call vote. Yea: Charlesworth, Eldredge, Metz, Lindberg, Fischer, Thompson and Strehlow. Nay: None. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

*Jeannie Novak*

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Jeannie Novak, PW Office Assistant