

**MAHTOMEDI PARKS COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 18, 2023**

Chair Lindberg convened the Park Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

Present were Commissioners: Vice Chair Costello, Thompson, Charlesworth, Strehlow, Metz and Fischer

Also present were: PW Director, Bob Goebel; Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Kate Andersen; Mahtomedi Residents, Ian Harding, Terry Montanari, Rand Kluegel, John Krueger and Evelyn Krueger

Absent: Council Liaison Lilly Melander

**AGENDA**

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

**MINUTES**

Upon motion by Vice Chair Costello; seconded by Commissioner Metz, all members voting in favor, the November 16, 2022 Park Commission meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Director Goebel** gave a brief update on current public works activities. Public Works crews have plowed 11 times so far this winter using about 168 tons of salt. All trails have been cleared and snow piles have been removed from downtown twice. Brine making is ongoing. Vehicle maintenance and repair has been keeping our mechanic busy and crews have been moving snow and pushing back corners for visibility. Preparation is underway for the 2023 Street Reconstruction project. The annual skating party is scheduled for this coming Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Beach access is open for the ice fisherman and there have been no complaints from the neighbors. We have assisted Willernie with two watermain breaks this month. This is the time of year that most of our annual training takes place for the crew. He also stated that the hanging petunia flower baskets will be planted in February and we are trying to replicate what the City of North Branch has done with their hanging baskets.

**OPEN FORUM**

**Kate Andersen, Community Ed Director** briefed the commission on things happening with Community Ed. The winter and spring brochure is out and registration is going well. We're kind of stagnant with Safe Routes, we're really pushing to have a meeting with the County regarding Stillwater Road but they would prefer us come to the community meetings but have not heard a response. They are also dealing with all the snow and where to put it. It's been crazy with all the late starts and no school days. They're ready for Sunday and she has some students from the Interact Club coming to volunteer. Director Goebel asked if this club would help out with shoveling out hydrants and storm drains.

### OPEN FORUM Con't

**Director Goebel** held a brief discussion regarding fitness courts in our parks. The National Fitness Campaign contacted us about putting a fitness court in one of our parks, there is a grant out there through Blue Cross/Blue Shield, there are other grants out there as well from the DNR and other entities. It is a 38 x 38 cement pad with all the equipment built right on it. Director Goebel stated that he met with the company and said there is no money in our budget for this right now and the out the door price for us without the grants is about \$150,000. Director Goebel would first want to get input from our Parks Commission to see if there is any interest in this concept. There are a couple locations that would work great such as Southwest Park or Wedgewood Park but possibly the District Ed Center would want to take on this project. Commissioner Metz asked about the High School as a possible location and how much grant money could we possibly get. Director Goebel stated that he doesn't foresee a lot of grant money, maybe \$50,000 so it would still cost us upwards of a \$100,000. The commission members discussed this concept briefly and Commissioner Charlesworth stated that it's expensive and we have so many other great needs that were planned for, a long time ago. Chair Lindberg agrees. Director Goebel stated that the topic could be revisited in the future. **Kate Andersen, Community Ed Director** mentioned that the district is forming a Facility's committee to discuss facility needs and this possibly could be discussed at these meetings which begin in early February.

### NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Bike Repair Stations** – Mahtomedi Resident & Lake Links Trail Rep, Ian Harding held a brief discussion regarding bike repair stations. This would be another asset for the people in the community and people who come through our community who use our trails. These stations due need repairs from time to time and the Lake Links Association would provide a year's supply of spare parts. The company that sells these repairs stations has a google map with locations all around the country and we would add this location to our maps and publish on social media as well. The stations also have a QR code so if you scan it with your phone it will bring up videos on how to repair your bike. This repair station would be located in Veterans Memorial Park near the flag pole and would be fully funded by the Lake Links Trail Association.

**Upon motion by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Vice Chair Costello, with all members voting in favor to recommend the City Council approve a Bike Repair Station in Veterans Memorial Park that will be funded by the Lake Links Association.**

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Skating Party – Sunday, January 22, 2023**  
Back-up date Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> – **Director Goebel** spoke with Jeff Irsfeld and he's confident that we will be able to hold the skating party even with the melt and the snow coming in. He plans to get in there on Friday and Saturday to get the rinks shaped up for the party. Public Works will pick up everything on the list, we will have the firewood ready and the banner hung up. There will be two employees there as well to help set up and clean up. **Commissioner Metz** has secured the pizzas and the hot dogs but still hasn't heard from the Wild Bean for coffee. **Director Goebel** stated that can make coffee, we have two large urns. Commissioner Charlesworth will be able to attend for the whole party as well as Chair Lindberg, Vice Chair Costello, Commission Fischer and Commissioner Strehlow.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS Con't.**

- a. **Gosiwin Park Playground Update** – Mahtomedi resident, John Krueger, 670 Gosiwin Avenue gave a very lengthy update to the commission regarding a possible playground at Gosiwin Park including updated playground equipment layout options that could possibly fit in the allowed space at Gosiwin Park. The Commission members discussed at length all aspects of a possible playground and decided more information is needed from our engineers regarding feasibility of the location, setback of the location, size that would fit the location and any other things that we're not thinking of for example they have the footings in the proposal but not a trail leading up to it and that is an ADA requirement. Director Goebel stated that he will get all this information to John Krueger so he is able to have possible new layout options at the February meeting.
  
- b. **Pickleball Court Noise** – Director Goebel stated that some complaints have been received about how noisy these courts are and why wasn't the neighborhood informed. These complainants live far outside the boundaries of who we are required to notify for projects. He also stated that everyone and anyone can subscribe to be notified of all our city meetings through our website. The decibel level for pickleball is lower than tennis but it's the rackets that are very noisy. **Commissioner Charlesworth** suggested that the pickleball hours be set to the same hours that the City allows contractors to work. Director Goebel stated that currently our park hours are 5 am to 10 pm. There will be no lights at the courts and there will be a 4' fence all with gates. He also stated that he just wanted to the commission to be informed and we'll address the issue when and if it comes up. **Chair Lindberg** asked if the City has a noise ordinance and what the decibel level is for the ordinance. Director Goebel stated that he wasn't sure what the number is but will find out for the next meeting.

**NEXT PARK COMMISSION MEETING**

The next Park Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Public Works Facility.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by, Vice Chair Costello; seconded by, Commissioner Metz, all members voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

*Jeannie Novak*

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Jeannie Novak, PW Office Assistant