

**MAHTOMEDI PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

Chair Lindberg convened the Park Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

Present were Commissioners: Thompson, Charlesworth, Strehlow, Metz and Fischer

Also present were: PW Director, Bob Goebel; Council Liaison, Lilly Melander; Mahtomedi Residents, Ian Harding, Terry Montanari, Rob Bruner, John and Evelyn Krueger

Absent: Vice Chair Costello; Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Kate Andersen

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Upon motion by Commissioner Metz; seconded by Commissioner Fischer, all members voting in favor, the January 18, 2023 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 dealing with all the melting going on right now, lots of water flowing down the roads, trying to get storm drains uncovered and open. We're busy repairing vehicles and this time of year crews are taking a lot of training classes to keep up their licenses. The baskets have been ordered, they will be a combination of pink and purple flowers. The Dahlia trail project was awarded last week Miller Excavating will be doing the project. We are doing a lot of in-house stuff, we are building a little library that will be installed at City Hall and other miscellaneous projects around the shop. Chair Lindberg asked if we are doing anything with the trails as far as salt, Director Goebel stated that we do not put salt on any of our trails only clear the snow. He also stated that the winter access has not been very busy this winter most likely due to the lake conditions. The bike repair station has been ordered and will be installed in the spring. Commissioner Thompson asked if the lights are working yet on the trail, Director Goebel stated that they are not, waiting for Xcel to connect them which is going to happen in the spring. Commissioner Fischer asked about the four lights that are at Dwinnell if they could be moved closer to downtown to light the paths that people walk home from, Director Goebel stated not at this time as there is no electricity in that area but something we could pursue in the future.

OPEN FORUM

Kate Andersen, Community Ed Director was not able to attend but sent the below update.
Notes for tonight:

1. Safe Routes to School Update: The CSAH 12 county planning team is hosting a Community Forum to give input on the upcoming project. As SRTS we will be encouraging the community to attend and give feedback. **Director Goebel** added that we will be putting this information on our Facebook page and website, the meeting will be at the high school on Wednesday, March 1st. The project is going to start in front of the library and extend all the way out to Keats Avenue. It's a very large project for the

OPEN FORUM Con't

County, it will be a total reconstruct from in front of the library to somewhere in front of OH Anderson depending on the soil conditions under the road, then will be a mill and overlay out to Keats Avenue.

2. The district recently did a refresh of the Strategic Plan. We are now looking for volunteers to take part in the Action Teams moving forward. You do not need to have children in the district in order to participate. This is an opportunity for you to provide feedback and express your perspectives.

3. Our Summer Catalog will be online March 15th at 8 am. There are many new offerings so check it out.

4. Food Truck Friday is May 5th at the DEC from 4:30 - 7 pm. Music, yard games, several food trucks and more.

5. The district Facilities Committee has approved the district to seek a formal facilities audit of district outdoor fields and learning spaces. This process can take up to 6 months. It is exciting as we will be looking at all our athletic needs and incompetency's and what we need to do to update spaces for learning.

Lilly Melander, City Council Liaison briefly updated the commission of things going on at City Hall. She stated that Jud Marshall has retired and Richard Brainerd has been appointed the new Mayor which has created a vacant council seat. Letters of interest for the vacancy are being accepted until Friday, February 24th at 4:30 pm. with interviews taking place on Tuesday, February 28th and hopefully appointing a new member at the March 7th council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. None –

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Skating Party Wrap-up** – Chair Lindberg stated that he felt the event was very well attended. He feels we should have some kind of sign advertising that it's a City sponsored event. He felt there were many people that didn't really know what was going on and trying to buy pizza and maybe go back to how we used to put the cider and hot water out on tables for people to help themselves. Commissioner Charlesworth stated that the helpers from the high school did a nice job and nice to have them there. Commissioner Fischer agrees that more signage is needed to promote the event and at the event so people know what to do like make hot chocolate or hot cider. Commissioner Metz suggested flyers for kids and businesses. Also, suggested to start planning in September to be ahead of the game for next year.
- b. **Pickleball Court Update** – Director Goebel stated that we have final the final design and we are a little over budget however we are going to council with as it is presented. Engineers estimate is about \$116,000 and we budgeted around \$100,000, then fencing was a lot more than we had anticipated, it will be an 8' high fence around the courts and it will have the ability to put the noise attenuating device if need be at a later time. The trail to the north has been removed and the connection between the pickleball court and the basketball court, we felt they were unnecessary and let's just focus on the court itself and get it built and we're still over budget.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS Con't.

It is our intention to go out for bids very shortly and bring those bids to council for approval. Commissioner Charlesworth asked if this will come out of the parks budget and Director Goebel stated this is part of the 5 year parks CIP budget. Commissioner Thompson asked if these courts are just open courts or do they have to be reserved and Director Goebel stated that these will be just open courts for now but could change in the future.

- c. **Dog Park Update** – Mahtomedi resident, Rob Bruner held a brief discussion regarding the need/desire for an off leash dog park in Mahtomedi. He has a group of about 7 or 8 people that are willing to help advocate for it, research locations, possibly help maintain it, raise funds for it. Commissioner Thompson asked about liability, Director Goebel stated he would contact our city attorney regarding liability. He also stated that a dog park has been a topic for about 10 years and that FedEx has property that would be an ideal location unfortunately our contact person keeps changing due to transfers or left the company but finally today I got the name and number of a new contact person who is on site at this location. I have not spoken to her yet and we do know this will have to go to corporate regarding a property agreement. He stated that a dog park is a phenomenal idea and would have the backing of the council. Commissioner Charlesworth stated that FedEx has been onboard with this idea way back and then the contact person leaves and we're back to square one. Director Goebel informed the group that there is no money in the parks CIP fund for a dog park but that it can always be changed with council direction. The possibility of purchasing the property from FedEx was brought up and Commissioner Charlesworth stated that they could lease it to the city for a dollar for hundred years. Director Goebel stated that FedEx already partners with us as they have adopted Long Lake Road and they clean it 3 or 4 times a year so he can see them partnering with the city in some aspect. Council Liaison Melander said she would be willing to reach out to FedEx as she has some contacts there as well. Director Goebel stated that this is a good rejuvenation of a project we've been discussing for a long time and if we have a group to help that is even better. Chair Lindberg stated that we'll discuss any new information at the March 15th meeting.
- d. **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 fit in the allowed space with the now known setback requirements at Gosiwin Park. The Commission members discussed at length all the information and feedback that was provided by our engineers who collectively have great concerns with a park so close to the road. Director Goebel stated that he has concerns as well but again the council has the final decision on whatever recommendation comes from the Parks Commission. Commissioner Charlesworth reminded everyone that they are an advisory body for the council and that we need to look to our engineers and other professionals in guiding us to help make decisions. Commissioner Thompson feels that most, if not all of her concerns and questions have been answered by the engineer's feedback. Chair Lindberg asked if the commission needs to make a motion, Director Goebel stated that a motion would be needed for the council.

Upon motion by Commissioner Charlesworth, seconded by Commissioner Metz, with all members voting in favor to recommend the City Council continue Gosiwin Park as green space per our 2017 Park System Plan.

NEXT PARK COMMISSION MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by, Commission Charlesworth; seconded by, Commissioner Metz, all members voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jeannie Novak

Jeannie Novak, PW Office Assistant