

**MAHTOMEDI PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES
AUGUST 16, 2023**

Chair Lindberg convened the Park Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16, 2023.

Present were Commissioners: Costello, Thompson, Strehlow and Metz

Also present were: PW Director, Bob Goebel

Absent: Council Liaison, Lilly Melander; Commissioner Fischer; Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Kate Andersen and PW Office Assistant, Jeannie Novak

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Upon motion by Commissioner Thompson; seconded by Commissioner Metz, all members voting in favor, the May 17, 2023 Park Commission meeting minutes were approved as presented.

STAFF REPORTS

Director Goebel gave a brief update on current public works activities. PW is starting to get very busy again. Our summer kids are getting ready to head back to college, they'll all be gone by the end of the month. Doing lots of grass cutting with all the rain, all the crosswalk painting is done, long line painting should be complete tomorrow, fog sealing is complete and the Reclamite sealing will be complete next Tuesday. **Construction Projects:** Juniper Street reconstruct is nearly complete, we're waiting on the wear course. Gosiwin Trail will be constructed in September, we were waiting on that cause of so many plantings that are going in. Lincolntown Ave. storm pond pipe project is happening currently. We are starting to get ready for next year's projects, we have a lot of mill and overlays happening. Also, a few reconstruct projects, a couple small pipe projects next year with the biggest one being CSAH 12 which is the final project to the east from the library all the way out. We're working on gathering all the information and data for all of those projects right now. **Parks:** The new park signs are being installed and painted and looking great, EAB is really bad. The pickleball courts will be painted and the nets put in next Wednesday and fence completed next Thursday, the asphalt had to cure for 30 days so that's what the holdup has been. **Utilities:** Just miscellaneous stuff happening in utilities.

Commissioner Thompson stated that the baskets look really good this year, Director Goebel stated that we changed them up a bit this year, they are only one flower versus two and we're fertilizing quite often. She also asked how the Hamline Lake portion of the Lake Links Trail got cleaned up, Director Goebel stated that was done in-house, just started clearing out the overhanging branches, a box elder that was about to fall and buckthorn. She stated that she loves the canopy and the bench, Director Goebel stated that other upgrades were done as well, new flower garden, the sign, the bench and we are looking at a memorial bench for a long term resident too. **Chair Lindberg** asked about the trail lights, Director Goebel stated that the trail lights are lit up now from dusk to dawn. He also asked about the sidewalk by Dairy Queen and Director Goebel stated that is in the County ROW, they are going to finish it and public works will maintain it.

STAFF REPORTS Con't

The reason for the delay is we are waiting for a change order to come through, during the CSAH 12 project we discovered that the sanitary sewer line is only about 18" deep, it was finally just approved and it is going to happen in October, they want to get the pipe in right away and get the trail completed and get the lift station in so we are optimistic that the trail will be open this year. Commissioner Thompson asked what is being built across from Wildwood School. Director Goebel stated that it is only a staging area for the gas line project that is going through there.

OPEN FORUM

Kate Andersen, Community Ed Director was not able to attend below is her update sent via email:

The district is beginning a Facilities Task force to investigate our facility needs throughout the district. The first meeting is August 23. The Task Force will be meeting from the end of August through the end of October, when the Task Force will make a recommendation to our School Board.

Community Ed is partnering with the City of Mahtomedi and Minnesota Sodding Comp to do some renovations of specific ball fields, both on City fields and school district fields.

Community Ed finished the Fall brochure and it should be arriving in homes soon. Online registration began August 2.

The district did a major reboot of our Website. Please go to [Mahtomedi Schools](#) to check out all the new information and highlights. With this website redesign, we also implemented a new branding look for the district. On the website you will see the new logo and different branding aspects.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Parks Budget** – Next year the playground will be replaced at Echo Lake Park. We have received a couple drawings already for what our budget can handle. As part of this project we will be replacing the pea rock within the structure with soft step wood fibers. Also, new benches and garbage cans is in the budget as well. There is a total of \$90,000 in the 2024 budget. Director Goebel stated that he has also been trying to get the dock replaced at the beach for many years and was approached by a council member who said this needs to be done. The old dock will be replaced with a new commercial, all-aluminum roll in dock that we can handle putting it in and out ourselves. We're looking at a 4' wide Shoremaster with several sets of wheels and will have stairs at the end and will be adjustable to the water height. In addition to the new dock we are going to repave the parking lot and repave the trails upgrading the beach area. The trail on the north end is in pretty poor condition with some tripping hazards that we need to paint out, we will raise that whole trail about a foot to make it more level and a brand new trail on top. **Vice Chair Costello** asked who we will buy the dock from and Director Goebel stated that we will have to go out for bids. **Chair Lindberg** asked where the money will come from and Director Goebel stated it will come from the building and equipment replacement fund.

NEW BUSINESS Con't.

In addition to the dock a bit of extra funds is available for the basketball court at Wedgewood Park to finally be painted. The budget for the YMCA at the beach is actually going to lower, we're going from 3 lifeguards down to 2 and no beach attendant. There is an option to add a third guard on real busy days. **Commissioner Metz** asked what the attendant did at the beach. Director Goebel stated that the attendant was brought in during Covid when only a certain number of people could be on the beach at time. The past couple years the attendants duty is to test everyone that goes in the water for being able to swim, which is a new policy of the YMCA.

- b. **Real Estate Sales** – Director Goebel stated that the real estate sales relates to the Parks Budget as well. The City owns a few properties that could possibly be sold in the future and the proceeds would be part of the Parks budget. Director Goebel also added that the water tower behind the high school is going to be painted, we will be going out for bids in October.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Update – Pickleball Courts** - The pickleball courts will be painted and the nets put in next Wednesday and fence completed next Thursday, the asphalt had to cure for 30 days so that's what the holdup has been. They should be open next week.
- b. **Update - Dog Park** – Director Goebel stated that the Fed Ex location has been turned down due to the wetland ordinance we have in place. Rob Bruner did send an email with a couple other possible locations, one is right here next to the Public Works parking lot and the other location would be on the west end of Southwest Park just west of Aaron's Playground, the area where it's open and wooded and up to the well house, which the biggest expense would be fencing around the whole area. **Commissioner Thompson** stated that it would be nice to keep it away from the playground. **Chair Lindberg** asked what in our wetland ordinance would've been violated. Director Goebel isn't positive about the actual violation that our City Engineer discussed but did state that there is a lot of wetland there and we would've had to fill some in for the trails and to get in to the higher ground. The City Engineer said it just would not be feasible. Director Goebel stated that there is another location that he has not brought up yet because I don't think he'd be open to it but down at the South side of 60th Street across from Southwest Park there's a very large parcel there that is already fenced in. Mr. Mulcahy owns that property and just don't think he'd be open to it. **Commission Thompson** suggested the Dwinnell Nature Area as a possible location. Director Goebel stated that the Dwinnell Nature Area was brought up today. **Commission Metz** asked if there is enough room for parking. **Chair Lindberg** stated that parking would be an issue, and said maybe the best place would be up off of Morgan. **Vice Chair Costello** agreed. Director Goebel said more brainstorming is needed and possible have the group come back to us with other location options.
- c. **Dwinnell Nature Area** – Director Goebel asked if everyone has done their homework. Commissioner Thompson stated that she hasn't walked it but did drive by. **Vice Chair Costello** said we should try to all walk it during the September meeting. **Chair Lindberg** said at some point we would need to ask the City Council to classify or designate it as a nature area. The commission members had a lengthy discussion as what they would like to see happen with this space. Director Goebel stated that he would find out from our City Administrator what the process would be for making this area permanent green space.

NEXT PARK COMMISSION MEETING

The next Park Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Public Works Facility.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by, Vice Chair Costello; seconded by, Commissioner Thompson, all members voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jeannie Novak

Jeannie Novak, PW Office Assistant