

**MAHTOMEDI PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

Chair Lindberg convened the Park Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2022.

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

Also present were: PW Director, Bob Goebel; PW Office Asst., Jeannie Novak, Council Liaison Lilly Melander, Mahtomedi Residents, Ian Harding, Terry Montanari, Ran Kluegel, Lilly Emery, John, Andrea, Evelyn and Ben Krueger

Absent: Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Strehlow and Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Kate Andersen

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Upon motion by Commissioner Charlesworth; seconded by Vice Chair Costello, all members voting in favor, the June 15, 2022 Park Commission meeting minutes were approved as presented.

STAFF REPORTS

Director Goebel gave a brief update on current public works activities. Spring pothole has been ongoing throughout the summer and residents are encouraged to call public works with pothole complaints. Street sweeping has been ongoing throughout the summer. Long line striping and pavement marking is complete. Hanging baskets and gardens have kept Natalie very busy maintaining those throughout the summer. **Commission Fischer** asked if the self-watering baskets were effective and **Director Goebel** stated that they were very effective, cut the watering time in half. He also stated that they are thinking about trying to grow wave petunias in house for next spring. **2022 Street Improvement Project** of Warner Ave. N./Maple St./Locust St. is nearly complete, just punch list items remain. **CSAH 12 West** is nearing completion with a greatly anticipated reopening. There is a drainage issue at Lincolntown so the sidewalk will have to be removed to install a drainage pipe and then replaced. **Parks & Trails** – Lifeguards are done at the beach, docks and buoys will be removed soon. Football and Lacrosse have taken over the fields. New flower beds are currently being installed around several park signs. Lake Links trail striping was completed today. With the recent rains the grass has started to grow and has kept the crew busy mowing the parks. **Utilities** – Hydrant flushing will begin October 3rd.

Chair Lindberg asked how things went at the beach this summer. **Director Goebel** stated that Councilmember Schneeweis relayed that the whole summer went very well, a lot more families, no complaints other than a loud radio from a lifeguard that was resolved quickly. Mahtomedi resident, Ian Harding stated that more 20 mph signs, sharrows and share the road signs have contributed to more families getting to the beach safely. **Director Goebel** stated that the ballard lights on the trail should be on by Thanksgiving.

OPEN FORUM

Kate Andersen, Community Ed Director sent the following update via email as she was not able to attend.

Here is my update:

1. We are waiting for the City to vote on Wed., Sept 21 to approve our move to an electric sign out front at the DEC.
2. Our CE classes are bursting in all areas, so much so that we have had to add additional sections of certain things.
3. On Monday Sept 26 we are hosting Kate DiCamillo, local MN author to present at our annual MahtoREADi event. We have over 270 registrations so far.
4. Our Safe Routes to School Planning committee is in full swing as we are currently collecting data on where the problem areas are, where do students live pinged on a map, and gathering travel tally's of how students get to school. Once this data is collected we will then move into a larger planning meeting with our MnDOT consultants and our committee members to work on devising a "grand" plan.

Council Liaison Melander briefed the commission on things going on at City Hall, she stated that the proposed budget was approved at last night's City Council meeting and the process moves forward with final approval in early December. She also discussed the Metro Purple Line and said City Council member Schlegel was appointed to the Metro Purple Line Corridor Committee as a representative for Mahtomedi and she was appointed to be the alternate representative for Mahtomedi on the Metro Purple Line Corridor Committee. She also stated that this is in the very preliminary stages and that it is not for certain that there will be a stop here in Mahtomedi, there will be plenty of opportunities for residents to speak on behalf or against it.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Gosiwin Park Playground** – Mahtomedi resident, John Krueger, 670 Gosiwin Avenue gave a very lengthy presentation to the commission regarding a playground at Gosiwin Park. **Director Goebel** stated that he has brought this concept to the City Council and Finance Director and they think it's a great idea but have concerns that Gosiwin Park may be too small for a playground and asked if Glendale Park could be considered as it is a larger park. After much input from the Commission members, present residents and Council Liaison Melander it was decided to table this item until the October 19th meeting so the Commission members could have the opportunity to walk both parks and bring their input back to the next meeting. **Director Goebel** will talk to the parks planner to see if this is even feasible and will check into demographics around certain parks including Gosiwin and Sheriff calls within a certain radius to Gosiwin Park and other parks.
- b. **Parks Capital Improvement Plan (Trail Improvements)** – Ian Harding, Mahtomedi Resident and MAGI Volunteer gave a lengthy presentation of the bike, walk and roll gaps/opportunities in the City. Director Goebel asked the Commission members to look at this Parks & Trails Map and the corresponding pages outlining where needs are within the City and to prioritize what projects to complete by the October 19th meeting so as to get them listed in the Parks CIP for next year and beyond. The Commission members thanked Mr. Harding for all his hard work putting together the Parks & Trails map.

NEW BUSINESS Con't.

- c. **Pickleball Courts – Director Goebel** stated that we had minimal money in the CIP Parks plan for 2023 and that we had set aside only \$20,000 for improvements such as benches, garbage cans etc. We do transfer \$150,000 a year into the park fund to keep up with planning for the future. In 2024 our plan is to replace the Echo Lake playground, that's a \$70,000 playground and by that time the cost will be more. Every year we've been setting aside \$20,000 for improvements but for 2023 we decided to eliminate the improvements and put \$100,000 into the fund to build a pickleball court at Wedgewood Park. Director Goebel stated that there is not room at Wedgewood Park for four pickleball courts so it was decided that two is better than none as this is an upcoming sport that a lot of people are playing.

Commissioner Charlesworth asked if one pickleball court costs \$100,000 and **Director Goebel** stated that would be the cost for two pickleball courts. He then asked if there was a way to add a sand volleyball court adjacent to the location of the pickleball courts, Director Goebel stated he can find out if there is room for that, he also stated that there is a sand volleyball court at Wildwood Park.

After some discussion regarding other possible locations to build additional courts in the future the Commission members are in support of building two pickleball courts at Wedgewood Park between the basketball courts and the building.

Upon motion by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Vice Chair Costello, all members voting in favor to recommend the City Council approve two pickleball courts at Wedgewood Park.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Dwinnell Nature Walk** – The Commission members decided that each would walk this area on their own time and write suggestions and ideas down and bring those ideas back to the October 19th Meeting. Director Goebel stated that he will put a map together of the area so the Commission will know what is City property and where the locations are that could be improved.

NEXT PARK COMMISSION MEETING

The next Park Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at Public Works Facility.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by, Commissioner Metz; seconded by, Vice Chair Costello, all members voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jeannie Novak

Jeannie Novak, PW Office Assistant