

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

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

Present were Commissioners: Costello, Thompson, Fischer and Metz

Also present were: PW Director, Bob Goebel; PW Office Assistant, Jeannie Novak; Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Kate Andersen and Mahtomedi Residents Cindy Rasmussen, Katie Macke, Lindsay Buck, Becky Anderson, Keri Bloyer, Heidi and Tony Bennett

Absent: Council Liaison, Lilly Melander; Commissioner Strehlow

**AGENDA**

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

**MINUTES**

Upon motion by Commissioner Metz; seconded by Vice-Chair Costello, all members voting in favor, the September 20, 2023 Park Commission meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Director Goebel** gave a brief update on current public works activities. PW will begin street sweeping next week, pothole patching is ongoing, hydrants are currently being flushed, closing up the parks and bathrooms have begun with the exception of Wedgewood due to the pickleball courts. The flower pots have been taken down. **Construction Projects:** Next summer will be busy with mill and overlays.

**Commission Fischer** asked about holiday lights for downtown, Director Goebel stated there is not money in the budget for this year, possibly in 2025. The lighted sailboat will be back this year and possibly more lights could be added to the trees in Veterans Memorial Park.

**Chair Lindberg** noticed that the dock is gone at the beach and that Gosiwin Trail looks great except for a broken piece of concrete. Director Goebel stated that the dock is just sitting on the beach for now and that the new dock is in the budget for next year. He also stated the contractor is aware of the broken concrete and it will be repaired.

**OPEN FORUM**

**Kate Andersen, Community Ed Director** Safe Routes to School held a walk to school day at the middle school on October 4<sup>th</sup> and very few people showed up and on October 5<sup>th</sup> the walk to OH Anderson had about 50 people show up. The Washington County project is going to start in the spring, Director Goebel stated that it will be after school ends for the summer.

The task force has one more meeting before they bring the facilities audit findings to the school board. Boys soccer is going to State and 9<sup>th</sup> grade football has an undefeated season. A new DECA program has started at the high school.

### NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Streetcar Park Improvements** – Mahtomedi Resident and founder of the Mahtomedi Parks and Trails Stewards held a lengthy discussion regarding improving Streetcar Park. They would like to see all the dead trees removed, remaining trees trimmed, low-impact nature play area, invasive species removed, picnic area with additional tables, drinking fountain, porta-potty, history of the park sign, wayfinding signage and a wildflower area as a children’s pollinator garden. **Director Goebel** stated that there is not money in the budget for improvements at this time. A natural playground is worrisome, will have to consult our City Attorney, the drinking fountain will cost around \$10,000 possibly Lake Links Association would contribute. **Kate Andersen** suggested a grant from the Mahtomedi Garden Club for the wildflower area. Director Goebel also stated that we could easily have a porta-potty placed and add picnic tables. **Commissioner Thompson** brought up concerns with the drug and alcohol rehab so close. **Vice-Chair Costello** stated that with the trees cut and trimmed it would change the whole natural look of the park. Would the trees be replaced? **Chair Lindberg** suggested only the dead trees be removed, Director Goebel stated that we prefer to keep some dead trees for wildlife, Chair Lindberg stated that it could be walked and mark the dead trees to remove. The commission members are supportive of the suggested improvements and asked the presenters to maybe consult with the Lake Links Association and come back to a future meeting with more information.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Update – Dwinnell Nature Area** - After a brief discussion about what should be done with this area it was decided that the commission members would come up with a master plan of what they would like to see and Candace Amberg, Landscape Architect, would help put this plan together and then the City Council would have to vote on it.

### NEXT PARK COMMISSION MEETING

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

### ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

*Jeannie Novak*

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Jeannie Novak, PW Office Assistant