

**MAHTOMEDI PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2022**

Chair Lindberg convened the Park Commission meeting, held telephonically at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

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

Also present were: PW Director, Bob Goebel; Council Liaison Melander; Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Kate Anderson and Mahtomedi Resident, Jeff Charlesworth

Absent: Commissioner Metz; PW Office Assistant, Jeannie Novak

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Upon motion by Vice Chair Costello; seconded by Commissioner Fischer, all members voting in favor, the November 17, 2021 Park Commission meeting minutes were approved as presented.

STAFF REPORTS

Director Goebel gave a brief update on current public works activities. **Street Maintenance** – Public Works Crew have plowed about 15 times so far and used around 113 tons of salt which is about average. We've cleared all the trails many times. The snow piles in downtown have been removed twice. Brine making is ongoing, we have a lot of other cities getting their brine from us. Vehicle maintenance and repairs have kept our mechanic very busy. **2022 Construction Projects** – We are preparing for the upcoming construction projects. We have the Warner Avenue project coming up, that will be a mill and overlay from Stillwater Road to Maple Street. It will also include a reconstruct of Maple Street including a sidewalk on the south side and reconstruction of Locust Street between Warner and Mahtomedi Avenue. We also have a couple small stormwater projects, one is along Lincolntown Avenue to drain the ponds that are near the Lakeside Club without having to pump them. The other is the Greenwood Avenue ditch directly north of City Hall, we're going to stabilize the banks and make sure there is no more erosion going on. **Parks & Trails: Skating Party**-The skating party is coming up this weekend. **Mahtomedi Beach** – The beach access is open and there have been a lot of ice fisherman using it and we have not had any complaints. **Electric Vehicle Charging Station** is up and running at Veterans Memorial Park. **Utilities** – We have less than 30 new meter installs left, so nearly complete. This has been a long project.

Director Goebel introduced Lilly Melander, she is a new City Council member and is now the Park Commission Liaison.

Commission Fischer asked what does draining the ponds by Lincolntown Avenue mean. **Director Goebel** stated that in the last couple years we've had to pump those ponds down quite a bit. An engineering project was designed to drain those ponds using gravity. Both those ponds get quite high and water flows over the road and encroaches on homes so this project will prevent those things from happening in the future. **Chair Lindberg** asked where the ponds drain to and **Director Goebel** stated they eventually will drain to White Bear Lake. They will drain to the Lakeside pond to the north, to the two ponds adjacent to the trail, from there they to the pond north of Forest Trail and then into Lost

STAFF REPORTS Con't

Lake which drains into White Bear Lake. Chair Lindberg also asked if they're spring fed and Director Goebel stated that they are land locked and there is no place for the stormwater runoff to go.

Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Kate Anderson asked about the lake water level and what impact that would have on the upcoming summer and do you foresee that looking a little better with the snow. Director Goebel stated no, not at all, the last he heard was the level is still below what the White Bear Lake Conservation District or the DNR gave us so I don't think there will be any irrigation happening this spring.

OPEN FORUM

Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Kate Anderson stated that three grants were submitted for Safe Routes to School. One is for the access trail into the middle school and high school, the second is the BOOST grant for safety vests and crosswalks, and the third is for developing a new Safe Routes to School plan (SRTS Grant). She also stated that they finally hired a new groundskeeper, it used to be Adam but he has taken over for Julie Osterbauer, who retired. The new groundskeeper is Caleb, a Mahtomedi Resident and Graduate of Mahtomedi High School, he will be starting at the beginning of February. Also, Community Ed is looking to help support some improvements within the district. There's a couple fields at the District Ed Center where the AgLime is really low, so we're going to partner with Comstock to do some repairs. Some new gates were installed at the middle school to help prohibit people using our fields during the school year to not go up to the second level because of some vandalism. Adam is working on fixing the batting screen behind the baseball fields. She also stated that she has solidified our first concert in the park, June 16th we're going to do a family/community at Wedgewood Park, and the band is Tina and the Toonies. We are looking to have another concert sometime in July. Food Truck Fridays are back, the first Friday is in April and it will be Kirkwood BBQ and Brick Oven Bus which is pizzas.

Director Goebel said he forgot mention that he is also working with Community Ed and the baseball association to do some improvements at Wildwood Park to put some dugout covers in.

Chair Lindberg Introduced Council Liaison Lilly Melander – The Commission members each introduced themselves to our new Council Liaison, Lilly Melander. Council Liaison Melander gave the Commission members a brief introduction and background on herself.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **5 Year CIP** – Director Goebel informed the Commission that the budget was approved at the December 7th City Council meeting that included a 5 year capital improvement plan that includes quite a few improvements for the parks. The first is the Dahlia Street trail extension coming from Dahlia Street down Gosiwin Cul de sac, another one is a trail extension from streetcar trail to Four Seasons, not sure if that one is going to happen this year or not, still up in the air. All 5 years there is money set aside for replacing infrastructure, garbage cans, benches, bike racks, whatever needs arise.

NEW BUSINESS Con't.

In 2024 we plan to replace the playground at Echo Lake, 2025 is a big year, that's the Safe Routes to School plan which includes the trail adjacent to Warner from OH Anderson down to Bevins Lane and also the sidewalk from Warner to Glenmar, 2026 is slated for a new floating boardwalk at Katherine Abbott, we have a placeholder in place, we're still trying actively seek grants to help us on the purchase of that and I did get word that if we do find a grant and we're awarded it early we may be able to buy the boardwalk early as well, I'm working on that one as we speak. **Chair Lindberg** asked if the Dahlia Street trail extension is the little piece between the cul-de-sac and Dahlia. **Director Goebel** stated that is correct, from the cul-de-sac to Dahlia there will be a concrete trail that will meander, it won't be straight, and it will be 6 feet wide with some vegetation, some trees and some plantings so no cars are able to drive through there. **Chair Lindberg** asked if there would be a connection up Dahlia and **Director Goebel** stated at this point there will be no connection up Dahlia to East Avenue. **Chair Lindberg** asked if there is still interest in that from the council and **Director Goebel** stated he doesn't get that feeling so not at this time.

- b. Park Commission Applications** – Director Goebel informed Commissioner Thompson and Commissioner Strehlow that if they would like to continue on the Park Commission that Scott Neilson needs their application by March 1st.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Skating Party – Sunday, January 23, 2022 – **Director Goebel** held a discussion regarding volunteers to set up, work and clean up at the skating party. **Vice Chair Costello** asked about masks and nametags. Director Goebel said masks are required as it's a public building and we will get nametags for everyone. Details for the skating party are as follows:

Arrive at 11:30 AM to allow time for setting up.

12 PM – 3 PM: Charlie, Lilly, Anna

12 PM – 1 PM: Jessie & Adam

2:30 PM – 3 PM: Stacey

Lilly will pick up the coffee from the Wild Bean at 11:45 AM

Jessie will cook and bring the hotdogs

Ross has arranged for Dominoes to deliver the pizzas

NEXT PARK COMMISSION MEETING

The next Park Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at Public Works Facility.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by, Commissioner Thompson; seconded by, Commissioner Fischer, all members voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Bob Goebel

Bob Goebel, PW Director