

**MAHTOMEDI PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2022**

Chair Lindberg convened the Park Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

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

Also present were: PW Director, Bob Goebel; Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Kate Anderson and PW Office Assistant, Jeannie Novak

Absent: Commissioner Thompson and Council Liaison Melander

AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner Charlesworth; seconded by Commissioner Fischer, 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 January 19, 2022 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 been very busy trying to control water with the quick snow melt. Stormwater samples were taken today, we do this every year to test for gas, oil and other chemicals in the snow. We're gearing up for spring, hydrant flushing and street sweeping will begin in early to mid-April. **2022 Construction Projects** – We are preparing for the upcoming construction projects. **Warner Avenue from Stillwater Road to Maple Street** will have the top layer of blacktop removed and repaved. The trail that abuts Warner Avenue will also be removed and replaced as part of this project. **Maple Street and Locust Street between Mahtomedi Avenue and Warner Avenue** will be reconstructed with new curbing and blacktop surfacing. A new concrete sidewalk will be installed along the south side of **Maple Street**. The intersection of **Forest Street, Maple Street and Mahtomedi Avenue** will also be realigned to make it safer for pedestrians and the vehicles. The **Maple Street and Locust Street** projects will temporarily close the Streetcar Trail at these street crossings. Detour routes for the trail will be posted at the sites. **Wildwood Road (CSAH 12)** from Century Avenue to Veterans Memorial Park will be reconstructed by Washington County in 2022. Expect new replacement curbing, sidewalks, trails and paving throughout the project. The County will be adding a traffic signal at **Wedgewood Drive and Wildwood Road** as a safety enhancement for pedestrians and motorists. Other pedestrian and bicycle enhancements will be occurring throughout the corridor also. There will be periodic closures of this segment so pay attention to the detour signage. The City will be making storm sewer improvements along **Lincolntown Avenue near Old Wildwood Road** in order to solve ongoing flooding problems related to the adjacent ponds. The City will be constructing a concrete sidewalk from the end of **Gosiwin Avenue to Dahlia Street** complete with landscaping. Several sanitary sewers in the City will be cleaned, televised and relined. This should cause little to no disruption of your daily activities due to this maintenance work. Lastly, the City will be **fog sealing, crack filling and restriping** several roads in the City as part of an annual street maintenance program. This will only cause an inconvenience on the day the sealing occurs. They'll be using Reclamite, similar to fog seal only it soaks into the asphalt. **Parks & Trails:** Park signs will be complete this year. **Mahtomedi Beach** – The beach access has been great this year and we have had zero complaints.

STAFF REPORTS Con't

Utilities – We have about 16 new meter installs left, so nearly complete. This has been a long project.

Commission Fischer asked if the 244 and Warner Ave project will be at the same time. **Director Goebel** stated that the 244 project will be early June and Warner Ave will probably occur at the same time.

OPEN FORUM

Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Kate Anderson stated that OH Anderson is going to have some major construction going on, new air conditioning, and boiler, there will be no fields this summer and no child care. The child care will be moved to the DEC for the summer. She also stated that they were awarded one of the three grants that were submitted for Safe Routes to School. They received the grant (SRTS) for developing a new Safe Routes to School plan. The summer brochure has been mailed and they've gotten a lot of registrations in the first week. Also, Community Ed is looking to help support some improvements within the district. Still trying to work out repairing the fields at the District Ed Center where the AgLime is really low, and trying to partner with Comstock for these repairs. Reminder that Food Truck Fridays are back, the first Friday is in April.

Director Goebel said he is also working with Community Ed to re-do the fields at the DEC and the baseball association to get dugout covers installed at Wildwood Park.

Commissioner Charlesworth asked about cleaning up the fire house at Warner & Iris. It's so hard for everyone who walks by it. **Director Goebel** stated that the cleanup is delayed by an on-going investigation.

Chair Lindberg asked about the lake access and is it a possibility or even worth asking about the St. Germain's access at the end of Echo. Could we possibly ask for a trial next year to see how it goes and if all goes well maybe it could become another access.

Commissioner Fischer asked about more lighting on the trees at Veterans Memorial Park during the holidays. Director Goebel stated that could be a possibility and asked Fischer to maybe check into different options and costs. Director Goebel also asked the commission members what they thought of the sailboat and if they think the City should allow it again for this upcoming holiday season. The Park Commission members all agreed that it looked really nice, maybe could use more lights and are receptive to having it in the park again.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Lake Links Trail Update** – Director Goebel said four years ago the City received grant money to design and construct its portion of the Lake Links Trail, which is now complete. White Bear Lake, Birchwood and Dellwood are still working on their portions of the trail. The City has funds available for additional improvements that must be spent by December 31, 2022. Director Goebel said they are proposing to install sharrows, additional speed limit signs, "Share the Road" signs, lighting in the vicinity of the covered bridge and Quail Trail crossing, and concrete pads for benches and information kiosks. He said pending legislative approval, the City has agreed to transfer \$70,000 to the City of Birchwood for their work on the trail.

- b. **Skating Party** – **Chair Lindberg** gave a brief update on the skating party. He felt that this year was the lowest turnout than years past, maybe 100 people, could be due to the cold weather and no horse carriage rides. **Vice Chair Costello** stated that the roof is leaking in kitchen of the concession building and maybe we could have some signs made stating that all the food and drinks are free.

NEXT PARK COMMISSION MEETING

The next Park Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at Public Works Facility.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by, Commissioner Metz; seconded by, Commissioner Fischer, all members voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jeannie Novak

Jeannie Novak, PW Office Assistant