

**MAHTOMEDI PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 16, 2019**

A Park Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Public Works.

Present were Commissioners: Chair Charlesworth, Vice Chair Eldredge, Commissioner Metz and Commissioner Lindberg

Also present were: PW Director, Bob Goebel; PW Office Asst., Jeannie Novak; Council Liaison Deans; Mahtomedi Community Ed Director, Cathy Wyland; Mahtomedi Residents, Craig and Becky Markovitz

Absent: Commissioner Fischer

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Upon motion by Commissioner Lindberg, seconded by Commissioner Metz, all members voting in favor, the November 14, 2018 Park Commission meeting minutes were approved as presented.

STAFF REPORTS

Director Goebel gave a brief update on current public works activities.

Plowing/Salting: We only used 25 tons of salt in December, that is 1/3 less than last year. The crew was on the roads 11 different occasions in December. The ice has been a challenge this year. We have been busy producing Brine for snow and ice control. Due to lack of snow, the crew is doing a lot of building organizing, such as files. Mowers and sweeper are being serviced for summer. We are receiving a new 96" Toro mower that is more efficient and is replacing a stand up mower that has been declared a "lemon".

2019 Street Reconstruction Projects: 90% of the plans are complete and bidding will begin in February. All the trails will be done in Echo Lake. Streetcar Trail will be resurfaced.

CSAH 12: Plans and specs should be complete shortly for construction to begin in April.

Parks & Trails: Crews have been busy cleaning and maintaining the trails this winter.

Utilities: The new water meter installation project is ongoing, as of today we have installed around 1150. We are hiring a new employee in mid-February, who will be cross trained in all departments but utilities will be a priority.

OPEN FORUM

Community Ed Director, Cathy Wyland stated that the Winter-Spring brochure is out and they are currently working on the summer brochure. There will be exterior school building projects this summer that are long term maintenance and being done with funds from the state. Also, an inventory of all their outside benches is being done. She also stated that the City of Grant did not have a quorum at their January meeting so nothing was discussed about the Hockey Rink II, she did inform the group that the committee will need to raise enough funds to build it and tear it down if it's not successful and that the school district will not be managing it.

Council Liaison Deans stated that nothing much is going on with the Council, just taking care of business at hand. Still working on resolving the lawsuit over the tear out of the trail at Pineview Ct. He also stated that Echo Shores Trail will be getting bat houses as part of a 916 project.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Playground Donation SW Park** – Mahtomedi Residents, Craig & Becky Markovitz gave a brief presentation to the Commission and asked for their support for a new, larger playground at Southwest Park in memory of their son, Aaron. The Markovitz's have a website, www.aaronsplayground.org, a Facebook page and a GoFundMe account that will be live next week. They are confident they will be able to raise \$50,000 to \$100,000 to complete this project. The Commission discussed making a motion to ask the Council for their support and also directed the Markovitz's to the Greater White Bear Lake Community Foundation who will help them with their fundraising effort.

Upon motion by, Chair Charlesworth, seconded by, Vice Chair Eldredge, all members voting in favor, to recommend the City Council support the Markovitz's venture and proceed with their fundraising effort for Aaron's Playground at Southwest Park.

PW Director Goebel also suggested the Markovitz's may want to put together a small presentation for the Council and present it at their February 19th council meeting.

- b. Skating Party** – Was held on Sunday, January 13, 2019 - 12 pm - 3 pm
Commissioner Metz stated that it was very well attended as did Commissioner Lindberg. The weather was perfect for the event and estimated around 300 people overall attended. All the hotdogs, chips, cookies and 11 pizzas were gone, no leftovers, which is probably a first. Director Goebel stated that moving the fire ring closer to the rinks was a great idea and more people were able to sit, enjoy the fire and watch their kids skate. And last but not least the Hay wagon horse ride is a huge success and draw every year and this year was no exception. Chair Charlesworth stated that the cost for this feature has risen quite a bit and we have lost our funding so we may have to start to ask for donations again for next year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- b. Update - Katherine Abbott Invasives**
Director Goebel gave a brief update regarding invasives, he stated that all the Honeysuckle was cut and then burned by STS. He also stated that he plans to write and submit a grant to the DNR to hopefully fund the floating boardwalk in KA Park.
- c. Update - Parks Master Plan**
Neighborhood Meeting Scheduled for Pheasant Run & Hallam Parks – A letter was sent to residents in close proximity to Hallam Park and Pheasant Run Park inviting them to a brain storming discussion open house to get input about what they would like to see in both of these parks. Hallam Park meeting is at 6:30 pm and Pheasant Run is at 7:30 pm on January 24, 2019 at City Hall.

NEXT PARK COMMISSION MEETING

The next Park Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Works Facility.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jeannie Novak

Jeannie Novak, PW Office Asst.