



**MINUTES
PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024
6:30 P.M. AT JACK YOST PARK
AT 1856 FLORENCE STREET**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chair Bill Ganzlin called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bryan Belisle, Victoria Biehn, Mark Cermak, Ginny Davis Bill Ganzlin, and Mike Shepard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anastacia Davis

STAFF PRESENT: Andy Wietecki, Parks Working Foreman; Paul Kauppi, Public Works Director/City Engineer

VISITORS PRESENT:

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by member **Ginny Davis** seconded by member **Mike Shepard**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried, 6:0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of April 18, 2024

It was moved by member **Bryan Belisle** seconded by member **Mark Cermak**, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2024 meeting.

Motion carried, 6:0.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nothing Scheduled

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing Scheduled

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Arbor Day Planting

The Park Advisory Commission will be planting 3 Quaking Aspen, 2 Kentucky Coffee Trees and 3 Grey Dog Wood shrubs in a wooded area that the City has spent time over the winter removing invasive Buckthorn trees. Now that the invasive species have been removed, the City wants to establish some new understory trees and shrubs to diversify the tree stock in this area.

Andy gave a quick refresher with the Commission on proper tree planting procedures including finding the tap root so the tree is planted at the correct depth, how to box cut the root ball to eliminate the chance of having encircling roots, and the proper way to mulch around the base of the tree without having too much mulch on the tree stem. The Commission dug out the areas that were pre-drilled by the Parks Department and planted the new trees and shrubs.

7. DISCUSSION

A. Staff updates

a. Park Advisory Commission Inspections

Andy Wietecki reminded the Commission that the inspections need to be completed before next month's meeting. Please e-mail your reports a week before the meeting to be included in the agenda packet for the June 20th meeting. Paul Kauppi suggested that they look not only at current conditions of the parks but also look for future amenity opportunities. If possible, Paul encouraged the Commission to talk with park users to get their thoughts and find out what they enjoy and what can be improved and/or added to the park.

b. Graffiti/Vandalism

Andy updated the Commission that the City has had a major issue this year with graffiti in City restrooms and playgrounds. He mentioned that the Parks Department is tasked to remove graffiti and paint the areas daily which is taking them away from other important tasks. Andy and Paul updated the Commission on some internal conversations that have taken place. The City will be closing park restrooms at 6:00 pm instead of the normal time at 9:00 pm. Andy mentioned that the early closure has helped the situation but if the problem continues, the City will look at possibly closing the parks even earlier.

c. Marina Update

Andy Wietecki updated the Commission on the Marina. The Marina officially opened on May 9th – the earliest in a few years despite the ice damage that occurred to the stairs and ramp. Andy mentioned that the only big change with the Marina this year is adding security gates to docks A-E to minimize the vandalism and issues happening on private boats. The gates should be installed in early to mid-June.

B. Commission member updates

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, it was moved by member **Bill Ganzlin** seconded by member **Victoria Biehn** to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Motion carried, 6:0