



Approved

Park Commission

**Regular Meeting
February 8, 2024
Minutes**

Guests: Mary Jo Wiatrak

Absent: Nicki Battles

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30pm

1. Commissioner Olinger called the meeting to order.

1a. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1b. Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance were Dan Lydon, Julie Kochevar, Nathan Stackhouse, Kaylen Olinger and Dan Charpentier. Bill Mack via Zoom and Park Superintendent Doris Zacho was in attendance.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA: February 8, 2024.**

Commissioner Olinger asked if there were any additions to the February 8th agenda. Zacho would like to add **8a5**. Reforestation Paradise Park and Moberg Park as an action item. Commissioner Kochevar made a motion to approve the agenda with that addition; Commissioner Lydon seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

3. **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: January 11th, 2023.**

Commissioner Charpentier made a motion to approve the consent agenda for January 11th, 2023; Commissioner Kochevar seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mary Jo Wiatrak spoke about the National Park Service-Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (NPS-RTCA). The program offers a variety of free planning and landscape architecture services and assistance to local communities on locally led and initiated conservation and outdoor recreation projects. She has offered to help Zacho with the program application.

5. COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS AND PETITION

5a. City Council Liaison Report

5b. Parks Superintendent Report

Zacho is helping with the Celebration of the Lakes planning, most events will be held at local businesses and Chuckie Lundquist Park. Fireworks are Saturday night at Paradise Park. Strom Hall will host the movie night Friday night, reservations are needed. A couple new signs will be ordered to replace the old green ones for Ojiketa. Zach is working with vendors on some new slides for Paradise Park. A new bar was purchased for Strom Hall, the old one will be used in Zonta. The porch/bar area in Zonta will get new flooring prior to the bar being installed. Charpentier has a contract with a distributor and would be willing to get samples.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8a. 2024 Priority List

1. Ojiketa Park: Concept Plan & Lighting Needs

2. Rotary Park: Path & Overlook

On the 21st and 28th of March Mack will be attending a grant writing seminar which will allow him to start pursuing a Rotary grant for the project. The grant application is due in June. Mack is working with Mickelson Landscaping to get project drawings done. This grant would be for the path portion of the project.

3. Girl Scout Projects: Chuckie Lundquist & Bug Houses

4. Bike Loop Map

5. Reforestation: Paradise Park & Moberg Park

Zacho has received two quotes from Wild River Tree Service for a forestry plan and submitted them to the commission. The quotes are for Paradise Park and Moberg Park to develop a long-term maintenance and management plan for the next 20 years. Moberg is \$1600.00 and Paradise Park is \$3000.00. Zacho is asking commissioners for approval of the quotes and money to come out of the park dedication fees.

Commissioner Kochevar made a motion to approve the quotes from Wild River Tree Service, funds will be used from the park dedication fees. Commissioner Stackhouse seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

Lydon asked about becoming a tree city, Zacho asked what the incentive was. Kochevar looked up the requirements and commission discussed.

6. Lake Avenue Access-Paddle Club

Mack has an appointment set up on March 18th with Cassy Seil from the county soil and water department, she can look at designing the lakeshore landing. The objectives of the project are erosion control, access for non-motorized kayaks and canoes but preventing boat launching, and winter access.

7. Hard Surface for Ice Rink-Asphalt Pickle Ball Court

Funding has been on hold with the possibility of the Ojiketa Trail. The rink location with the boards will be ideal.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Fishing Pier Dock for Paradise Park

Marine Dock and Lift supplied Zacho with a quote for a new fishing pier dock to be installed at Paradise Park. This would be the same style as what is located at the Little Green landing. This would be beneficial to the park and could be installed this May if approved. The path to the dock will need to be replaced, this will all be ADA compliant. Park dedication fees would be used.

Commissioner Kochevar made a motion to accept the Marine Dock and Lift quote for a new fishing pier at Paradise Park, the quote is for \$19,413.00. Commissioner Lydon seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

9b. Ojiketa-Trail System

City Administrator Pechman and City Engineers Bolten and Menk applied for a grant from the Minnesota DNR to extend the trail system along Old Towne Road near the roundabout extending into Ojiketa Regional Park. The grant was approved, it was a match for \$250,000. The process of collection data and costs moved forward. During this process, the trail system throughout Ojiketa became a concern, with the cost accruing over the allotted budget expectations and concerns of the impact it would have throughout the forest. The DNR did not accept an archeological study from the past purchase of the park and wanted the city to submit another one at a cost of over \$30,000. Zacho is uncomfortable with the costs that are accruing with this project which are now estimated over \$341,000 not including the grant money. Charpentier asked if the Commission rejects the trail into the park will it still be completed through the roundabout, this is something that would go to the city council to see if it can be pursued. The commission discussed if the trail could be completed down Old Towne Road stopping at the old entrance to the park. Commission also discussed the park and trail fees and how they are established.

Lydon made a motion to approve extending the trail system from 279th St. East to the roundabout and continue down Old Towne Road, into the old entrance to the park. There it would meet up with the gravel existing trail and not proceed into the park. Commissioner Charpentier seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Charpentier made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Lydon seconded; the meeting unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alisa Bodell
Executive Assistant