



**Approved**

## Park Commission

**Regular Meeting  
January 9, 2025  
Minutes**

**Guests:** Bill & Mandy Hansel

**Absent:** Niki 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 Kaylen Olinger, Bill Mack, Nate Stackhouse, Dan Lydon, Dan Charpentier, Julie Kochevar and MaryJo Wiatrak Parks Superintendent Doris Zacho was present.
2. **APPROVE AGENDA: January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**  
Commissioner Olinger asked if there were any additions to the January 9<sup>th</sup> agenda. Commissioner Kochevar made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Charpentier seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.
3. **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: November 14, 2024.**  
Commissioner Olinger made a motion to approve the consent agenda for November 14, 2024; Commissioner Kochevar seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
5. **COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS AND PETITION**
  - 5a. **City Council Liaison Report- Nikki Battles was not present**
  - 5b. **Parks Superintendent Report**  
Zacho stated that there are two new RFP (Request for Proposal) for the lawncare contract that are being distributed one for the parks and the other for public works. She has been working on putting that RFP together. The proposals

have been sent out to interested contractors. Gloria West from Dutrirun has made a \$5000.00 donation to Paradise Park. She was apologetic that she could not give the original amount of \$10,000 that she had promised. Another \$5000 was donated to the Rotary Park Peace Project from Kevin and Kathy Krivida. The lighting festival was well attended, and the volunteer party was a success.

Zacho has hired two new rink attendants and Jack has come back during his J-term from college and is working for the month, they are all working on getting the new surface flooded. Zacho is working on some projects for Ojiketa, there are roofs that need to be replaced, she is working on budget numbers to see what projects can be accomplished this year. Zacho ordered signage for the parks and trail systems prohibiting ATV's and UTV's. Movie in the park as part of the Celebration of the Lakes will take place on Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> at Strom Hall. Zacho is planning the 2025 Ki-Chi-Saga days celebration, contacting bands and getting vendor and parade information updated. Dates are August 14-17. Zacho has purchased maintenance logbooks for the buildings at Ojiketa and is getting information entered.

## **6. PUBLIC HEARING**

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7a. Expiring Terms- Dan Lydon and Bill Mack**

Commissioners Lydon and Mack would like to stay on the park commission for another term.

### **7b. Appoint Officers**

Commissioner Stackhouse made a motion to nominate Kaylen Olinger as the Park Commission Chair; Commissioner Lydon seconded the motion; all ayes the motion was approved. Commissioner Kochevar made a motion to nominate Dan Charpentier as the Park Commission Co-Chair; Commissioner Wiatrak seconded the motion; all ayes the motion was approved. Commissioner Kochevar made a motion to nominate Nate Stackhouse at the Park Commission Secretary; Commissioner Mack seconded the motion; all ayes the motion was approved.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **8a. 2024 Priority List**

#### **1. Ojiketa Park:**

Zacho is planning on meeting with the Finance Director regarding the budget and will update commission next month. There are two roofs that need to be replaced, along with some flooring and cabinet work in a couple cabins.

## **2. Rotary Park: Path & Overlook**

Mack presented the commission with an example of the peace poles and let the commission know that there could be around 25 poles created. That might be too many for the park, if so, the rotary could create another peace pole garden along the Swedish Immigrant Trail. Mack spoke with Matt Silver from the Chisago County Press and some publications will start in March regarding the peace poles and trail, and a dedication will hopefully be in the Spring. Mack spoke about the donation from the Kirvida's for the project and in what ways that money could be used for the project. Some ideas from the Rotary Club are Serenity Benches, Lake Access, Observation Deck, or extensive landscaping around the peace poles. Charpentier asked if the Kirvida's would like some input in what the money is used for. Zacho would like the donation to be used for the landscaping around the poles and signage. She would like to have the landscaping done in a way that accents and protects the pole garden. Commissioners discussed what options they were fond of. Commission agreed on benches and landscaping.

## **3. Lake Avenue Access**

Zacho talked to Administrator Pechman and Superintendent Lind at a manager meeting and mentioned that she really wanted them to keep it on a priority list for street maintenance. She will continue to bring it to their attention.

## **4. Old Towne Trail**

Zacho met with the engineers, everything looks good, budget is on track. The trail will end at the old entrance to the park, Zacho would like the ending of the trail to look intentional and the engineers will look at design options for that. Trail should be done by June of this year.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **9a. Chisago Lakes Triathlon-Strom Sporting Events**

Bill and Mandy Hansel introduced themselves and spoke about their nonprofit Storm Sporting Events which they established in 2019. Their focus is on youth mental health. They would like to create an environment where all could come participate and feel welcome. Bill spoke about all the events that they conduct and what they sponsor with the funds from the events. Gloria West and Dutrirun have retired and dissolved, and Storm would like to take on the Chisago Lakes Triathlon. The Hansel's would like to continue the triathlon in this area and incorporate and work with the city to implement a successful event. Commissioners asked several questions.

Safety: Hansel's let the commission know that they work closely with (USAT) the USA Triathlon, which is the national governing body for the multisport disciplines

of triathlon, duathlon, aquathlon and winter triathlon in the US. They follow their rules and guidelines for safety. Hansel's addressed the commissions concerns with the water safety issues from the past.

Communication: Storm Sports uses many angles for communication, for example they use high end radios for communication. All volunteer leads and medical personnel will have radios. Mandy and Bill will also have the radios to be in constant contact with all. The Hansel's have already been in communication with the Chisago County Sheriff's Department, Lakes Area EMS, the Good Neighbor Club and many others to discuss this year's event.

Funding: Storm Sports would like to keep funds from the triathlon in the area, Bill spoke about the scholarship programs he has done in the past and would also like to donate to local sports groups and the scout's programs that volunteer. They would like to also use local resources for the event.

Commissioners reiterated the importance of the negative impact the triathlon has on the park system and would like the Hansel's to be aware of those reservations, along with making sure the park is open to the public during triathlon set up.

#### **9b. 2025 Priority List and Updates**

- 1. Ojiketa Park**
- 2. Rotary Park-Peace Poles and Trail**
- 3. Chuckie Lundquist- Parking Lot Resurface**
- 4. Water Tower Park-Bike Trail**
- 5. Old Town Trail Extension**
- 6. Lake Ave. Access**

#### **10. ADJOURN**

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alisa Bodell  
Executive Assistant