



## Park Commission

Regular Meeting  
July 13, 2023  
Minutes

**Approved**

**Guests:**

**Absent:**

**CALL TO ORDER: 6:30pm**

1. Commissioner Lydon 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, Bill Mack, Kaylen Olinger, and Dan Charpentier. Park Superintendent Doris Zacho and Council Liaison Nikki Battles were in attendance.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA: July 13, 2023.**

Commissioner Lydon asked if there were any additions to the July 13<sup>th</sup> agenda. Commissioner Mack made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Olinger seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

**3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: January 12, 2023.**

Commissioner Mack made a motion to approve the consent agenda for March 9, 2023. Commissioner Kochevar seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**5. COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS AND PETITION**

**5a. City Council Liaison Report**

Council Liaison Battles gave an update on city council items concerning the parks. Council approved capital funds to be used for a new city parks vehicle and hockey boards for Chuckie Lundquist Park. William Hooey was hired as a new public works employee for the city, he will also be taking on the caretaker position at Ojiketa and living in the Lokinda house. Council voted to discontinue the Chisago Lakes Triathlon at Paradise Park; this will be the last year the event

is held there. Council conducted a workshop discussing the Highway 8 project which included a new bike trail. The city was also awarded a DNR grant for a trail to connect Ojiketa to the Swedish Immigrant Trail. The grant is awarded for two years. Commission discussed the trail placement and DNR trail criteria.

### **5b. Parks Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Zacho gave in update to commission, the medal banners for the light poles are in and getting installed. Wild River Tree will be trimming up some trees in Moberg Park along with coming up with a tree plan for the park. They will be doing the same for Paradise Park and possibly Ojiketa.

Zacho is meeting with a landscaper for the area of Highway 8 by Shoquist Lane the gardens are over 25 years old. She is in contact with a connection from MnDot and will meet with him to see what MnDot can contribute for funding. She would like to also reach out to MnDot during the Highway 8 planning to make sure the beautification of certain areas is in the design. Doris commented on the vandalism that was done at the skate park, and the need for cameras for surveillance. She is working on getting Wi-Fi and camera setups at the parks.

Ki-Chi-Saga days planning is in full swing, there has been some great donations. Polaris donated \$2000. The World According to Garth band will be planning September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Moberg Park concert. The adopt a park adoptees have reported some issues in the parks that are being addressed, tree watering and little library vandalism. Gregory Contracting has offered to fix the little library box, and Zacho purchased tree watering bags for some newly established trees at Raspberry Hills.

Zacho will be having a meeting with the County next week to discuss the Swedish Immigrant Trail and lack of communication and maintenance between the city and county. She asked commission to email her with any concerns or inquiries they may have for her to bring to the meeting.

Farmers Market had a great opening, over 500 people attended, and 47 kids signed up for the POP club. If anyone is interested in volunteering reach out to Malory. Market runs Fridays from 2-6pm until the first Friday in October.

## **6. PUBLIC HEARING**

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **8a. 2023 Priority List**

#### **1. Ojiketa Concept Plan NE Side of Park-Bike/Walking Path into Park, Porta Potty Enclosure, and Demo and Removal of Building.**

There will be a porta potty enclosure near the chapel, the OWLLS will build the enclosure. Placement will be so it is not visible from the chapel, there is a need for one in this area.

The removal of the old cottonwood cabin came in at over \$10,000. Zacho is waiting for another quote to come in. Charpentier knows of someone that does demo projects and will contact them to see if there is any interest.

#### **2. Rotary Park Access Path to Lake-Proposal**

Mack presented the commission with a proposal and design from Mickelson Landscaping for work to be done at Rotary Park. The park had some clearing done at the lakeshore and a split rail fence installed in the past, but these items have not been maintained.

This proposal includes a walking path down to the lake a boulder wall, brush removal and wildflower seeding. Mack proposes looking at options, he would like to see an observation deck overlooking the lake as well. Mack proposed this estimate to the Rotary Club, and they are looking at grant options. This is potentially a 2024/2025 project.

#### **3. Girl Scout Projects-Silver Awards**

Zachó has not heard from any of the Girl Scouts regarding the ice rink project or the dog park. She is planning on getting quotes for concrete at the ice rink.

#### **4. Bike Loops**

Malory is working on maps for the established loops.

#### **5. Reforestation and Channel work Paradise Park**

Wild River Tree service will develop a plan. Mack suggested that if the park needs trees planted local organizations/rotary could donate and have an arbor day celebration and planting. Lydon will reach out to the Lake Improvement District on channel work.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **9a. Park Commission Restructure and Attendance**

Zacho has had issues with attendance this year. There have been so many cancelled meetings because of no quorum. City council will restructure the park commission from 7 voting members to 5 voting members with alternates and eliminate the youth member. The Council liaison would have voting rights if needed. Commission would like to see the youth positions stay and have 7 members with the council member as an alternate.

### **9b. Lake Ave. East End Lake Access**

Mack is part of the Chisago Lakes Paddle Club; it is a new organized group and they do have some concerns with accessing the lakes with their kayaks and paddle board. The access to the lakes at Lake Ave. has been overgrown and they are looking to get some trees trimmed. Mack would like to come up with a plan to get better access to the lakes at these points. Olinger suggested water trail signs. Mack asked about documenting all the streets that dead end into the lakes.

### **9c. 2024 Youth Canoe/Kayak Symposium**

Mack would like to work with the Wild River Organization to put together a 2024 youth Canoe and Kayak Symposium. The organization would provide the materials and the Paddle Club, Community Ed and Park Commission could volunteer services. This seminar would be very beneficial to the community.

## **10. ADJOURN**

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alisa Bodell  
Executive Assistant