



**Approved**

## **Park Commission**

**Regular Meeting**

**March 14, 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, Bill Mack, and Dan Charpentier. Park Superintendent Doris Zacho was in attendance.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA: March 14, 2024.**

Commissioner Olinger asked if there were any additions to the March 14th agenda. Commissioner Stackhouse asked to add 9a. Disc Golf Course to the agenda. Lydon added 9b. Meeting at Park Locations. Commissioner Kochevar made a motion to approve the agenda with additions; Commissioner Stackhouse seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

3. **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: February 8, 2024.**

Commissioner Mack made a motion to approve the consent agenda for February 8, 2024; Commissioner Charpentier seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

5. **COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS AND PETITION**

**5a. City Council Liaison Report**

No meeting in February.

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

The floral baskets are ordered for the downtown light poles. The Holistic Expo will be at Strom Hall on April 20<sup>th</sup> and Zacho is working on bookings. She is also working on the music reservations for Ki Chi Saga days and the fall concert. Mike Birk will be retiring at the end of August, so Zacho is working on the advertisement to fill his position. She would like to hire his replacement in July so there is time to train together. Zacho updated the brochures for Ojiketa park and the map, it is much more user friendly and QR codes have been added.

There is an open alternate position for the parks commission. Zacho let Wiatrak know she could apply for that position if she is interested.

Mack spoke about the OWLLS. The highlight for work this summer is doors and windows. He has spoken to some contractors about getting good used doors and windows. Charpentier gave Mack a contact for someone at Habitat for Humanity.

## **6. PUBLIC HEARING**

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

#### **1. Ojiketa Park: Old Towne Trail Extension Project**

Zachó updated the commission on the trail system, she presented them with the engineers estimate for the local connections program from Old Towne Rd trail extension to Ojiketa Regional Park. Zachó will discuss this with Administrator Pechman to see where all the funding will come from, she does not want it to all come from the Park Dedication and Trail funds. Kochevar likes the project but is concerned about depleting the park funds. Mack asked about future developments that would help to restore the funds. The pending developments would be used for the Liberty Lane system, so there wouldn't be any surplus to regenerate the Park Dedication and Trail funds. Zachó needs some clarification. Mack asked if the park commission could set a specific amount towards the project and not have all funding come from the park and trail funds. Zachó would encourage the commission to attend the next city council meeting to give advice on the issue. Wiatrak asked about the trail system and if it is an existing system or new, Zachó explained that this would link to the existing Swedish Immigrant Trail.

Kochevar made a motion that the Chisago City Council does not act on the Old Towne Trail Extension Project to Ojiketa Regional Park without consulting the Park Commission due to the impact to the Park Dedication and Trail fees budget; Commissioner Lydon seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

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

Mack stated the goal is to not have the city pay for any of the path work. The funding would come from grant money and rotary funds. Mack will create a visual plan for the path. The Overlook portion would be phase 2 and done by the city.

**3. Girl Scout Projects: Chuckie Lundquist & Bug Houses**

Lydon stated the projects are moving forward and will be meeting with Zacho after the cookie sales wrap up.

**4. Bike Loop Map**

Programmer Gray would like to meet with Mack and discuss the map. She has been working on three different maps in a character style. The maps are out of date and are over 12 years old. Highlighting businesses might be challenging as they can change often. Zacho asked the commission for opinions, Mack would like to see a QR code, a visual map, and signage. Commission would like to see Grays work and progress then give feedback.

**5. Reforestation: Paradise Park & Moberg Park**

Waiting for approval from city council.

**6. Lake Avenue Access-Paddle Club**

Mack is meeting on Monday with Casey Thiel from the County SWCD to look at the possibilities at the Lake Avene landing. Mack asked the Commission what their ideas and thoughts were, Olinger doesn't have a problem with vehicles using the access in the winter. Lydon is concerned with the runoff into the lake. Zacho said that they need to be mindful of what Thiel does with erosion control and what the public works department and city needs are, for example the Stinson Ave access. Commission looked at the GIS map of the area and discussed options. Zacho stated that there are many winter recreations that use the access to get on the lake and she doesn't want to take that away.

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

Zachو is waiting for quotes.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**9a. Disc Golf Course**

Stackhouse spoke with the group that is working on the Wildcat Woods Disc golf course that is being constructed at the joint sewer-compost site. They have

been fundraising and have acquired some donations from local city EDA's and businesses. The course is scheduled to be up and running this year. He is wondering if the park commission is willing to donate or promote the course. Zacho would like them to come to a meeting, depending on their non-profit 501c3 status the park commission could potentially fund something. Zacho mentioned the local Bulldog's baseball team needing a field and wondering if they could combine at that location. Stackhouse will reach out with an invite to a future park commission meeting.

#### **9b. Meeting at Park Locations**

Commission discussed how the remote meeting policy works. Lydon mentioned that in the past commission members met 30 minutes prior to the meeting at different park locations and then came back to city hall to have the scheduled meeting. Commission thought that this could be arranged starting in May. Lydon suggested meeting at Rotary Park at 6pm and then coming back for the regularly scheduled meeting at 6:30pm. Commission confirmed May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting at Rotary Park at 6pm.

### **ADJOURN**

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alisa Bodell  
Executive Assistant