



**Approved**

## **Park Commission**

**Regular Meeting  
November 9, 2023  
Minutes**

**Guests: Gloria West**

**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, Bill Mack, Julie Kochevar, Nathan Stackhouse, Kaylen Olinger and Dan Charpentier. Park Superintendent Doris Zacho and Council Liaison Craig Meyer were in attendance.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA: November 9, 2023.**

Commissioner Lydon asked if there were any additions to the November 9<sup>th</sup> agenda. Commissioner Mack made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Kochevar seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

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

Commissioner Mack made a motion to approve the consent agenda for October 12, 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 Meyers gave an update on the city council meeting that was held on October 24<sup>th</sup>. A bee keeping ordinance was amended and approved to allow bee keeping on smaller sized lots. An accessory structure variance was approved for a shed on Green Lake Ave.

The council approved the appointment of Nathan Stackhouse to the Park Commission. Offer of dedication for Green Lake Villas, LLC was accepted. This includes roads, water, sewers, and all public improvements. The council approved funds from water and sewer for additional payment for the sewer extension on Karmel Ave, and approved submittal for a grant for the Local Road Improvement Program.

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

Superintendent Zacho gave an update on the parks. The new hockey boards are being installed now and should be done by December. The gardens along Highway 8 have been cleaned up and seeded, the second phase will be done in the spring Zacho will work with Todd Carol with the Highway 8 beautification project to get some grants for the work. The trees are all planted in Raspeberry Hills. The Ojiketa Haunt and Fallween were a big success. Reminder the volunteer appreciation party is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup> at Strom Hall. The lighting festival will be on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30-6pm.

Mack gave a handout to commissioners detailing the work that was completed at Ojiketa by the OWLLS this summer.

## **6. PUBLIC HEARING**

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7a. Swearing in of New Park Commission member Nathan Stackhouse**

Nathan Stackhouse was sworn in as a new member of the park commission.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

#### **1. Ojiketa Concept Plan NE Side of Park-Bike/Walking Path into Park**

Zacho submitted a map to the commission with a layout of the path into Ojiketa. Zacho asked about the trail ending at Strom Hall or at Boone Hollow, she likes the idea of it ending at Boone Hollow with the beach and restrooms there. Lydon asked about the cost and there are no final numbers yet. Commissioners discussed the size of the path, how wide it would be, and ADA accessibility. Kochevar asked about the entrance to the park changing, Zacho explained where she would like it to be and the grants that could be available in the future.

- 2. Rotary Park Access Path to Lake/Overlook-Funding**
- 3. Girl Scout Projects-Silver Awards-Chuckie Lundquist**
- 4. Bike Loops Maps**
- 5. Reforestation and Channel work Paradise Park**
- 6. Lake Ave Access-Paddle Club**
- 7. Triathlon**

Gloria West, the Executive Director for Dutrirun was present and wanted to address the park commission regarding the 2024 Chisago Lakes Triathlon. Commissioners received a copy of the 2024 proposal from West. Lydon expressed to the commission that their job was to decide if the triathlon being held in Paradise Park was a suitable request for the park, whether it is held in the city is ultimately up to the city council. The Commission needs to focus on the impact of the event on the park. West spoke about her new proposal to the commission and discussed the concerns that were brought forward, access to the park for the public, volunteers, park maintenance, park donations and fees, and Dutriruns responsibilities.

Mack spoke about the proposal that was put in front of him, he stated it is a tall order and West insured she was going to take on the full responsibility of the triathlon. Stackhouse asked about the signage for making sure the park is open to the public, West said she will have notices saying the park is open, the main path will be open, and no equipment will be allowed in that area. She will use social media and communicate with Zacho to make sure the public is aware.

Olinger addressed the impact the triathlon has on the park grounds and tree roots, there may be a way to implement a reforestation and seeding program with some of the triathlon's donation to the park. Zacho stated that damage has been done and does not think that not allowing the triathlon for 2024 would do any further damage to the trees.

Kochevar stated she feels positive about the changes and proposal that was made, the race is an asset to the community and wants all involved to be mindful of the impact on the park.

Commissioner Lydon made a motion to allow Dutrirun to conduct the 2024 triathlon at Paradise Park as proposed by Gloria West, Dutrirun will donate \$10k to the Chisago City Parks Department, and the triathlon will be reevaluated after the 2024 event for consideration to conduct a 2025 triathlon. Commissioner Mack made a motion to approve; Commissioner Olinger seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **9a. Lighting Festival**

Volunteers are needed, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30-6pm. Contact Zacho for more information.

## **10. ADJOURN**

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alisa Bodell  
Executive Assistant