



Approved

Park Commission

Regular Meeting
October 12, 2023
Minutes

Guests: Nathan Stackhouse

Absent: Julie Kochevar, Kaylen Olinger

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, and Dan Charpentier. Park Superintendent Doris Zacho and Council Liaison Nikki Battles were in attendance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA: October 12, 2023.

Commissioner Lydon asked if there were any additions to the October 12th agenda. Zacho would like to add 7. Triathlon to the agenda under Unfinished Business. Commissioner Mack made a motion to approve the agenda with corrections; Commissioner Charpentier seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: August 10, 2023.

Commissioner Mack made a motion to approve the consent agenda for August 10, 2023. Commissioner Battles 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. At the September meeting there was a presentation from the new Chisago Lakes Schools Superintendent. He gave an update on the 2023 referendum questions that will be on the ballot for the election on November 7th.

Representatives from the triathlon attended the council meeting to discuss with the council their decision to cancel the triathlon going forward. There was much discussion between them and the public. The council left it as they voted no, but if they were interested in trying in the future and to remedy some of the issues, they would need to address the park commission with a new plan and communication.

5b. Parks Superintendent Report

Superintendent Zacho gave an update on fall clean up in the parks, the new rink boards will be installed mid-October. The Highway 8 gardens by Brinks Market between Stinson and 8 will be getting tore out and redone. Zacho met with MnDOT and there may be funding available for the new garden. Zacho is making a cut to the cleaning costs at Ojiketa by taking on the cleaning of the camper cabins. The old cabin has been cleaned up and removed. There are some roofing issues on a couple cabins that will need to be reroofed. The concert at Moberg was a success along with the 9-11 memorial. The Ojiketa Haunt is in the works. There is also a BTYR event at the Uncommon Loon on October 14th. Zacho met with OPS (Ojiketa Preservation Society) there last season will be in 2024 for the history center cabin which shares the Trillium cabin.

Mack said he has marked out placement for trees in Raspeberry Hills and is still waiting for B&B trees to plant. Mack will put together a list to share the OWLLS accomplishments this year.

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, and Demo and Removal of Building.

Building demolition is done.

Zacho walked the park with the DNR and discussed the location of the walking path, she designed the trail with a destination point as ending at the beach and Boone Hallow cabins. Zacho will get a map to commissioners with the trail layout. Mack discussed having a trail kiosk at the end of the trail. Zacho stated funding will be an issue. Battles asked about the meeting with the county and if they will have any help with this part of the trail, Zacho said they will not, but she is hoping for help with maintenance.

2. Rotary Park Access Path to Lake/Overlook-Funding

Rotary is looking at getting a grant to fund either the path or the overlook. The city will need to budget for the trail prior to the Rotary looking for a grant for the overlook.

3. Girl Scout Projects-Silver Awards-Chuckie Lundquist

Sasha has reached out to Zacho on getting back together with her to discuss her project ideas for the park.

Zacho went over to the city of Wyoming to look at their outdoor hockey rink, they have an asphalt base to the rink. Asphalt is much less expensive than concrete. They have used asphalt for the last three years for the rink and it has held up well. Zacho would like to see the rink double as a pickleball court in the summer.

4. Bike Loops Maps

Mallory is still working on these.

5. Reforestation and Channel work Paradise Park

Public Works met with Ben, and he will get with the County board to discuss the work to be done. Zacho will keep the communication open for work to be done in the spring.

6. Lake Ave Access-Paddle Club

7. Triathlon

Battles gave an update on what happened at the Council meeting when Gloria West from Dutrirun addressed the council. They said they were unaware of any issues the triathlon was causing to the parks and community. After a long discussion Battles told them that the council had voted to forgo the event for this year, however if they wanted to come back with an updated plan the Park Commission would be willing to discuss it with them. Battles said the ball is in our court as to what the commission would want the event to look like going forward.

Zacho said in total she had 60 emails from the triathlon community upset with the city discontinuing the event. Gloria had been sending out letters to the triathlon participants about the city's decision and that in turn led to the backlash of emails to Zacho.

Zacho had a meeting with Gloria on October 11th, she was unaware of all the issues that were going on. There has been a large lack of communication between Gloria, her staff and the city. They have eliminated all the community events like the kids run, the pancake breakfast, and any other community involvement. The Chamber had a large role in the triathlon's success with organizing the event and finding volunteers, their part in the event is over and they will not participate going forward. The Park Commission will have the final say if Gloria comes up with a proposal for the event in the future.

Battles loves the idea of the triathlon with a different entity running it, Charpentier agrees and will investigate other companies.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9a. Park Commission-Nathan Stackhouse

Nathan gave the commission an introduction about himself and his interest in becoming a park commission member. Commissioners asked some questions to Nathan about his interests in the park commission.

Commissioner Mack made a motion to approve Nathan Stackhouse to the Park Commission; Commissioner Charpentier seconded; all ayes the motion was approved.

10. ADJOURN

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Alisa Bodell
Executive Assistant