

**MEETING OF THE
VADNAIS HEIGHTS
PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS COMMISSION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018**

OPEN MEETING

Chairperson Doumbia called the meeting of the City of Vadnais Heights Parks, Recreation, and Trails Commission to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Beth Jensen	Absent
Melissa Doumbia, Chair	Present
William Johnson	Present
Sue DeGardner	Present
Pat Cruikshank	Absent
Kent Hokens	Present
Lisa O'Connell	Present
Janelle Frechette, First Alternate	Absent
Gerald Baldrige, Second Alternate	Present
Terry Nyblom, Council Liaison	Present
Mark Graham, Staff Liaison/ Secretary	Present

Visitors: Kari Hauck, 473 Lambert Creek Lane and Jessica Breur, 3787 Thomas Court

APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2018 MEETING

No changes noted. Motion made by Johnson and seconded by O'Connell to approve minutes from last meeting on October 16, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF COMMISSION ORGANIZATION AND RULES

Graham reviewed the provisions of City Code Chapter 213 (Park, Recreation and Trails Commission) and Chapter 227 (Rules for City Advisory Commissions) with the group. Graham knows all have been members for some time and appreciates the continued willingness to serve on the Commission. Graham reminded all that the Commission is an advisory group to the City Council. No gifts can be accepted and any potential conflicts of interest should be discussed with Graham or the City Council liaison. All are welcome to attend council meetings as a resident if you have interest. Basic principal is that if you don't want to read about in the paper, don't do it.

ELECTION OF 2018 VICE CHAIRPERSON AND STIPEND APPROVAL

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission need to be full time members. After a brief but spirited discussion, O'Connell was nominated to be the 2018 Vice-Chairperson. This will lead O'Connell to be 2019 Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously. Graham will continue to prepare minutes for the Commission meetings.

All agreed that the stipends of \$20 for the Chairperson and \$15 for all other members would remain the same as in the past and included in Chapter 213.

UPDATE FROM CITY PLANNER WALL RE: TRAILS AND COMP PLAN

Wall attended meeting to bring back updated comprehensive plan text and maps. Wall and Graham visited some unimproved trail locations with Graham in the field. Several commission members commented that we need to make sure to take care of existing trails as we consider adding more.

Comments heard from the Commission included: consider if Twin Lake Park will ever be used and consider taking it off map, build sidewalk on west side of Greenhaven Drive north of St. Mary's Court, add amenities to Oak Creek Park, obtain more public access within H.B. Fuller property as promised when developed, consider development of simple way-finding signs.

A new trail being discussed by the City Council would be along Vadnais Boulevard between Edgerton Street and Rice Street. This is a Ramsey County road, so coordination with them is needed. Some on the City Council hope that the County will fund the trail too, but that remains to be seen. No timetable is established for this trail, but the City Council has set aside funds toward a feasibility study

DISCUSSION RE: 2018 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

No playground improvements are scheduled for 2018. No street improvement project is scheduled for 2018. \$25K in the general operating budget for trail and parking lot resurfacing in Bear Park.

Graham and parks staff have noted the further deterioration of the Westfield Park hockey rink boards and lights. A decision will need to be recommended by the Commission and made by the City Council as to whether or not to invest in these facilities. The light poles and boards are nearly done and need replacement. It is possible to have an open area for skating or a variety of board replacements, but there are costs associated with all. There are also costs associated with removal. Given past staff challenges with warming house work, it will be important to have a Commission recommendation on this matter.

UPCOMING 2018 PARK AND HERITAGE DAYS EVENTS

The following Parks and other notable events and dates have been set. Commissioners are encouraged to attend any and all of these events.

March 24- Easter Egg Hunt at Community Park

April 16- next Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission Meeting

April 28-City Clean Up Day/Refuse Pick Up at Community Park

June 19- Music Concert and County Sheriff Trailer Hot Dogs/Ice Cream at Berwood Park

July 17- Music event in business area of Vadnais Square near Mad Jacks

August 16-20 – Heritage Days at Community Park

October 31- Halloween Party at the Commons

December 7- PJ's with Santa at the Commons

CITY PROJECTS/UPDATES

Nyblom reported that the Rice Street Bridge replacement continues to be discussed by the City Council. Items being discussed include roundabouts, trails/sidewalks and property acquisition. Consideration of municipal consent will likely occur in February or March.

OTHER ITEMS

Visitors Hauck and Breur attended the meeting in hopes of getting the replacement of the Bear Park playground on a upcoming schedule. They have lived in the neighborhood 3-7 years and have noticed 10-20 kids playing in the park on any given day. They also see more patrons during occasional soccer games. They would be interested in participating in the playground selection process and perhaps a zip line.

Graham said that replacement of the Bear Park structure is not currently in the five year C.I.P. Graham and Johnson explained the public engagement process for choosing playground equipment, as it starts with establishing a budget and getting three options from our playground equipment supplier. The residents were encouraged to seek support from other residents and engage the City Council during the budget process this Spring and Summer. Nyblom would like to see more resident involvement at Council meetings too.

Baldrige lives near Bear Park and echoed the increase in family activity. He recognizes that there may be other parks needs too, but supports work in Bear Park. Baldrige also thinks there are a couple of trail areas that could be improved with wood chips that could be valuable connectors off of Tessier Trail and North Bear Avenue to Bear Park. Graham and Baldrige will meet this Spring to review.

SET NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING DATE FOR MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018

The next quarterly meeting for the Commission will be held on Monday, April 16, 2018 starting at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURN MEETING

Hearing no further business, motion to adjourn made by Baldrige and seconded by Hokens to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully prepared by Mark Graham, City Engineer