

**MEETING OF THE
VADNAIS HEIGHTS
PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS COMMISSION
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 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	Present
Melissa Doumbia, Chair	Present
William Johnson	Present
Sue DeGardner	Present
Pat Cruikshank	Present
Kent Hokens	Present
Lisa O'Connell	Present
Gerald Baldrige	Present
Terry Nyblom, Council Liaison	Absent
Mark Graham, Staff Liaison/ Secretary	Present

Visitors: Mike Werner, 134 Hemlock Place, Toby FitzSimons, 3775 Parkwood Lane and Vadnais Heights Fire Fighter Ryan Eckert.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2018 MEETING

No changes noted. Motion made by Johnson and seconded by O'Connell to approve minutes from last meeting on January 25, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRST ALTERNATE POSITION OPENING AND POTENTIAL NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS

First alternate Janelle Frechette notified staff that she was moving to Coon Rapids, so would be leaving the Commission. Advertisements were posted for residents interested in joining the Commission. Two letters of interest were received from residents Mike Werner and Toby FitzSimons, Graham invited both to attend meeting to introduce themselves and observe. Both candidates gave brief background and expressed interest in joining the Commission. Discussion was to recommend that City Council appoint Baldrige back to regular member and appoint Werner as First Alternate and FitzSimons as Second Alternate.

COMMUNITY PARK SHELTER---FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Eckert attended the meeting on behalf of the Fire Relief Association. They are interested in making a financial contribution toward replacing the Community Park shelter. Eckert had photos of the poor conditions of the existing shelter and presented some broad pictures of potential new shelters. Project costs could be \$175,000 to \$200,000 for removal and replacement. Eckert and others from the Fire Relief Association will meet with the Lions Club to gauge their interest in participating. Hokens reminded the Commission that this potential project was discussed several years ago when we met on

site. Cruikshank asked if the shelter is regularly rented. Graham replied that it is not rented, as weekend parties could impact rentals at the Commons. Several members of the Commission said this replacement would be a worthy project, especially given the current conditions, and suggested the City Council consider cost participation too in future budgets. Eckert will keep Graham posted on future discussions with the Lions Club.

NAMING OF COMMUNITY PARK WARMING HOUSE

Graham reported a very successful party was held on April 8 to celebrate the Olympic success of residents and hockey players Melissa and Hannah Brandt. Public works staff worked very hard to create and maintain outdoor ice for the party. The Mayor announced at the event that the warming house will be named in their honor.

WESTFIELD PARK SKATING RINK

Graham reported attendance records for warming house, which was open on weekends as ice was available. Warming house was open a total of 16 days. Total attendance was 210. Average daily attendance was 13, with 0 on three days and 23 on three days. Brigid Nault said it is much more difficult to get staff for this warming house compared to Community Park. Similar weekend total attendance at Community Park was 737. Total season attendance at Community Park was 1493.

Public Works staff have found deterioration in the Westfield wood boards and light fixtures, so believe that either removal or replacement would be warranted. Ballpark replacement cost with removable boards and new lights would be \$120,000. Improvements to connect the warming house to water and replace the doors is estimated to be \$12,000.

Several members discussed the fact that Councilmember Johnson supported opening the warming house again on a trial basis to see if it's well used and cost effective. Majority of members indicated the warmer winters, lack of users compared to Community Park and expense to replace boards and lights could justify not keeping it. They would favor continued flooding for open skating and one light on a timer, but no warming house.

Graham will report this discussion to Councilmember Johnson and the City Council during the 2019 budget process to get Council input and direction.

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.

April 24- Comprehensive Plan Open House, City Hall, 5-7 pm.

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

July 25- Free Movie at Kohler Meadows Park

August 16-20 – Heritage Days at Community Park

October 31- Halloween Party at the Commons

December 7- PJ's with Santa at the Commons

OTHER ITEMS

Jensen said she believes there is a need for a portable bathroom to be placed seasonally at Greenhaven Park. Graham will ask staff to consider it.

Johnson asked staff to look at “private community” signs that are placed near Heritage Park, as they may be in public right of way and are inappropriate. Graham will do so. Johnson is planning his annual Boy Scout volunteer clean up at Heritage Park on April 17, weather permitting.

Graham asked Commission members to publicize job openings for our posted seasonal lawn mowing and recreation assistant jobs. We have had very little interest and few applications.

The current park dedication fund balance is approximately \$215,000.

Some discussion about status of White Bear Lake water level lawsuit.

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

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

ADJOURN MEETING

Hearing no further business, motion to adjourn made by Hokens and seconded by Cruikshank to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully prepared by Mark Graham, City Engineer