

**MEETING OF THE
VADNAIS HEIGHTS
PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS COMMISSION
Monday, April 17, 2017**

OPEN MEETING

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

ROLL CALL

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

Others attending: City Planner Nolan Wall, Lions Club President Eileen Schirer, resident Katie Kozhimannil from Lily Pond Park area.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2017 MEETING

No changes noted. Motion made by Johnson and seconded by Hokens to approve minutes from last meeting on January 23, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

LILY POND PARK PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Graham provided background. A letter seeking input was sent out to 86 homes surrounding Park. We received 20 email responses plus several phone calls. Three options were offered. Based on responses, Option A was slightly ahead of Options B and C. Most responses were indifferent on color.

Commission discussed options. Consensus was Option A with a couple of modifications. Specifically, have green/white colors to match existing structure, add monkey bars in place of end vertical climber and add one swing. Graham will get revised quote from Minnesota/Wisconsin Playground and recommend approval at May 3 City Council meeting.

HERITAGE PARK-BOY SCOUT CLEANUP ON APRIL 11

Johnson reported 25 scouts helped pick up refuse and branches. The Parks Department supplied three loads of wood chips, which the scouts placed in various areas. No cook out this time for scouts.

NOLAN WALL-COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPCOMING PROCESS

Wall introduced himself to the Commission. He worked with Commission 10 years ago when he was intern to City Planner Donn Wiski. Wall explained reasons for updating comprehensive plan and talked about various components. Wall invited all to an open house on May 23, also being advertised in a mailed postcard to each property owner. Wall expects parks and trails to be an often discussed component of the update.

LIONS CLUB-ADDITIONAL BENCHES IN COMMUNITY PARK

Schier presented information that this June is the 100 year anniversary of the Lions organization. The Vadnais Heights club is 37 years old and currently has 69 members. They hope to have some short and long term projects in the City. Their short term project is to add benches with Lions logos in Community Park by the new playground.

The Commission encouraged this and any projects with the Lions logo. Graham and the Parks staff will coordinate with Schier.

UPCOMING 2017 PARK AND HERITAGE DAYS EVENTS

Graham reported that the recent Easter Egg Hunt was a great success. Brigid Nault believes it was the largest attendance she's ever seen.

The following Parks and other notable events are scheduled. All are welcome.

April 22-City Clean Up Day/Refuse Pick Up at Community Park

June 8-11 – Senior softball tournament in Community Park, sponsored by Jimmy's

June 20- Music Concert and County Sheriff Trailer Hot Dogs/Ice Cream at Berwood Park

July 18- 42nd Annual Taste of Vadnais Heights in business area near Mad Jacks

August 17-20 – Heritage Days at Community Park

October 31- Halloween Party at the Commons

December 1- PJ's with Santa at the Commons

OTHER ITEMS

Graham provided update on a variety of items. The last commercial lot near the Ice Arena is being developed by Twin Cities Orthopedic. The Garceau site development has stalled due to neighborhood comments and concerns. The Ice Castle project has been withdrawn. The Rice Street bridge project is included in the current State Legislative bonding bill, but the status is tenuous.

Baldrige has noticed that mountain bike jumps have been built in St. Paul Water Utility property and that they look to cause significant erosion and damage concerns. Graham has not seen them, so will meet up with Baldrige to note their location. Graham can then report the activity to his contacts at St. Paul Water.

Baldrige reported that his new retirement status has led to more time spent away from home for family activities. While he still wants to be involved in the Commission, he is concerned that he may miss occasional meetings. He therefore would like to become the second alternate instead of a regular member. All thanked Baldrige for his years of

dedicated service and hope that he will attend as much as possible. Graham will check with Kathy Keefe about process for changing membership status, but suggested a motion to make adjustments for current alternates would be appropriate. A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Cruikshank to make following changes: O'Connell will shift to full time voting member, Freechette will shift to first alternate and Baldrige will shift to second alternate. The motion carried unanimously.

SET NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING DATE FOR MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017

The next quarterly meeting for the Commission will be held on Monday, July 17, 2017 starting at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURN MEETING

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

Minutes respectfully prepared by Mark Graham, City Engineer