

**MEETING OF THE  
VADNAIS HEIGHTS  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS COMMISSION  
MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018**

**OPEN MEETING**

Vice Chairperson O'Connell 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                | Absent  |
| William Johnson                       | Present |
| Sue DeGardner                         | Absent  |
| Pat Cruikshank                        | Present |
| Kent Hokens                           | Present |
| Lisa O'Connell, Vice Chair            | Present |
| Gerald Baldrige                       | Present |
| Mike Werner, First Alternate          | Present |
| Toby FitzSimons, Second Alternate     | Present |
| Terry Nyblom, Council Liaison         | Present |
| Mark Graham, Staff Liaison/ Secretary | Present |

**APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2018 MEETING**

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

**BEAR PARK-RESIDENT REQUEST FOR 2019 IMPROVEMENTS**

Several residents attended our January 2018 Parks Commission meeting to request playground park improvements in Bear Park. These same residents attended the June 19, 2018 City Council meeting, as per Commission suggestion, to make the same request. Their request was very well done and reasonable. Staff recommends that Bear Park playground improvements be included in the proposed 2019 CIP for payment from park dedication funds. The current park dedication fund balance is approximately \$215,000. Our most recent park improvement was in Lily Pond Park, which had a budgeted cost of \$65,000. Graham will include this amount in the proposed 2019 CIP.

The process for selecting improvements will be the same as in past park improvements. City staff will provide the budget to Minnesota Wisconsin Playground and ask them to prepare three designs that include separate structures for big and small kids. The designs will then be distributed to a broad area around the park asking for input and preferences. A selection will then be made.

Baldrige is very familiar with the area and requested that a wood chip trail be considered from Bear Park to the west to connect to Tessier Trail. This would

significantly reduce the walking time for a portion of the park patrons. This seems like a reasonable idea as long as there is sufficient public property and higher ground to do so.

FitzSimons requested that a handicap swing be included in any playground improvements. Graham said that this can certainly be considered in the proposal designs from Minnesota Wisconsin Playground. All park improvements are HC accessible and will have wood chip surfaces.

### **2019 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS DISCUSSION**

No other Parks improvements are proposed for 2019. Nyblom reminded the Commission that he is interested in some combination of trails and/or narrow sidewalk along Koehler Road between Centerville Road and Edgerton Street. This improvement along with others is included in the latest Comprehensive Plan. Graham had project file and had brought a proposal from S.E.H. to the City Council in June 2016 to provide detailed options. Staff was directed to refrain from any further work until directed by the Council. It is likely that a working group will be created to review this further. The Parks Commission and abutting residents to any improvements will be part of the working group.

### **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.

July 17 (tomorrow)- 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

Hokens commented that he heard there was a nice crowd at the June ice cream social in Berwood Park.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

Jensen thanked staff for providing a portable bathroom at Greenhaven Park.

In carryover from last meeting, 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.

Johnson held his annual Boy Scout volunteer clean up at Heritage Park in late May.

There was some discussion regarding the proposed apartment development at the corner of County Road F and Centerville Road, but Graham reported that the developer had withdrawn his application. It is possible that it will come back in a redesigned form.

**CITY ENGINEER GRAHAM RETIREMENT**

Graham thanked the Commission for their input and willingness to participate. Graham has enjoyed serving the City. All appreciated Graham's efforts. The process for Graham's replacement will probably take several months.

**SET NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING DATE FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018**

The next quarterly meeting for the Commission will be held on Monday, October 15, 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 7:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

**RESIGNATION FROM COMMISSIONER DOUMBIA**

Melissa Doumbia provided an email to me that she is resigning from the Commission due to a number of family scheduling conflicts. She expressed her appreciation for the chance to provide input, learn more about City process and meet so many nice people.

I would suggest that Lisa O'Connell take over as Chair for the balance of 2018, then formally be appointed Chair for 2019 and elect a new vice Chair in 2019. As we have two new alternates just on board, I would further suggest that the makeup of the Commission remains as is until someone else chooses to leave the Commission.

Minutes respectfully prepared (for the final time) by Mark Graham, City Engineer