

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

OPEN MEETING

Chairperson Jensen called the regular meeting of the City of Vadnais Heights Parks, Recreation, and Trails Commission to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2017 MEETING

No changes noted. Motion made by Frechette and seconded by Cruikshank to approve minutes from last meeting on April 17, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

LILY POND PARK PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

The old playground was removed on July 11. Parks staff will be doing some limited grading work to prepare site for new equipment. This preparation work will take approximately one month. Graham provided letter to all surrounding residents to let them know the option selection and schedule.

LIONS CLUB DONATION UPDATE

They have donated funds for seven park benches, bike racks and pickleball striping. Ken LaCasse is organizing locations for improvements.

2018 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Parks staff has not identified any playground or park improvements in 2018. There has been some City Council discussion about trail improvements, but no funding sources have been identified. Graham asked the Commission to consider any improvements they may wish to see accomplished.

UPDATE ON RECENT PARKS DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

The June 20 Music in Berwood Park was a great success. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Food Truck distributed nearly 700 hot dogs. The Taste of Vadnais Event scheduled for July 18 has been postponed for one week to July 25. We made this call due to weather

forecast. The senior softball tournament in early June was a success and they are coming back in 2018.

UPCOMING 2017 PARK AND HERITAGE DAYS EVENTS

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

CITY PROJECTS/UPDATES

OTHER ITEMS

Graham provided update on a variety of items. The 2017 street project has started. Various sanitary sewer and storm sewer maintenance projects are underway. The Liberty Village senior housing and townhome development is going well on the former Green Value Nursery site. The mountain bike jumps built in St. Paul Water Utility property have been demolished.

A couple of questions were raised about weekend park shelter rentals at Kohler Meadows Park. The crowds are sometime excessive. Graham said that Parks staff and Brigid Nault have had issues too and we have received complaints. We plan to make modifications to the rental agreements in 2018, including limiting rentals to residents or local businesses only and reducing the capacity to a reasonable amount.

A question was asked about winter events to replace the Ice Castle idea. Nyblom responded that the Mayor is seeking permission from the St. Paul Water Utility to have an ice skating event on the west lobe of Vadnais Lake. More information to follow.

SET NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING DATE FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017

The next quarterly meeting for the Commission will be held on Monday, October 16, 2017 starting at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURN MEETING

Hearing no further business, motion to adjourn made by Cruikshank and seconded by Johnson to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully prepared by Mark Graham, City Engineer