

**MEETING OF THE  
VADNAIS HEIGHTS  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS COMMISSION  
Monday, October 16, 2017**

**OPEN MEETING**

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2017 MEETING**

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

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE AND TRAILS DISCUSSION**

Wall attended meeting to solicit input from Commission about various trails noted in previous comprehensive plan. Wall said that other community outreach meetings continue to appreciate the existing trails and request more improvements. 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 and update City map.

It was also discussed that the Park Dedication fund is only replenished with commercial development, so it will continue to be challenging to have an influx of monies. Current City Council has not discussed any use of general tax levies dedicated solely to Parks.

Wall will visit some unimproved trail locations with Graham in the field and bring back updated comprehensive plan text and maps to a future Commission meeting. Hokens asked Wall to also distribute copies of past trails plans as a reference.

### **WINTER PARK AND RECREATION PROGRAM**

Graham reported that Recreation Supervisor continues to do a great job reaching out to new staff in White Bear Lake about programs. Graham has participated in our yoga class for the first time, likes it very much and recommends others try it. He also commented that the Commons is an excellent venue for the class. Graham distributed the information for Winter classes that will be published in the upcoming City newsletter. Warming house attendants are also needed, so Graham encouraged the Commission to tell young people they may know about this opportunity. The five summer mowing helpers we hired this summer were all Vadnais Heights residents.

### **SUMMARY OF PARKS AND SHELTER RENTALS/ CHANGES FOR 2018**

Graham provided statistics showing approximately \$13,000 in field reservation fees paid in 2017. Local youth organizations that rent our fields, in order of greatest revenue, are Shoreview Area Youth Baseball (\$2738), White Bear Baseball (\$2600), White Bear Soccer (\$1999) and North Suburban Soccer (\$1928).

Picnic shelter rentals totaled \$3470 in revenue and party trailer rentals totaled \$700 in revenue. Fees are waived for Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops, AFSA High School, Vadnais Heights Elementary, Christ the Servant Church and the Lions Club.

Staff had considerable problems with large groups at the Kohler Meadows shelter, particularly with excessive garbage, failure to clean, on site cooking and tents that are prohibited, amplified music and number of attendees that FAR exceeded the permit application. Staff kept several deposits this year. We have modified the reservation application to eliminate/address these issues into the future.

### **LILY POND PARK PLAYGROUND UPDATE**

The work was delayed due to weather, but the playground was completed in early October. Parks staff is completing site grading and park bench installations.

### **2018 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

The City Council has established a maximum tax levy increase of 3.4 % for the general budget. Nyblom said he hopes that this figure can be reduced. The proposed 2018 Capital Improvements Plan does not identify any park improvements for next year.

### **UPCOMING CITY EVENTS**

Halloween Party- Tuesday, Oct. 31, 6-8 pm, Free

PJ's with Santa- Friday, Dec. 1, 6-8 pm, \$10 for resident families/\$20 for non-resident

Senior Lunches at Christ the Servant Church, Jan.2, Feb. 6, March 6, \$5 per person

### **CITY PROJECTS/UPDATES**

2018 Street Improvements to be discussed at October 18 City Council meeting based on staff recommendations. (Update: City Council chose not to proceed with feasibility study, so no project in 2018). The mini-storage building on Labore Road plans to open in Spring 2018. A potential medical building development is being considered along TH 96

north and east of IC Systems. A new apartment building is being considered along County Road D where a dilapidated house was recently demolished.

**2018 COMMISSION TERMS**

The only Commissioner with an expiring term is DeGardner, so Graham has asked her to sign up for another tour of duty. Doumbia will become the Chairperson in 2018, so a new Vice Chairperson will need to be selected at the January 2018 meeting.

Graham distributed the current roster to get any revised email addresses or phone numbers.

**SET NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING DATE FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018**

The next quarterly meeting for the Commission will be held on Monday, January 22, 2018 starting at 6:30 pm. This is one week later than customary due to M.L. King holiday.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

Hearing no further business, motion to adjourn made by Baldrige and seconded by Frechette to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully prepared by Mark Graham, City Engineer