ANOKA
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Public Services

Cemetery, Engineering, Parks and Public Works

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

DATE: WEDNESDAY, January 21, 2015

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Anoka City Hall - Council Work Session Room
2015 First Avenue North, Anoka

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. OATH OF OFFICE FOR REAPPOINTED MEMBERS
3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
4. REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS
5. APPROVE MINUTES
6. OPEN FORUM
7. NEW BUSINESS
   a. 2014 Accomplishments/2015 Goals
8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
9. MISCELLANEOUS
   a. E-mail re Grooming Anoka Nature Preserve Trails
10. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING
11. ADJOURNMENT

If unable to attend, please call the Parks Department at 763-576-2980.

Auxiliary aids for handicapped persons are available upon request at least 96 hours in advance. Please call the Human Resource Coordinator at 763-576-2740 to make arrangements.

Mava Mikkonen

From: Ryan Palmer <PalmerR@colheights.k12.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, December 29, 2014 1:53 PM
To: ANOParkAdm
Subject: Anoka Nature Preserve

My wife and I live in the neighborhood just north of the Anoka Nature Preserve. I just returned from skiing out there with my dog and I felt the need to send an email to your department thanking you for the wonderful work that you have done preparing and grooming the trails back there. We are so grateful that there is such a nice acreage of land that has been set aside for year-round recreation. Thank you so much for what you have done with the Preserve!

Ryan Palmer

Park Board Goals / Accomplishments

2015 Goals

- Anoka Nature Preserve - Trailhead Parking Lot and Play Equipment, Define Secondary Trails
- Mississippi Water Trail Program – Canoe/Kayak/Bike Share Pilot Project
- Park Development Planning: Rum River West Trail, Anoka Station Park
- Park Building Maintenance – Pen Point Park, Mississippi Community Park
- Polk Street Overlook
- Aquatic Center Climbing Wall
- Rum River Regional Trail - Trail & Tunnel Lighting

2014 Accomplishments

- Complete Capital Projects: River Front Park, Castle Field Phase II, King's Island Channel
- Anoka Nature Preserve - Buckthorn Removal/Controlled Burn, Improved Main Trails
- Trailway Construction: Mississippi River Trail, Rum River Regional Trail, ANP Trails
- Facility Improvements & Upgrades: Athletic Fields, Elm Street Park Play Equipment
- Increased River Recreation Opportunities: additional boat slips at Akin and City Hall

ANOKA
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Public Services – Parks & Recreation

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014 – 7:10 P.M.
COUNCIL WORK SESSION ROOM OF ANOKA CITY HALL
2015 FIRST AVENUE, ANOKA MN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Nelson, Judy Botts, Mary Blankenship, Dave Steinbring, and Ellen Ward

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Anderla, Mark Biers, Dave Throne, and Erik Skogquist

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Lee, Public Services Director and Lisa LaCasse, Recreation Supervisor

GUESTS: None.

APPROVE MINUTES
With no changes or corrections to the November Park Board minutes, a **motion was made by Botts, seconded by Ward, to APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 18, 2014, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AS PRINTED.**

5 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM
None

NEW BUSINESS
Semi-Annual Report to City Council January 20, 2014 – Draft Review
Staff presented the 2014 power point draft presentation of park projects which the Park Board Chairperson will be presenting to City Council on Tuesday, January 20, 2014. While reviewing this presentation, the Park Board discussed the Castle Field sign and possible changes that might be made to make the name stand out more. Also, it was felt the upcoming January 31, 2014, Winterfest event to be held at Green Haven should be noted at this Council meeting, including any ski meets scheduled, etc. which will utilize this facility.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Anoka Nature Preserve Trailhead Parking Lot Design Review
Lee reported that at last night's regular City Council meeting, December 15, 2014, Council approved a feasibility report for the 2015 parking lot and trailhead design at the Anoka Nature Preserve (ANP). The design was presented to the Park Board. Lee explained the parking lot and play equipment will be outside the conservation easement area. The trailway running east/west of this picnic area/shelter/parking lot was identified. Irrigation will be added. The driveway apron for the parking lot is already in place. Water and sewer is stubbed in and will be extended to the future shelter site.

Upon further discussion of the trail, Lee noted the existing access trail will be eliminated. The library prefers that people not cut across library property. The new trail will be better for trailhead users with its east/west direction anyway. Lee felt the existing trail way stub in the Rum River Shores development should be reviewed in that right now it does not go anywhere. Lee stated in the spring of 2015 city personnel and volunteers may stake out a potential trail route. An e-mail will be sent out to Park Board

members asking for input prior to a regular meeting. We hope to map out the grass trails and the main trails next spring.

With the Anoka County GIS maps of the ANP shown, staff noted that we have people from adjacent residences encroaching in various ways into the Nature Preserve. Lee felt it is time again to address this and establish the Anoka Nature Preserve property perimeter.

Anoka Nature Preserve Play Equipment
Staff reported the curbing will be installed with the parking lot project in the spring of 2015. LaCasse stated that with the anticipated park dedication the city will receive from development in this area, she will write a Request for Proposal (RFP) for playground companies and will ask them to put together a playground package based on the amount of money available, then have them make a presentation to the Park Board and staff. She felt we will get a better project using this method. LaCasse proposed the play equipment purchased should facilitate children ages 2-12 and have a capacity of 20-25 children at a time. It is desired to have a nature themed play area, which is expected to cost more than the average playground. LaCasse will put together project options and bring it back to the Park Board for review and selection.

MISCELLANEOUS
Skating Rinks, Sledding Hill, Cross-Country Skiing Update
LaCasse reported that with this unseasonably warm winter, we have lost the ice we made to date. Eight rink attendants have been hired, and we have reposted to fill additional positions. Public Services personnel will start flooding again today and will work around the clock flooding this week and next. We are trying to get them open a.s.a.p. Because of the lack of snow, the cross country skiing is suspended as well.

LaCasse reported that staff is considering opening an easy ski run for little kids on the back of the zigzag part of the George Enloe sliding hill. We would have to move the light pole, but she thought it would be a perfect opportunity for this new activity.

Change January/February Meetings to Wednesday January 21 and Wednesday February 18
Lee reported that our January meeting falls on the Tuesday after Martin Luther King Day. The normal February meeting falls on the day after Presidents' Day. Given that City Council always moves its Monday meetings to the third Tuesdays of the month after these holidays, encroaching on the Park Board's Tuesday meeting dates, it has been the Park Board's practice to move the January and February meeting dates to the third Wednesday of those two months.

A **motion was made by Steinbring, seconded by Botts, to MOVE THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2015 REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD TO THE THIRD WEDNESDAYS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2015: JANUARY 21 AND FEBRUARY 18.**

5 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Other Miscellaneous
National Park Service Rental Kiosks: LaCasse reported the National Park Service has met with the Cities of Anoka, Ramsey, and Anoka County proposing a pilot program to initiate canoe/kayak/bike self-serve rental stations. It looks as though funding is available for the three-station kiosks. The sticky point that has yet to be worked out is equalizing the operational side of this. Right now, it is felt that either Akin Riverside Park or Peninsula Point Two Rivers Historical Park will be involved in this endeavor. Akin is their first choice what with that park being right on the Rum River Trail and close to downtown. The Park Service did not like the Ferry Street corridor at Peninsula Point Park. This would be a 2016 project. Staff will keep the Park Board informed as this project progresses.

Gala Donation Request: Steinbring asked LaCasse if the city would consider donating to the Chamber of Commerce gala event coming up. LaCasse stated she would have to seek the City Manager's permission and will get back to him.

Leone's Cleaning Service: LaCasse reported that staff will be meeting with Leone's cleaning service to discuss the services they might provide in city parks, including the Castle Field complex.

Vandalism in the Parks: LaCasse reported that John Ward Park also got broken into recently, as well as Rudy Johnson, Rick Sorenson, and well house #1 and #2. Lee indicated that staff is working with the Anoka Police Department on security options.

Items for the Next meeting

- Oaths of Office for Reappointed Members
- Election of Officers
- Review Subcommittee Appointments
- 2014 Accomplishments/2015 Goals

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, a **motion was made by Blankenship, seconded by Ward, to ADJOURN THIS MEETING.**

5 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Lee

Greg Lee
Public Services Director

Mava Mikkonen
Public Services/Recording Secretary

S:\ps\pkbd\minutes\2014\pbm12-16-2014