



Public Services

Cemetery, Engineering, Parks and Public Works

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

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 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. APPROVE MINUTES
3. OPEN FORUM
4. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. 2014 Park Reservations Report
 - b. City-wide Projects Review
5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. 2014/2015 Skating Rinks' Usage
 - b. Archery Hunting Program – Hunter Feedback
6. MISCELLANEOUS
 - a. Advisory Board Appreciation Dinner – Thurs. April 16, 2015
 - b. Park Board Membership Photo
7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING
8. 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.



CITY HALL * 2015 FIRST AVE N * ANOKA, MINNESOTA 55303-2270

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Park Reservations - By Year

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Akin Riverside Park	2	15	14	18
Anoka Nature Preserve	0	1	2	2
Anoka Senior Center	3	10	9	9
Bonnell Fields	1	1	1	6
George Enloe Park	0	2	2	12
George Green Park	3	8	4	13
John Ward Park	3	14	24	25
King Park	0	0	1	0
Mississippi River Comm Park	4	29	30	38
Peninsula Point Park	10	40	30	40
Rudy Johnson Park	0	0	0	0
Rick Sorenson Park	1	22	48	10
Sunny Acres Park	7	13	19	12

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Peninsula Point Park	10	40	30	40
Concession Stand	9	20	18	18
River Room	8	18	28	21
Patio	10	37	12	40

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Mississippi Park	4	29	30	38
Concession Stand	4	20	25	22
Shelter #1	4	23	30	30
Shelter #2	3	18	23	23
Shelter #3	3	16	21	27
Shelter #4	3	14	20	22
Shelter # 5	0	0	1	0

SKATING RINK ATTENDANCE

TOTAL PATRONS	Season Totals					
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
George Enloe Park	1065	2703	1827	-	2343	2629
Wilson Elementary	1328	2341	1375	653	1892	1441
Sorenson Park	1186	1569	1465	810	1998	1742
Lincoln Elementary	266	434	454	-	780	708
Rudy Johnson Park	1213	1469	915	472	1434	1157
	5058	8516	6036	1935	8447	7677

AVERAGE # OF PATRONS / DAY	Season Totals					
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
George Enloe Park	17	34	27	-	33	39
Wilson Elementary	33	29	23	27	35	21
Sorenson Park	22	20	24	34	37	26
Lincoln Elementary	12	7	8	-	14	11
Rudy Johnson Park	32	18	15	20	26	17

Season length	58 days	80 days	65 days	31 days	58 days	68 days
Opening day	2-Jan-15	20-Dec-13	29-Dec-12	21-Jan-12	15-Dec-10	23-Dec-09
Closing day	1-Mar-15	9-Mar-14	3-Mar-13	20-Feb-12	13-Feb-11	28-Feb-10

Notes: Lincoln opened Jan 9 all rinks closed 7 days Lincoln closed 2/24 Enloe, sledding only
 Enloe sledding Dec 26 for extreme cold Enloe, sledding only 2/21 - 3/5
 Lincoln only open W-Su Lincoln 12/23 - 2/17 Lincoln 12/22 - 12/28

Hunter Feedback

I sent emails with the following questions to 14 of the 16 hunters (2 did not have email available, but those hunters were assigned to Kings Island). As of 3/12/2015 seven hunters responded – each hunter's comments are represented by a bullet point.

1) On average, how many days per week did you hunt during your assigned hunting period?

- (ANP) Sporadically, but maybe 1-2 days per week average. Long season so sometimes didn't hunt, sometimes hunted frequently.
- (KI) I had a permit to hunt Kings Island, and did not hunt. I scouted the Island several times just prior to and during my assigned season, and enlisted others to scout as well, and we found no sign of any deer left on the Island in December.
- (KI) One day, Unfortunately I spent more time on my motorcycle than I did in the woods and the days I made the attempt I did not stay long due to the construction activities going on, I probably should have chose a time slot later in the season:)
- (KI) I hunted the first weekend.
- (ANP) I was only able to hunt about once a month, this year as we were in the process of moving, but typically would've hunted at least once a week in a normal year.
- (KI) 2-3 days per week
- (ANP) 4 days per week

2) What time of day did you hunt? (e.g. sunrise - 9am)

- Always early and/or late. Usually 1/2 hr before sunrise to ~2 1/2 hrs after sunrise and ~2 1/2 hrs before sunset to 1/2 hr after sunset.
- N/a
- Sunrise and early evening
- 7am – 11am and early evening
- Evening
- Evenings
- Sunrise to about 9am and 3pm to dark

3) Did you see any deer (other than one you may have shot)? If yes, how many? How often?

- Yes, saw deer. Probably saw deer every 3 or so sits.
- No
- Only one at a distance, one time
- During that weekend I saw numerous bucks around me including 3 giants walking into my stand on sat morning. I also witnessed lots and lots of fawns with mature does. Sat morning from id say 7am to 11am I saw five different sets of does with fawns. The sunday on opener weekend I moved location to the middle of kings island and saw even more does with fawns. I also kept seeing a doe with an arrow hanging from her shoulder. I never could get her close enough for a shot. Sunday evening I took a mature 2 1/2 yr old doe with no fawns with her and I was very pleased with the meat I got off that deer.

6) In 2014, only City of Anoka residents were allowed to hunt, would you still be interested in hunting if non-residents were allowed to participate (residents would receive priority)?

- I would still be interested in hunting. I would like to have preference as a resident.
- As long as there is sufficient interest among Anoka residents, I would advocate limiting future hunts to Anoka residents.
- In such a small area with so few deer this would be very difficult and would probably discourage myself.
- I would love to see it be anoka residents only. I hear talks of non residents at work (I work for federal cartridge) saying they just want to get in there for big bucks! I agree its every hunters dream but I also believe its about culling the heard to safe levels for traffic and numbers on the island. I am a meat hunter so if a nice buck walks in yes I will try to take it but I also will not pass on a mature doe for the meat it brings in.
- Yes, I would still be interested in hunting, but would be concerned about how non-residents may treat the park or how familiar they are with it.
- Not as much
- Yes I would hunt if non-residents were allowed as well

7) Would you still be interested in participating in hunting program if:

a. Hunting was limited to specific time periods?

- Depends on how restrictive the time periods were. If I couldn't hunt early morning and late evening I wouldn't be interested.
- Yes
- Limiting to time windows would make this less inviting, probably not.
- Did not answer
- Yes, but if the window was to short I wouldn't be as it takes time to scout and set up a stand that doesn't interfere with another hunters chances, having the full season in 2014 was ideal
- Not as much
- Yes

b. Less hunting days were available?

- I would still be interested. The more hunting days available the better though because then I can get out when my schedule allows
- Yes
- Limiting to time windows would make this less inviting, probably not.
- Did not answer
- Probably not, depending on how many days and when.
- Not as much
- Yes

c. Archery Proficiency ratings were required?



Public Services – Parks & Recreation

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL WORK SESSION ROOM OF ANOKA CITY HALL
2015 FIRST AVENUE, ANOKA MN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Nelson, Judy Botts, Dave Throne, Erik Skogquist, and Dave Steinbring,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Anderla, Mary Blankenship, and Ellen Ward

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa LaCasse, Recreation Supervisor and Jon Holmes, Public Services Supervisor

GUESTS: None.

APPROVE MINUTES

There being no changes or corrections to the January regular meeting minutes, a **motion was made by Skogquist, seconded by Botts, to APPROVE THE JANUARY 21, 2015, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AS PRINTED.**

5 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

None

NEW BUSINESS

Canoe/Kayak Rental

LaCasse provided an update of a previously discussed topic: Canoe and kayak rental. Last October LaCasse met with Anoka County, the City of Ramsey, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and representatives from the National Park Service (NPS). The NPS proposed a pilot canoe/kayak rental program on the Mississippi River originating at Mississippi West Regional Park with a drop-off at Anoka and another at the Coon Rapids Dam. The NPS is waiting to hear if funding will be available. In the meantime, all parties have met and discussed this program, including a similar program involving bicycle rental. LaCasse indicated that implementation will not be until 2016. The initial pilot would be funded by the National Park Service, if approved. The biggest challenge lies in the ongoing management of the program such as equalizing the kayaks/canoes between sites.

LaCasse reported meeting with two individuals today who are looking to set up a rental business and maybe interested in being the outfitter that could assist with the program, as well as offering some kind of service of their own on the Rum River. These two are working on a business plan. Staff will put them into contact with the NPS when their plan is put together.

There are many parts of this potential program that needs to be determined. These are early days. Staff will keep the Park Board informed.

Skating Rinks Update

LaCasse referenced the agenda packet information provided relevant to 2015 skating rinks' attendance. The document provided was created fifteen days into the season. Now, forty-six days in, the numbers



cleared so well from existing use that crews will not have to do any work to them. The neighborhood in the northern quadrant has cleared their own trails that join up with the class seven trails. LaCasse stated the challenge will be to create a secondary trail south of farm field by the river, which is thick with buckthorn and is wet. It may be difficult if not impossible to cut anything through there. Throne stated just having a mowed area for running on a softer surface alongside the trail should provide adequate opportunities.

Crews will only clear downed trees that obstruct passage and will mow with a flail mower a couple times a year. Staff confirmed the trails will be about 60" wide. LaCasse confirmed these will be multi-use trails, including those preferring to bicycle. Throne spoke in favor of staff's plans.

Project Updates

- **Mississippi Park**

LaCasse presented a slide show of Mississippi River Community Park's shelter area. She explained it is staff's intention to stain the underside of the shelter, assess the condition of the shingles, and rebuild the canoe landing. The entire shoreline needs some upgrading. The trail is breaking up, especially in the areas where it has been flooded over for many years. Staff will stretch the available funds as far as possible and will go back in 2016 to complete the renovation project if necessary. Nelson asked staff to check a collapsing drainage area located at the top of the trail just off the right field line on the old softball field, where the lower trail starts to go down and just to the right of the regular loop. Staff will check into it.

- **Peninsula Point Park**

LaCasse reported it is staff's plan starting May 2015 to address Peninsula Point Park upgrades, including the floors and walls in all rooms, the doors, window frames, and installing partition doors in the restrooms. This project is hoped to begin early this spring once temperatures allow. This will be a Monday through Friday project, hoping not to affect weekend rentals.

Skogquist asked about reservation numbers in relation to the increase parking facilities. LaCasse said she will pull together that information and bring back park rental numbers at a future meeting.

Staff indicated they were not able to complete the overlook renovation in 2014. We will utilize the crew members to replace rotten deck boards, but will be reusing any good decking by flipping them over and increasing the spacing between boards to improve drainage.

- **Polk Street Overlook**

LaCasse described the Polk Street overlook; the retaining wall is made out of wood and needs to be replaced – as shown in the photos it is starting to lean. Plan is to rebuild the retaining wall with the anchor block salvaged from behind City Hall. The landscape bed is lined with timbers that are rotting. The existing green railing will be painted black to match the theme of the rest of Riverfront Park. There are also rust issues to address. The outfall needs to be rebuilt. Staff plans to check the wooden stairs as well. The entire overlooks needs a facelift. Staff has found that under the snow, the concrete is starting to sink. LaCasse reported the sewer line runs right through the center of the overlook.

- **John Ward Field #2**

LaCasse reported staff will be adding an outfield fence to John Ward field #2 and redoing the foul line fence – similar to improvements at field #1. The Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association (ARAA) football has not played there for five or six years due to rolling field conditions so there is no reason to keep the area open for multiple sport use. In 2015, Dist 11 Community Ed has a good chance of collecting new adult softball teams because the Sand Creek athletic complex is undergoing a major renovation over the next two years. LaCasse stated this is a project slated for the first thing this spring.

- **Sunny Acres "Off Leash" Area**

LaCasse reported city crews have started brush clearing at the Sunny Acres off-leash area. Overhead aerials photos were shown, mapping out the boarders, existing fence line, and trails of this unofficial dog park. Staff stated it will be best to access this park from the Cleveland Avenue parking lot to the north. People and their pets are already using this area. LaCasse confirmed the city can put out garbage

River Shores neighborhood about the hunting; a few of them were disappointed they had missed the chance to hunt this year, and others had no issues.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Concerts-in-the-Park**

LaCasse provided a list of scheduled performers for the 2015 Concerts-In-the-Park series. It was noted that at least one concert is scheduled to be held along the Rum River in Riverfront Park.

- **Winterfest Update**

LaCasse reported the 2015 Winterfest went quite well for not having any snow. There were bonfires, the city crew made a snowball launcher that shot hacky sacks, there was ladder golf, other yard games, wine tasting, and kids' activities. It seemed the kids' part was a success. The fine arts & craft show sale was not highly attended. Overall, we believe this was a winter event the city wants to do again. It has been recommended someone from the Park Board be on the planning committee next year. Planning for 2016 has already begun, some ideas included spreading winter fest activities out into the parks.

- **Bathroom Floors at New Castle Field Facility**

LaCasse reported that staff is still working with the contractor to get the bathroom and concession stand floors changed out before the 2015 season. The contractor is not confident their original sub-contractor who poured this floor can fix it. The contractor even obtained pricing from the flooring contractor who recently did Akin Riverside Park bathrooms. They are aware of our rapidly approaching deadline. This is a temperature/weather-driven project. LaCasse stated we should know by mid-March as to what contractor will complete this project. Ebert Construction has the final decision, but we have shared with them the city does not want a patch job. If a new sub-contractor is brought it we will have the ability to darken the floor color.

Steinbring asked if Jay Pomeroy has ever answered the question of the composition of materials at home plate. Is it as was proposed in project specifications or is the mix wrong. There is not much clay there. LaCasse stated specifications were to be a 50/50 mix. She will ask Jay Pomeroy to confirm this.

ADJOURNMENT

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

5 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa LaCasse
Recreation Supervisor

Mava Mikkonen
Public Services Secretary/Recording Secretary