



## Public Services

*Cemetery, Engineering, Parks and Public Works*

**JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY OF ANOKA  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD,  
THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION, AND THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016 – 5:30 P.M.  
ANOKA CITY HALL – WORK SESSION ROOM  
TOPIC: RUM RIVER WEST TRAIL PLANS**

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

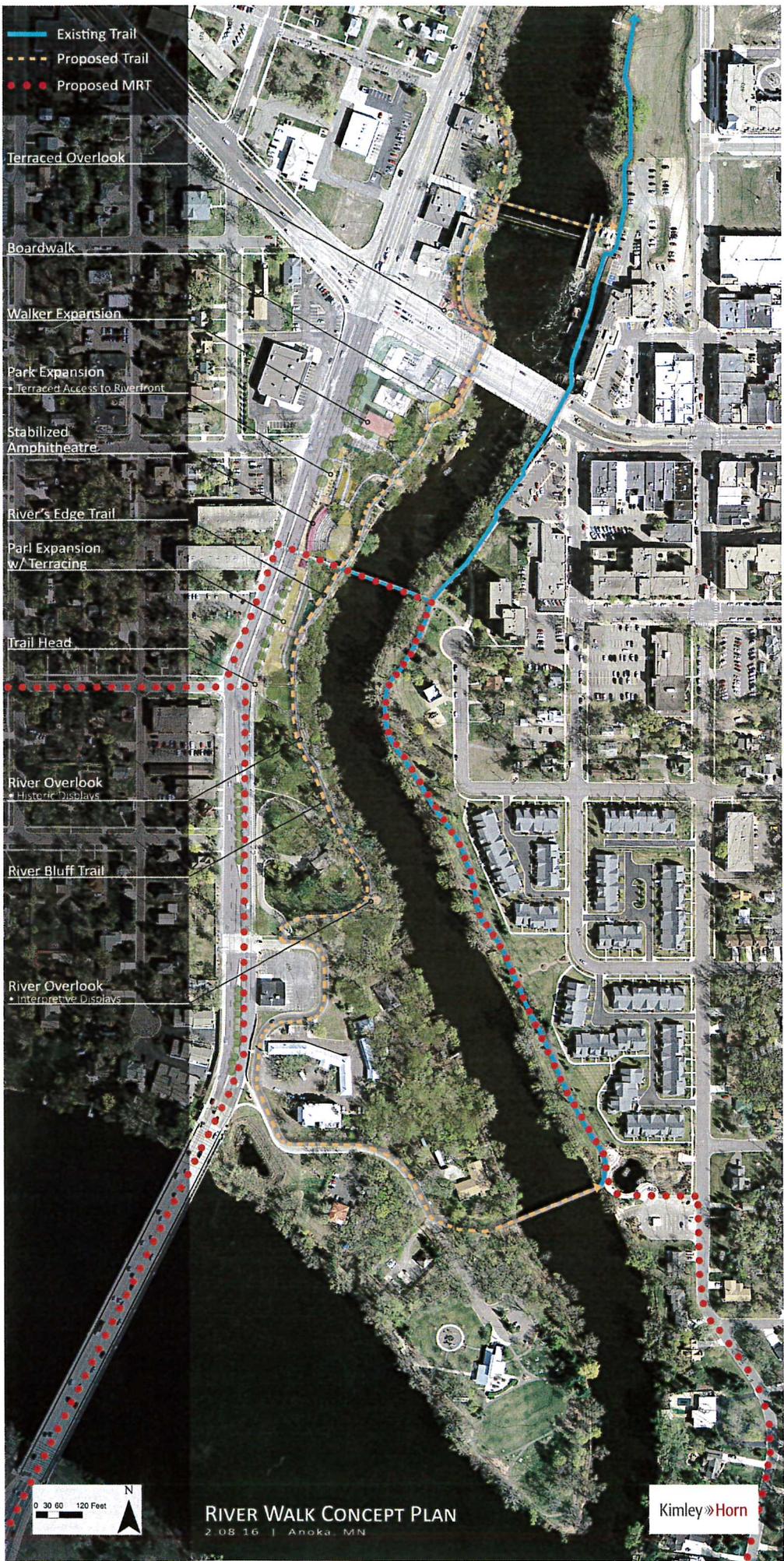
DATE: Tuesday, October 18, 2016  
TIME: 7:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Anoka City Hall - Work Session Room  
2016 First Avenue, Anoka MN 55303

#### AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVE MINUTES
3. OPEN FORUM
4. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Rum River West Trail - Next Steps
  - b. Young Artists of Anoka Halloween Projects
5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - a. Anoka Station Park
  - b. 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. Development
  - c. George Enloe Park
    - 1) Tennis/Pickleball Courts
    - 2) Playground Replacement 2017
  - d. Castle Field Phase 3
  - e. Mississippi Park
  - f. Bonnell Park
6. MISCELLANEOUS
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.



- Existing Trail
- - - Proposed Trail
- Proposed MRT

Terraced Overlook

Boardwalk

Walker Expansion

Park Expansion

Terraced Access to Riverfront

Stabilized Amphitheatre

River's Edge Trail

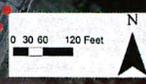
Park Expansion w/ Terracing

Trail Head

River Overlook  
• Historic Displays

River Bluff Trail

River Overlook  
• Interpretive Displays



**RIVER WALK CONCEPT PLAN**  
2 08 16 | Anoka, MN

Kimley » Horn



# STAFF REPORT

**ITEM** – 5. c. 2. Enloe Park Playground Replacement 2017

**BACKGROUND** – Attached are 3 aerial pictures of Enloe Park.

Currently there are 2 small playgrounds located within the park property and 2 basketball courts.

I would like to propose & discuss the possibility of the elimination of the small playground and basketball hoop pad on the east side of the park located on McKinley St when we replace the playground in 2017.

We will be able to maximize our purchase of equipment by installing 1 larger playground rather than replacing 2 smaller playgrounds. The cost of edging and fall material for 2 playgrounds will detract from what we are able to purchase if we consolidate into 1 location.

# Enloe Park





**Propose:**  
Larger Playground in central location rather than 2 smaller playgrounds spread throughout the park.



**Propose:**  
Eliminate Playground, swing set and ¼ basketball hoop

For Future consider adding an open shelter in this location or near the playground site



# STAFF REPORT

**ITEM** - 5. b. 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. Development

Attached is the updated development concept for 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Development.

The council will be voting to approve a purchase agreement for the property on Monday Oct 18. The plan includes 29 units at \$17,000 per unit paid to the city.

Construction of roads/building pads could occur as early as Spring 2017.





## Public Services – Parks & Recreation

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE  
ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
September 20, 2016  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION ROOM OF ANOKA CITY HALL  
2015 FIRST AVENUE, ANOKA MN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Nelson, Joseph Anderla, Margret Kallstrom, Jennifer Shoemaker, Erik Skogquist, Dave Throne, and Ellen Ward

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Blankenship, Dave Steinbring

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

GUESTS: None.

### APPROVE MINUTES

There being no changes or correction to the August meeting minutes, a **motion was made by Skogquist, seconded by Shoemaker, to APPROVE THE AUGUST 16, 2016, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AS PRINTED.**

**7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.**

### OPEN FORUM

None

### NEW BUSINESS

Mississippi Park Improvements: LaCasse showed photos of the improvements made to the river bank at Mississippi Park. The canoe launch was sinking into the river and the shoreline was degrading. Holmes' crew rehabbed the area. They removed the steps and prepped for paving which should be done in the next couple of weeks, depending on weather. There have been quite a few rain delays. Holmes was able to repair the rip rap with rock the city already had available and will continue to do more repairs as far as his rocks will take him. Rip rap was taken out of the holding pond at John Ward Park and the boulders were from work done at George Enloe tennis court.

Skogquist asked if continuing with this project was a priority. Holmes responded that it is. Anderla asked if winter ice will tear this out. Holmes responded that he hoped that would not happen and that he used very large rocks and boulders which should hold up.

LaCasse also pointed out where a bench will be placed that has been donated from the Recycling Board. Another donated bench will be placed up in the park somewhere. The trail section that follows down by the river will get repaved this fall. Another project they hope to get to is staining the underside of the shelters.

Nelson asked about the fishing dock. LaCasse responded that she has met with the DNR but there are no funds available for replacement. We are on the list for replacement and we will continue to pursue this. The park sign will also need to be replaced.



Nelson asked if the flushing of the channel was dropping and creating a sand bar. Holmes responded that with the high water the channel is doing what is supposed to do, which is scouring out the channel. So time will tell if we have to dredge the channel opening. Staff has already had to remove three very large trees from the channel this summer.

2016 Archery Hunt: LaCasse provided information on the Archery Hunt. 17 applications were received and the three hunters who requested Kings Island will be able to hunt throughout the season. 14 requested the Anoka Nature Preserve and they were divided into three sessions. There will be no hunting October 19 through the 23<sup>rd</sup> to allow for the Waterfowl Hunt and the Medallion Hunt.

LaCasse said in the past the hunters go out their first assigned week and then kind of dwindle. We are in area 601 and a lot of the hunters have a bonus tag. However, LaCasse is sticking to a once and done for the Anoka Nature Preserve. There is not an excessive deer population so she sees no reason to honor the bonus tags.

Shoemaker asked if the mild winter caused an increase in deer population. LaCasse said no. Holmes said the deer migrate from the turkey farm to the Anoka Nature Preserve and later in the season, more deer show up. LaCasse shares all information with the Anoka Police Department. The hunters are also asked to report any hunters that do not have the official permit. She finds that limiting the hunt to Anoka residents only results in hunters working well together.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Anoka Station Park: LaCasse gave everyone the draft for the Anoka Station Park which Kimley Horn is working on for the City. There is an application in to the DNR and other agencies to allow work do be done in the conservation areas. LaCasse wanted the park board members to be updated. October 1<sup>st</sup> is the goal for getting the mailing out and we should know by the end of the year if approved for funding.

Anderla asked if the City selling 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue property would affect this project. LaCasse said they would not be coming closer to the pond than the gray trail on the map. Shoemaker asked if there had been any interest in the property. LaCasse responded there was some interest. Skogquist said last we heard it was a townhome group. LaCasse said yes Lennar Homes came through with a sketch of townhome and row house combo but it has been rejected. They are back to the drawing board to develop another idea.

Shoemaker asked if this was the same building that did the development up by the library. LaCasse responded that no, four different builders were involved in that development.

Nelson asked if the city likes the Lennar project. LaCasse responded that they have not done anything in Anoka yet. Shoemaker responded that they have built in Champlin. LaCasse said she knew they built in Forest Lake. Holmes responded also in Ramsey. LaCasse said they seem to offer a wide variety of price points and the row homes are a new project for them.

Shoemaker said we discussed getting the trails to line up but she doesn't see a defined path. LaCasse responded that Hakanson Anderson is evaluating aligning the trails and the costs. This evaluation will be submitted to the County to see what their reaction is as it is on county right of way. LaCasse will bring this report back to the Park Board when it is completed.

Shoemaker suggested we could at least have some arrows on the ground to provide direction for people who are not from Anoka. There is no crosswalk on the north side. LaCasse said we are still working on this as well.

Skogquist asked if the dump area is normal size and how the grading is designed. Holmes responded there will be a catch basin near the blacktop, the rest will grade towards the river but designed like a rain garden. Skogquist asked if that had to be cleaned by hand. Holmes confirmed that it does have to be hand cleaned and there are other areas in the City that need to be hand cleaned. LaCasse added that sometimes the football team has assisted with the cleanup.

Bonnell Park: Nelson asked if this project was complete. LaCasse responded that a lot of it is complete. Holmes added that Hopko had seeded the field but then we got a frog strangler rain that washed a lot away. The catch basins had silt fences around them as required but this held the water back, drowning out some of the seed. They finally resorted to cutting slits in it to let some of the water out. Spot seeding will need to be done. Electrical inspector just approved the wiring for the irrigation system today. Hopko agreed to come back and over-seed now that the irrigation system is running.

Anderla commented that the fields were really wet for a number of days and he is concerned that will continue to be a problem. Holmes said once the silt fence is removed, the water in the field will go down through the two storm sceptors. We should not see water laying on the fields for more than half a day once everything is working the way it is supposed to.

Nelson asked if the fields would be usable in spring or fall. Anderla commented again that there was a lake on the field for 3 or 4 days. LaCasse said that will be corrected once the silt fence is removed. Holmes said we have to wait for the turf to get established. Probably not available for use next summer but maybe next fall. Younger kids might be able to play as they will not impact the field like the older kids will.

Castle Field: LaCasse gave an update on Castle Field. All the bituminous has been ripped out and we are preparing to do 6,000 square feet of concrete. There will also be landscaping in front of the dumpster enclosure. There will be room for expansion on the dedicated paver bricks. Once the paving and paver bricks are done, the next step will be landscaping. We will be looking at purchasing coordinating garbage cans and recycling containers, benches and picnic tables.

Anderla asked if the city owned a sweeper for the new concrete. LaCasse replied that will be the responsibility of Castle Field Association.

This phase of the project is estimated to cost between 80,000 to 100,000 dollars. Any money remaining goes into the capital account for future replacements/repairs. We will complete the donor board, pavers and other things the City is required to do to acknowledge people who helped with the capital. The project will look complete although it can be expanded on.

Throne asked if there was a target completion date. Holmes responded that the concrete work has been held up because of rain. They were supposed to come tomorrow and stay until finished but the weather prediction is for rain. This might push it to next week.

Anderla asked for an update on the reader board. LaCasse responded that is not her project. Anderla asked who is working on it and she responded Mark Anderson. LaCasse did not have an update.

LaCasse said they will get as much done this fall as possible. There are 81 pavers bricks ordered and if they don't all get lettered in time, we will install plain bricks and swap out with etched bricks at a later date. The donor board will be next spring but should be completed when the field opens. LaCasse said the goal is that for opening day in April 2017, the field should be done.

Skogquist asked about the proposed fence. LaCasse responded that was done before Memorial Day. Nelson added that it looks great. Skogquist asked if that was in-house work. Holmes said yes it was. Skogquist said that is awesome. Holmes said yes he has a really great crew and they are not afraid to tackle anything. LaCasse said we had some untapped talent when we operated as two separate departments.

Nelson asked if there were any problems with things not getting taken care of. Holmes responded there is an area by the batting cage where maybe the nets are not tight enough. The fence is bulging out. Overall the field looks great and the over-seeding helped. They are also mowing at 3 inches to help the turf get established. Hopko came in and took care of all the weeds. LaCasse commented that the bathrooms have been in good condition all year.

Waterfowl for Warriors: LaCasse shared information that was sent out. LaCasse managed all the program registration for the hunters while Scott Wall with MN State Patrol and Holmes handled the

volunteers. There are still two more hunts – on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. LaCasse encouraged park board members to come out for the lunch afterwards. Hunters have raved about the experience. It is a well-run program and veterans and military members really appreciate it and have a lot of fun. Nelson asked if we should bring goodies out if we come. LaCasse said yes, Ward usually brings a carrot cake out. LaCasse did receive a few thank you notes and will make copies to share at next meeting.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Buck Thorn Removal: LaCasse reported that there will be buck thorn removal up in the Anoka Nature Preserve this week and next. They will be mowing and stump cutting. There is a new tech with the Conservation District and she will be managing the buck thorn removal. Nelson asked if Chris Lord was still there. LaCasse said yes he was still involved.

11<sup>th</sup> Avenue: LaCasse said we spoke about this briefly but it was not on the agenda because she did not get an update until after the agenda was out. There is a proposed development at 11<sup>th</sup> and Grant for 29 homes. The development includes a proposed private recreation area about one acre in size. There are good and bad options with this. The trail going north could connect to Cleveland. When 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue gets redone, we would do sidewalk out to North Street.

Anderla asked if this impacts the dog walking area. Holmes responded this would not have any effect on that. Anderla suggested we could spruce it up and make it an official dog exercise area with fencing. Skogquist said you better complete that before houses are complete or people will complain.

Shoemaker asked if the path on the island is created by the developer. LaCasse said yes, it is part of their property.<sup>1</sup> Shoemaker asked what kind of homes they would be and LaCasse responded slab on grade townhomes. Nelson asked if there was a Coon Rapids development where residents complained about a nearby dog park. Anderla said this dog area is already established so this wouldn't be a new project, just an improvement to an existing dog area. Skogquist said he is still concerned that homeowners will complain.

Skogquist also said he doesn't really like the idea of a private trail – in a public park. Holmes said that area has been a favorite location for some of the homeless people. LaCasse said one advantage would be the city will not have to chase people out of there. Kallstrom asked if there would be an association fee for the homes in this development. LaCasse said yes there would be. Anderla said it sounds like Weston Woods. LaCasse said if you remember, Weston Woods put a gate on the private trail that enters into Mississippi Community Park to restrict access into the townhome development.

LaCasse said the purpose of the private trail is that it is seen as a valuable asset to the development and a selling point. If the Park Board feels strongly we can present our objection. Anderla asked if fire trucks can get down in the area if there should be a fire. Holmes said if they put a structure in there, like a gazebo, it might be a fire hazard. We can request a trail be wide enough to allow at least the grass rig truck to get out there, it's probably not necessary to get an engine out to the area.

Shoemaker asked if the land was sold. LaCasse responded there is a letter of intent. Skogquist wanted to know who the developer was and it is Shade Tree Construction. LaCasse said that next month the Park Board should look at the park dedication ordinance because this development might lobby that the private open space could count towards their park dedication fee. Nelson asked if the city is using it as a sales tool or is the developer. LaCasse responded that really both of them area. Nelson said we should insist on a return on investment and require that they pave the trail.

Young Artists of Anoka: Shoemaker was happy to announce that the window painting project in town is back. Ashley from 10K Brewery has taken over marketing for Discover Anoka and she has ten retail spaces interested. In the past, there was concern that the paint was running off windows and getting in the grout. They found that if you paint the window with white latex, then paint the designs on top of that, it

all sticks to the white paint and you can peel it off. Young Artists will be painting and they could use volunteers to pain the windows white.

Tomorrow night they are painting pumpkins at City hall for the stamp release. The pumpkins will then decorate the courtyard. The next project will be painting the snowplow blades on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Plow drivers will work with the artists to develop a theme for their blade. Once complete, some will be in the Halloween parade and others displayed in parks. Shoemaker needs more painters – more kids. Check it out on Anokaart.com

Halloween Stamp Release – LaCasse handed out invitations and flyers for this event. Throne asked how many stamp collectors are expected. LaCasse said it could be anywhere from 300 – 1000 people in attendance. There are some school groups coming, including the high school band and choir members.

Downtown Activity: Throne was out to dinner tonight and observing people downtown. There were lots of bikers and skateboarders. Also some loitering by the tobacco shops. Shoemaker suggested he watch the last few City Council meetings. This was discussed and they are working on solutions. Thorne was concerned downtown Anoka is becoming less desirable. Holmes said they have hired more security officers and it is tenfold better than it used to be. There is still a lot of work to do. You chase one group out and three more come in. The police are working on this. Throne said a big issue is that bicyclists are one the sidewalks which is dangerous for pedestrians. That and the skateboarders. Shoemaker asked if we should consider a skate park and Holmes pointed out we do have one at John Ward Park. LaCasse said there is a lot of talk about enforcing loitering laws and trespassing. They are hoping the new ordinances about drug paraphernalia will help. The two shops still open are in compliance and Red Rum has not been open since the ordinance took effect.

LaCasse said that the Central Business District has a rule for no bikes or skateboards and Monroe and Jackson are the streets to bypass Main Street. Perhaps we should change that to Van Buren rather than Jackson. Throne said it's the use of the sidewalk by bicyclists and skate boards that is the most dangerous. Shoemaker agreed and said when they were painting the tunnel bicyclists almost ran them over. LaCasse said when cleaning the tunnel they put out barricades and people ignored them and came speeding into the tunnel – and wiped out. Shoemaker said there will be a lot of people in town for the Halloween events and we want them to have a good impression of Anoka. The police are very aware and are trying to remedy this. They are open to ideas and suggestions. Shoemaker thought the trails were closed at sunset but LaCasse said all public parks are open until 11 pm. The Cemetery is sunset to sunrise.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

**7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.**

Time of adjournment: 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa LaCasse  
Public Services Administrator

Jenny Spooner  
Public Services Secretary/Recording Secretary