



Public Services – Parks & Recreation

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL WORK SESSION ROOM OF ANOKA CITY HALL
2015 FIRST AVENUE, ANOKA MN

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Throne

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Lee, Public Services Director

GUESTS: None.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Lee conducted the oath of office for reappointed Park Board member Steve Nelson. As seated Chairperson, Nelson then conducted the oaths of office for reappointed Park Board members Judith Botts and Ellen Ward.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations were opened for 2015 Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Blankenship nominated Steve Nelson. There were no further nominations.

Anderla moved that NOMINATIONS CEASE, seconded by Steinbring.

Vote: 7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Steve Nelson is the 2015 Chairperson of the City of Anoka Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Nominations were opened for 2015 Vice-Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Anderla nominated Erik Skogquist. There were no further nominations.

Anderla moved, seconded by Blankenship, that NOMINATIONS CEASE.

Vote: 7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Erik Skogquist is the 2015 Vice-Chairperson of the City of Anoka Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Lee reported that Mark Biers has resigned from the Park Board as of today. His job is prohibiting his regular attendance.

A motion was made by Skogquist, seconded by Steinbring, to APPROVE THE PARK BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AS THEY WERE FOR 2014, NOTING MR. BIERS'S RESIGNATION.

7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.



APPROVE MINUTES

There being no changes or corrections to the December 2014 regular meeting minutes, a **motion was made by Steinbring, seconded by Botts, to APPROVE THE DECEMBER 16, 2014, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AS PRINTED.**

7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

None

NEW BUSINESS

2014 Accomplishments/2015 Goals

Park Board agenda packet documents included a list of 2015 goals and 2014 accomplishments, as prepared and offered by staff. These were reviewed and briefly discussed by the Park Board.

There being no changes or additions, a **motion was made by Blankenship, seconded by Ward, to ACCEPT THE STAFF PROPOSED 2015 GOALS AND 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS PRESENTED, MOVING THEM FORWARD TO CITY COUNCIL.**

7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Lee noted these will go to Council at its February 9, 2015, work session meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

MISCELLANEOUS

E-mail re Grooming Anoka Nature Preserve Trails

Within the agenda packet was a copy of an e-mail received from Ryan Palmer, expressing his gratitude for the city's efforts in not only grooming the cross-country ski trails in the Anoka Nature Preserve, but also for year-around recreation opportunities in the Anoka Nature Preserve.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS

Castle Field Association – Nelson, who serves on the Castle Field Association (CFA), noted the association is checking into hiring someone to take care of the regular clean-up of the stands, restrooms, garbage removal, etc. He felt that banner sales will help fund this position; that hiring someone would be better than relying on volunteers; although, he would not rule that out. Lee added the city, per agreement, will still go through and check/clean the facility once a week.

Nelson and Steinbring, also serving on the CFA, indicated the association wants to find ways to start helping with costs. However, they do not want to spend down all budgeted funds. They may require the city's assistance in working toward the best way to approach some of these things.

Lee stated the city will plan out phase three of the Castle Field project in 2015.

Anoka Nature Preserve Playground Equipment – Lee confirmed that while LaCasse has been looking at playground equipment for the Anoka Nature Preserve, no Requests for Proposals (RFPs) have been sent out yet. LaCasse will attend the February Park Board meeting (Lee will not be present) and request Park Board input on how you want this playground to look and will then send it out to suppliers. By then we should know how much money we have to work with.

Skogquist had provided Lee with digital photos of natural plays areas, similar to those found in the Wargo Nature Center, rather than playground equipment. Lee presented them on the overhead for the board's consideration. Skogquist suggested combining a natural play area with slides or something. Perhaps something like what the old Elm Creek Park play area used to be. Those presented liked these suggestions and looked forward to LaCasse's presentation at the February regular meeting.

Dog Park – Skogquist suggested our 2015 goals should include completing plans for a dog park in the area over by Sunny Acres. It is time to get something going over there. Lee concurred. It would be an

off-leash area but not fenced either, at least not at first. When asked what had to be done to move forward with this, Lee responded that staff simply needs to spend some time to get the trail set up back there, followed by mowing it a couple of times a season. There would be no significant cost to create this. It was discussed that there is a significant separation between the residential homes and this identified area for a dog park that there should be no related problems.

Park Vandalism – The Park Board and staff discussed the recent vandalism in the parks where copper wiring had been stolen. Lee reported that one person has been apprehended, but there has been no further word from authorities. Staff will continue to look into security options.

Castle Field Benefits – Steinbring reported while hockey games are going on at the ice arena, teams are doing dry-land practices/warm-ups in the new Castle Field parking lot. He was pleased this is working out to be an athletic complex for many.

Lee stated the reader board previously used at City Hall will soon be part of discussions by a committee on how it might be reused in the Castle Field/ice arena location to promote various athletic functions and community messages. We hope to have this committee active by June 2015 and the process done by 2016.

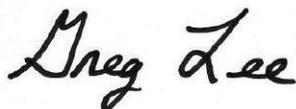
ADJOURNMENT

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

7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Lee
Public Services Director

Mava Mikkonen
Recording/Public Services Secretary