



Small-Town Culture. Emerging Possibilities.

Parks Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

The Parks Commission participated in this meeting at ENM City Hall. The meeting was conducted under Minnesota Statutes section 13D.021.

1) Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM in ENM City Hall, Council Chambers, by Chair Mike Sutton. Present at Roll Call were Chair Mike Sutton, Commissioner Dawn Vernon, Commissioner Andy Jones, and Commissioner Paul Hokeness. Also present were City Administrator Tom Terry and Recreation Specialist Jessica Davidson.

2) Approve Agenda

The agenda was amended to include the Pledge of Allegiance. Pete's Hill Signage Presentation was also added under General Business. Upon motion by Commissioner Hokeness, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the amended June agenda was unanimously approved.

3) Citizen Comments

Resident Mark Bergstrom introduced himself to the new Commissioners and requested their support in adding softball and baseball fields in the future. Mark also requested the field scheduling at Wagner Park on Saturdays be reviewed by the Commission. He mentioned several concerns about the Wagner Park fields. Staff will follow up on the field items.

4) Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Commissioner Vernon, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Parks Commission unanimously approved the May 31, 2022 Parks Commission Minutes, as printed.

5) General Business

- a. Recreational Specialist Jessica Davidson provided an overview of the Pete's Hill Signage that was designed by the City Landscape Architect as part of the trail project funded by a Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community grant. Upon motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Hokeness, the Commission unanimously approved the motion to direct staff to pursue signage and wording options for Pete's Hill as designed by the original Landscape Architect.

- b. As part of the 2022 Parks & Recreation Goal: “Discuss Options for Developing Pickleball courts”, Recreational Specialist Jessica Davidson provided a presentation that explained several options for courts. The Parks Commission then discussed these options. A motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Vernon was unanimously approved to direct staff to pursue adding courts at Eagle View Elementary (Option 1). The motion also directed staff to explore the possibility of adding courts at Holy Cross, and for the Commission to continue the discussion of developing courts as part of the Capital Outlay planning process.

6) Updates & Reports

- a. Recreational Specialist Jessica Davidson provided a Farmers’ Market Presentation. After sharing a summary about the 2021 season, Recreational Specialist Davidson then provided research on what makes a farmers’ market successful and recommendations on implementation if City Council decides to pursue a market.

The Parks Commissioners provided feedback on the presentation that will be shared with the Council at an upcoming meeting. The Commissioners unanimously felt that a farmers’ market is a fun, cultural activity that aligns with the City Priority Goal: “Enhance the quality of life in the community through the improvement and expansion of the parks and trails system, recreational programming and cultural events.” They also believe that it increases food access and meets the need to provide fresh organic food since there is no local grocery store. The Commissioners all agreed that location was the most important factor.

The Parks Commission split views on the value of adding a farmers’ market. Two Commissioners felt the benefit was worth the cost of adding resources even if it meant a possible increase to taxpayers. Two Commissioners felt the benefit of a market would be negatively offset by a tax increase. They felt that the City running a market is not feasible at this time because the City does not have the capacity currently to run a market citing lack of staffing and budget constraints. They suggested that the cost of adding the needed resources was inadvisable due to possible tax increases.

- b. The May Parks Commission Update, which contained 15 items, was included in the June Agenda Packet. Recreational Specialist Jessica Davidson encouraged Park Commissioners to visit Wagner Park to see the new Sky Rail and Hovernet. She also informed the Commission that the swing set will be removed and replaced as it is not up to code.
- c. Recreational Specialist Jessica Davidson provided updates from the New Prague and Lakeville Community Education Advisory Meetings. At the New Prague Advisory meeting a program overview was present. The budget impact due to COVID 19 was

minimal due to the number of frontline workers needing childcare. Also, Community Education Director Janelle Kirsch is retiring. Lakeville Community Ed provided a tour of the newly opened Blanchard Aquatic Center.

- d. The May financial report for the Parks Commission was included in the June Agenda Packet.

7) Park Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hokeness suggested that a closer look at the field scheduling at Wagner Park be added to the next agenda. This item will be added to the July agenda.

Commissioner Hokeness suggested that the Commission should investigate possible funding sources. This item is on the Parks' Commissions list of future topics.

8) Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks Commission is set for Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 6:00 PM at City Hall in Council Chambers.

9) Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, upon motion by Commissioner Hokeness, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Davidson