

***PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – MAY 7, 2020
MINUTES***

Members of the Park and Recreation Commission met at Strootman Park at 6:20 p.m. for a tour.

The Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Andover Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Lindahl on May 7, 2020, 7:00 p.m., at the Andover City Hall, 1885 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover, Minnesota.

Commissioners Present: Chair Jim Lindahl, Commissioners Angela Marinello (remote), Mark Miskowiec, Jake Widmyer, Kathy McElhose (remote at 7:03 p.m.), Tracy Strombeck, and Sophia Newton

Commissioners Absent: None

Also Present: Assistant Public Works Director, Todd Haas
Associate Planner, Jake Griffiths
Parks Foreman, Jason Grode (remote)

RESIDENT FORUM

No one appeared to address the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Marinello, seconded by Miskowiec, to approve the April 16, 2020 Park Commission minutes as presented. Vote taken by roll call:

Widmyer - aye
Lindahl - aye
Miskowiec - aye
Newton - aye
Strombeck –aye
McElhose - absent
Marinello – aye
Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Widmyer seconded by Strombeck, to approve the Agenda as presented. Vote taken by roll call:

Widmyer - aye

Lindahl - aye

Miskowiec - aye

Newton - aye

Strombeck –aye

McElhose - absent

Marinello – aye

Motion carries.

Commissioner McElhose joined the meeting remotely at 7:03 p.m.

RECONSIDER SECURITY LIGHTING LOCATION/STROOTMAN PARK/20-12

Chair Lindahl stated the Park and Recreation Commission approved a location for the security light at Strootman Park at the last meeting. The Park and Recreation Commission met at the park and decided the best location for the light would be near the parking lot. Chair Lindahl requested the original motion be retracted and a new motion made to change the location.

Motion by Miskowiec seconded by Marinello, to retract the motion on April 16, 2020 approving the security light location at Strootman Park. Vote taken by roll call:

Widmyer - aye

Lindahl - aye

Miskowiec - aye

Strombeck –aye

Newton - aye

McElhose - aye

Marinello – aye

Motion carries.

Motion by Strombeck seconded by Marinello, to approve installing security lighting at Strootman Park near the middle portion of the north side of the south parking lot. Vote taken by roll call:

Widmyer - aye

Lindahl - aye

Miskowiec - aye

Strombeck –aye

Newton - aye

McElhose - aye

Marinello – aye

Motion carries.

UPDATE ON PAVING OF NORTH PARKING LOT/PRAIRIE KNOLL PARK/20-18

Assistant Public Works Director Haas provided an update to the Commission stating the City Council approved Concept 3 to pave the north parking lot and installing adequate lighting. Mr. Haas stated the next step is to contact Connexus Energy. Mr. Haas displayed options for lighting units.

CONSIDER REMOVAL OF EXISTING PICNIC SHELTER/TIMBER RIVER PARK

Assistant Public Works Director Haas asked the Park Commission to consider removing the picnic shelter at Timber River Park for maintenance reasons. Mr. Haas stated the shelter is in need of repair and options include repairing it or removing it. Parks Maintenance Supervisor Jason Grode detailed the repairs needed with the potential cost of several thousand dollars.

Commissioner Miskowiec asked if it was still functional and stated he has a hard time deciding to tear it down if it still can be used or repaired.

Joyce Rendahl, 5234 169th Lane NW, came forward on Zoom and stated she has talked to many neighbors. She reported residents did not support tearing down either shelter. She suggested a steel roof, have the neighborhood association aid in repairing the shelter, or donating funds to help fix it. Ms. Rendahl asked if the City was going to plant wildflowers in an unmowed area. She indicated the association may be interested in planting native plants if needed. She also asked about painting the handicap stalls in the parking lot.

Mr. Grode replied that the concrete slab is in good shape and could remain. He stated it would, however, collect debris from the trees. Mr. Grode stated the unmowed area was planted with a wildflower mix of seedlings last year. Mr. Grode replied that the handicap stalls will be painted soon by the Street Maintenance Department.

Commissioner Strombeck stated she took a tour of the park and neighbors did not want the shelter torn down. She said it gets used by the association for meetings and the Night to Unite gatherings.

Commissioner Miskowiec stated it is a functional structure and the City could accept help from the neighborhood association.

Commissioner Marinello asked if the shelter was structurally sound enough to remain. Mr. Grode replied the inspection includes safety and aesthetics standards. He stated the shelter is not imminently in danger of collapsing but the roof will need to be replaced with the potential of additional repairs. He agreed the City could reevaluate the shelter in a year.

Commissioner McElhose suggested repairing the roof if the neighborhood association contributed money towards it. If not, she supported reevaluating it after a year and tearing it down if needed.

Commissioner Newton asked if the tables and grill could stay on the site because it is a very shady location.

Commissioner Widmyer stated the parks budget is limited and spending money on replacing a roof at a park with two shelters when other parks do not have a shelter seems like too much. He supports keeping it one year but tearing it down if it needs replacement.

Chair Lindahl stated he visited the shelter and did not see significant damage other than the roof. He suggested giving the neighborhood association the opportunity to donate funds and/or labor to repair the shelter. He agrees that since the park has one good shelter, the second one can be torn down.

Chair Lindahl asked Ms. Rendahl to meet with the neighborhood association and see if they wanted to support repairing the shelter. Chair Lindahl recommended asking for \$2500 to repair the roof.

Motion by Miskowiec seconded by Newton, to table removal of the picnic shelter at Timber River Park until the association responds or before Labor Day. Vote taken by roll call:

Widmyer - aye

Lindahl - aye

Miskowiec - aye

Strombeck –aye

Newton - aye

McElhose - aye

Marinello – aye

Motion carries.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- 1. Andover Community Center Advisory Committee Update:** Commissioner Strombeck reported the ACC staff has been busy with the expansion and program planning.
- 2. On-going Projects:** Concrete border is installed, and footings will go in at Strootman Park. Hidden Creek North playground is installed by the vendor. The sand and woodchips will be done along with seeding.
- 3. Items of Interest** - Kelsey Round Lake trail construction has started. ASN Park trail construction will start in the next week or two.
- 4. Parks Maintenance Update** – Mr. Grode presented the parks maintenance update to the Commission.

Mr. Haas reminded the Commission of the meeting on May 21, 2020 with the Coon Creek Watershed District.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Lindahl reminded drivers to be aware of pedestrians and bikers now that the trails are getting busier.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Miskowiec seconded by Strombeck, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Vote taken by roll call:

Widmyer - aye

Lindahl - aye

Miskowiec - aye

Strombeck –aye

Newton - aye

McElhose - aye

Marinello – aye

Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shari Kunza, Recording Secretary
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.