

***PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – MAY 21, 2020
MINUTES***

Members of the Park and Recreation Commission met at Hidden Creek North Park at 6:30 for a tour.

The Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Andover Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Lindahl on May 21, 2020, 7:00 p.m., at the Andover City Hall, 1885 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover, Minnesota.

Commissioners Present: Chair Jim Lindahl, Commissioners Angela Marinello (Virtual), Mark Miskowiec, Jake Widmyer, Kathy McElhose, Tracy Strombeck, and Sophia Newton

Commissioners Absent: none

Also Present: Assistant Public Works Director, Todd Haas

RESIDENT FORUM

No one appeared to address the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Miskowiec, seconded by Strombeck, to approve the May 7, 2020 Park Commission minutes as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Lindahl seconded by Strombeck, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

COON CREEK PARK STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT/COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT/20-28

Jon Janke, with the Coon Creek Watershed District came forward to talk about the Coon Creek Park Restoration Project. Mr. Janke gave background information on the Coon Creek Watershed District and its purpose. Mr. Janke identified the area of the project and stated it is targeting the bank erosion and habitat. He explained the bank is eroding at 4 feet per year. He stated homes along the creek are more susceptible to flooding and the solution is to excavate portions of the creek.

Commissioner Miskowiec stated he has kayaked in the ditch and asked if the Watershed was going to clear out the deadfall. Mr. Janke responded the Watershed cleared the

deadfall last year. He stated the downside of clearing deadfall is decreasing habitat. Mr. Janke stated the goal is to balance flow, functionality, and habitat.

Mr. Janke stated the Watershed is looking for feedback and making presentations to the Commission, the City Council, and the public. He stated the project could be done in one winter, however, there may be delays due to COVID-19.

Commissioner Strombeck asked what type of habitat the Watershed is looking for. Mr. Janke stated the project will create deep and shallow areas for the fish and habitat for the food they eat. Mr. Janke stated they are also looking at planting pollinator vegetation and removing the invasive species. Commissioner Strombeck asked how the improvement affects new developments. Mr. Janke stated there are regulations for new homes to reduce impact on the creek. He stated in the past, developments were built according to the rules at the time, however had a negative impact on the creek.

Chair Lindahl stated this is a good project with multiple benefits.

Motion by Miskowiec, seconded by Newton, to recommend to the City Council approval of the Coon Creek Park Restoration Project. Motion carries unanimously.

RECOMMED 2021-2025 PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Assistant Public Works Director Haas stated there is one project identified in the 2021-2025 Park Capital Improvement Plan. The only project identified is to pave the parking lot at Pine Hills North Facility in 2021. This project will be funded by \$120,000 out of the Park Dedication Fund and the remainder out of the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund.

Chair Lindahl stated the primary goal of the parking lots is to finish off the parks and make them more useful to park users.

Commissioner Miskowiec asked if the project included lighting. Chair Lindahl replied the existing lighting should be sufficient.

Chair Lindahl asked if the project could include the Pine Hills South Park parking lot as an alternate bid.

Motion by Miskowiec seconded by Newton, to recommend to the City Council approval of the 2021-2025 Park Capital Improvement Plan with the addition of paving the parking lot at Pine Hills South Park. Motion carries unanimously.

RECOMMEND 2021-2025 TRAIL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Assistant Public Works Director Haas stated there are no projects planned for 2021. Mr. Haas listed the trail segments to be completed in the years 2022-2025. Mr. Haas explained there is a portion of a trail segment where the City will need to acquire an easement on a non-developed property. Commissioner Miskowiec asked if there was any money to offer the owner for an easement. Mr. Haas stated money has not been offered.

He explained there will be some soil corrections that will be necessary as part of the grading of the development.

Commissioner Strombeck asked how long until each segment is completed. Mr. Haas stated preparation work (surveying and design) occurs in the year prior to the project being built and is constructed in the year the project is scheduled in the CIP.

Commissioner Strombeck asked if the plan was set in stone. Mr. Haas stated the plan can be altered year to year but will need to come back before the Commission for review and to the City Council for final approval.

Motion by Widmyer seconded by Miskowiec, to recommend to the City Council approval of the 2021-2025 Trail Capital Improvement Plan. Motion carries unanimously.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS

1. **Andover Community Center Advisory Committee Update:** Commissioner Strombeck reported she does not have an update.
2. **On-going Projects:** Mr. Haas updated the Commission on the status of park projects at Strootman, Hidden Creek North, and Prairie Knoll. Mr. Haas stated the parks and playgrounds are open to the public.
3. **Items of Interest** – Mr. Haas updated the Commission on the ASN ballfield lighting and testing is occurring next week. Mr. Haas stated the trail at Kelsey Round Lake Park is ready to be paved. He explained the ASN trail will be starting soon. Mr. Haas stated the Hills of Bunker Lake West Park will begin after July 13.
4. **Parks Maintenance Update** – Mr. Haas presented the parks maintenance update to the Commission.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Commissioner Newton reported the trail along Nightingale has a couple locations where the trail is washing out or potholes exist. Mr. Haas stated they will take a look at it.

Commissioner Widmyer asked if the City received any feedback about opening the playgrounds. Mr. Haas stated he only received positive feedback.

Commissioner McElhose reported the trails are being well used. She reported the park near her house was moderately vandalized by youth upset the parks were closed.

Commissioner Strombeck stated the sign showing the trail at Kelsey Round Lake Park is confusing and she would like to see it be clearer. Mr. Haas stated the City would look at updating the signs.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Miskowiec seconded by Strombeck, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Motion carries unanimously.

Regular Andover Park & Recreation Commission Meeting

Minutes – May 21, 2020

Page 4

Respectfully Submitted,

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