

**ANDOVER CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING – AUGUST 28, 2018
MINUTES**

The Workshop Meeting of the Andover City Council was called to order by Mayor Julie Trude, August 28, 2018, 6:00 p.m., at the Andover City Hall, 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover, Minnesota.

Councilmembers present: Mike Knight, Sheri Bukkila, Valerie Holthus and James Goodrich

Councilmember absent: None

Park Commission Members present: Chair Jim Lindahl, Brian Beck, Ted Butler, Angela Marinello, Mark Miskowiec, Dawn Perra and Jake Widmeyer

Park Commission Members absent: None

Also present: City Administrator, Jim Dickinson
Public Works Director/City Engineer, David Berkowitz
Assistant Public Works Director, Todd Haas
Parks Maintenance Supervisor, Jason Grode
Others

JOINT MEETING WITH PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

Mayor Trude reviewed the history of developments in the City including developing park systems in the City.

Chair Lindahl stated there are some parks that were dedicated to the City because they could not be used for other things. He noted over the course of the years they have tried to focus on what the needs are of the community, as far as the youth. He stated now they are trying to focus broader on the entire community population because people walk, bike and travel throughout the City. He felt trails were important.

Mayor Trude agreed and indicated the surveys show that people are happy with the system they have, and she thanked the Park & Recreation Commission for their part in that and thoughtfulness for helping make Andover a great place to live.

A. Update of the 2019-2023 Trails CIP

Mr. Haas updated the Council on the 2019 – 2023 Trails CIP:

Ranked #1, Andover Station North Trail between Kensington Estates 7th Addition with Andover Station North Ball Field Facility.

Mr. Haas noted the City has received a grant from the DNR and are really close to sending in all the information to get that completed and the contracts back from the DNR for approval and to get started.

Ranked #2, Trail at Crosstown Boulevard NW to 159th Avenue NW

Chair Lindahl stated he had more requests for this trail than any other request while he was at Fun Fest this year. He noted this trail will have potential for more development because it can provide movement to many developments and will have good future connection as well.

Mr. Haas noted the road the trail is on is a City street but is on the Municipal State Aid system so State Aid funds could be used if the road were to be reconstructed to help build the trail.

Commissioner Miskowiec stated when they were asked to rank these, cost was not a consideration. He stated it was a little frustrating because he goes by the most bang for the buck and he did not have any idea what the costs will be for these trails and are really swinging blind. If there was a suggestion of a price tag, it might have changed some of the Commissions priorities. Commissioner Perra agreed and indicated this is a safety factor involved as well.

Mayor Trude stated when the Council looks at the CIP they do get engineering estimates. She noted this trail is a costly trail because of all the obstacles but the Council told the neighborhood this trail would be put on the CIP for future development.

Commissioner Miskowiec stated they are making recommendations where they do not have all the information. He wondered how the Commission can give the Council a good evaluation. Mr. Haas stated the Commission was directed to look at the City in its entirety and tell the Council what the best location for trails is, don't look at it from a dollar standpoint and then the Council will look at funding and how to get the project done.

Mr. Dickinson stated at the Commission level it is supposed to be a more holistic approach. He stated the cheapest trail may not be the best trail. They are looking at where the greatest demand is at because money is typically spent where the greatest demand is at. Chair Lindahl stated if they do not have a plan then it does not get done.

Ranked #3, Station Parkway NW (south side of street) from Crosstown Boulevard NW to just west of Partridge Circle NW and from the east leg of Partridge Street NW to Hanson Boulevard NW.

Mr. Haas stated there were three other trails the Commission reviewed: Tulip Street NW from 157th Avenue NW to 161st Avenue NW to provide access to the Pine Hills North Facility and Pine Hills South Park. A trail system around the perimeter of Round Lake and Verdin Street

NW from 161st Avenue NW to 163rd Lane NW.

Councilmember Holthus reviewed the trail segment of Verdin Street NW from 161st Avenue NW to 163rd Lane NW. She stated she lives close to this road and it is a very busy area. She thought this was a needed trail.

Mayor Trude noted the County is going out for grants for 7th Avenue which would have a trail next to it and a section of Round Lake Boulevard that will have a short trail as well.

B. Update of the 2019-2023 Parks CIP

Mr. Haas updated the Council on the 2019–2023 Parks CIP.

Mayor Trude asked how a park dedication commitment to a community center expansion would be structured. Mr. Dickinson thought this would be split 50/50 on annual proceeds. Right now, all the projects that are currently identified with major projects through 2020 should be able to be accomplished with the current park dedication funding. Starting in 2021 is when the true split would take place but separating the dollars before that should be feasible. He stated this is all development driven. He stated they would look at setting a peg number for a commitment to the million-dollar commitment and then as it fluctuates they have the ability from the park perspective to provide more or continue to stay on the plan each year.

Mayor Trude stated looking at the park dedication cashflow it assumed 20 homes and she wondered how many homes will be developed this year. Mr. Dickinson stated they have 45 permits pulled and anticipate ending the year at 70. He stated they will have 60 or 70 park dedication fees paid by the end of the year. If they do start getting some of the developments in the pipeline to pay down quicker or the Council decides to pull back the fee assessment program, then the park dedication funds could start to come in faster.

Mayor Trude asked if staff foresees any issues with meeting the current parks project budget. Mr. Dickinson indicated they did not.

There was discussion between the Council and Commission regarding paving Prairie Knoll Park north parking lot.

Commissioner Butler thought the Park & Recreation Commission was comfortable with the CIP as recommended.

C. Update of the 2019-2023 CIP for Playground Equipment Replacement

Mr. Haas updated the Council on the 2019–2023 Playground Equipment Replacement CIP

Mr. Haas noted Purple Park has been the number one park on the list for the last couple of years for playground replacement. He stated based on the potential expansion of the Community

Center and if that goes forward there will not be an impact to Purple Park at this point. Future expansion could affect the park. He stated there are some matching grants for playground replacement. He stated the playground structure they would like to put in is around \$60,000 to \$65,000 range of which \$50,000 is being allocated from the City towards the park so they need approximately \$30,000 for the playground equipment and the remainder needs to go towards fall zones and a swing set. They are not looking at putting in concrete borders on this one because if and when the Council decides to move forward with the next phase of the master plan expansion they can relocate the playground structure to another park. He indicated the City should take advantage of this grant because it will not be around very long and if they want to get the park done they should move forward with plans on getting it started and pursue the grant.

Commissioner Perra asked what the cost would be in moving park equipment. Mr. Haas stated it would be staff time and the cost of posts that would need to be replaced.

Mayor Trude thought at this point they are not expecting Purple Park to move so she thought the only reason to move this would be if the Park & Recreation Commission decides to take advantage of more space that gets vacated in the future and she thought that was quite a long way off. She thought it might be in the next cycle that Purple Park gets replaced when they will vacate some space where Public Works is, and they could have a playground in the central part of the campus. Mr. Dickinson thought it was safe to redo the Purple Park playground equipment. It would be the relocation of the hockey rinks along Crosstown Boulevard to the north side of the Community Center which would be the next item to really drive Purple Park out. He didn't see that happening for quite some time. He stated he did not anticipate seeing anything like that for 10 to 15 years.

Commissioner Perra stated they took their time on the Purple Park equipment because they hoped to move all of it as soon as possible because of the issues at night, so if they are going to keep the equipment there, is there a way to keep it more secure. Mr. Grode stated they have opened the park up by clearing some of the trees, so it is more visible to the road. He noted they have already cleared out the area between the park and the Community Center roadway. He suggested adding lighting but indicated it would be an expense.

Councilmember Bukkila stated it is costing the City more because of vandalism than the cost of lighting would be. She thought it would be interesting because Sunshine Park area has been cleared as well. She wondered what impact that has had on people going over to Purple Park. Mr. Haas stated the City does have a camera system that they have put out there and they have caught incidents on camera and sent the photos to the Sheriff's Department where they contact the School Liaison to see if the kids can be identified.

Commissioner Butler asked if the \$60,000 to \$65,000 they have in the budget is adequate to redo Purple Park or do they need to scale back. Mr. Haas stated they will get the grant application filled out and put it on the Park & Recreation Commission agenda with a couple of ideas on what type of playground structure staff recommends being installed.

Commissioner Butler stated because of the issues they have had at Purple Park, he did think it would be good to push the park to where it will be in the Master Plan as soon as possible. Mr. Berkowitz stated this would mean removing a building that is currently being used by the Public Works Department. He stated they will hopefully be bringing Veterans Memorial Boulevard all the way over to Tower Drive and will open the corner of Purple Park, that will bring more traffic by Purple Park and open up visibility. The park will have a different feel to it even though it will still be surrounded by trees.

Mr. Haas stated the City wants to keep up on the park system with the playground equipment. He stated they will need to have approximately \$75,000 in order to do two parks a year. They would really like to do three a year, if possible.

Councilmember Bukkila asked if \$50,000 was adequate for one park how can \$75,000 get them two parks. She did not think \$75,000 was adequate to replace playground equipment in two parks. Chair Lindahl noted some of these are tot lots that only cost \$20,000 which will be less money to replace versus a regional park that will cost approximately \$50,000.

There was discussion between the Council and Commission regarding cost of park playground replacement.

D. Discuss Zones A-D Parks and the Priorities

Mr. Haas stated this item was direction from the Council last fall to evaluate every single park to determine where the City should go with every park as they come up for replacement. He stated they spent a lot of time on this item and had a lot of input from the Parks Maintenance staff.

Mr. Haas reviewed the information with the Council and Commission.

Mayor Trude stated each region in the City has their own large park and they want to make sure these parks are taken care of.

E. Update on Associations Storage Needs

Mr. Haas reviewed the City Sport Association's storage needs with the Council.

Mr. Haas noted the football association needs storage space to store their helmets. He noted the storage cannot be a cold storage. Mayor Trude wondered if the associations could share some of the storage areas at the parks. Mr. Haas stated the problem with that is if too many people have the same access to the same areas things start going missing and then there are problems.

Mr. Haas stated North Metro Soccer has indicated they would like additional storage space in the City. He thought a good place for a warming house, bathrooms and storage for them would be at Hawkridge Park. This is a central location for their program and the association is thinking about that.

Mr. Haas reviewed other association storage areas in the City and their requests.

F. Discuss Fee for Use of Fields by Groups/Organizations/Associations

Chair Lindahl updated the Council on field fees. He stated there have been positive and negative thoughts on this. They are trying to be in line with what adjacent cities are doing and want to also try to keep the fields at a high level for competition. He stated they have been talking about possible charges of \$10-\$25 per participant and more for non-residents. He stated this is not one of his drives right now but thought it may be something they will continue to look at. He stated if they do this he would want to make sure they identify what the extra money is going for, specific to park maintenance, irrigation, lighting, fence replacement or whatever it would be used for, so the associations know it is not just going into the General Fund.

Commissioner Perra stated they talked about the possibility of the fee going to improvements such as irrigation. Commissioner Miskowiec stated the associations are the main users of the fields and he thought they should participate in helping keep them up.

The Council and Commission discussed a user fee and it was determined there would not be a consensus in favor of a fee at this time.

Councilmember Knight asked if they asked the Association for help with maintenance and not bring up money. Chair Lindahl thought they already were doing this. Mr. Berkowitz stated baseball does not donate money, they do give the City a yearly amount to use and what is not used is reimbursed back to the association.

Mr. Dickinson updated the Council and Commission on the City Campus expansion.

RECESS & RECONVENE

The City Council recessed at 7:55 p.m. The City Council reconvened at 8:03 p.m.

Mr. Berkowitz thanked Mr. Haas and Mr. Grode for their hard work on the Park & Recreation Commission information.

DISCUSS REMOTE CONTROL DIRT TRACK/MEDIAN OF EAGLE ST. NW

Mr. Berkowitz explained resident Brandon Dobratz, 15950 Eagle Street, has proposed to convert the island median on Eagle Street to a radio-controlled dirt race track. He introduced Mr. Dobratz who made a presentation to the City Council.

Mayor Trude stated she has seen the median and it is a mess. She indicated Mr. Dobratz was the first person to come forward with a possible plan for the island. She thought Mr. Dobratz will run into issues with the neighbors on maintenance of the island. Mr. Dobratz indicated this is something outside of a park but something fun and exciting. Mayor Trude stated she liked the

idea of this being something different.

Mr. Dobratz stated this would be something that would be controlled by the City and would need City permission to use the dirt track. He reviewed with the Council his plans for the proposed radio-controlled dirt track.

Councilmember Holthus asked how much noise the cars make. Mr. Dobratz stated they are electric and do not make a lot of noise.

Commissioner Bukkila stated she liked the concept but not where it is being proposed. If this was in a City park or public location she might be in favor of this.

Mayor Trude stated she would like to see Mr. Dobratz and the residents to keep exploring ways to improve and use the center island because it is a large amount of space and the residents do not have large backyards because of the wetlands.

Councilmember Goodrich indicated his concern is this might bring in too much traffic into the area and would cause problems.

The City Council was not in favor of a remote-control dirt track in the proposed location.

DISCUSS POTENTIAL VETERANS MEMORIAL BLVD. NW LAYOUTS EAST OF NIGHTINGALE ST. NW/18-37

Mr. Berkowitz explained the City Council is requested to review the proposed entrance layout for planned extension of Veterans Memorial Boulevard east of Nightingale Street.

Mr. Berkowitz indicated staff has been working with WSB Engineering on a layout for Veterans Memorial Boulevard (VMB) and would like direction from the City Council on how the entrance of VMB should look on the east side of Nightingale Street.

Mr. Berkowitz asked the Council if they wanted a short median or not. Councilmember Bukkila stated she did not. Mayor Trude stated she did because she thought people coming from the west would slow down if they were going to cross.

Mr. Berkowitz stated he did not like medians for certain cases. He stated because of the amount of activity they have and the snowplows coming and going it is another thing to deal with. He stated they could deal with them if the Council wanted a median.

Councilmember Goodrich stated he liked the idea of a median because he thought it would add something to Veterans Memorial Boulevard. Councilmember Holthus thought a median would make it look more like a boulevard.

Councilmember Goodrich asked what kind of initial cost they were looking at. Mr. Berkowitz

stated they are looking at around \$50,000 for the median. As long as they do not go median along the entire corridor, that would be extremely expensive. This would be more of an aesthetic thing.

Councilmember Goodrich asked if they did the median would it subtract anything else from the Public Works plans. Mr. Dickinson stated this is part of the road work and would be State Aid eligible but indicated it is \$50,000 that could be spent elsewhere.

Mayor Trude asked if the road will be striped for pedestrian crossings. Mr. Berkowitz indicated it would. He stated there is no trail on the north side so there will not be a crossing there. He reviewed where the trail will be located.

A majority of the Council agreed to add a median to the roadway, Councilmember Bukkila was not in favor.

Mr. Berkowitz reviewed Tower Drive and the proposed future expansion with round-about. He stated there will be exposure to their Public Works yard on this road in the short term and they will need to figure out some screening. With the exposure of the road, it will expose the building. He showed the schematic that is going to be built without the round-about. He stated in the short-term, it will function like a parking lot functions.

Mayor Trude asked if they have had an engineering company look at the shape of this and if that is the way it should be done. Mr. Berkowitz indicated at this time they do not have a choice unless they want to move the road and tie it into the northerly driveway of the Community Center. He did not know how long the short term was going to be. Mr. Dickinson stated the road can only go so close to the well.

The Council was ok with the design as presented. Mayor Trude stated there is a lot of concern with how this is going to operate. Mr. Berkowitz stated it will function like a parking lot.

UPDATE CITY CAMPUS MASTER PLAN POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Mr. Dickinson updated the City Council on exploring the expansion of the Andover YMCA Community Center and the Public Works Facility expansions.

Mayor Trude stated she would like to see the YMCA take over the senior/teen space because they are collecting fees for senior activities. She stated Silver Sneakers is a health-based fee. Councilmember Holthus did not think all the seniors at the activity center use the YMCA. She stated they drink the coffee, play cards and talk to each other.

Mr. Dickinson stated if the YMCA has 100% control of the space it will be significantly smaller, and they will run the program the way they want to, and it will be membership based. If the City wants to do it anyone can use it without a membership.

Mayor Trude thought the YMCA was providing senior programming. She asked the Council if the City should provide senior programming. Councilmember Bukkila stated this is something the City should provide. Something that is not necessarily athletic or recreational. She would like to see something that would be a social hang out for the seniors. Mayor Trude stated there would need to be staff available for oversight.

RECESS & RECONVENE

The City Council recessed at 9:08 p.m. The City Council reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

2019 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Dickinson explained staff continues to work on the 2019 Annual Operating Budget Development process. He reviewed the information with the City Council

Mr. Dickinson noted there will be a City Council Workshop after the September 4, 2018 meeting to discuss the budget.

PREVIEW 2019 PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY

Mr. Dickinson updated the City Council on the 2019 Preliminary Tax Levy.

2018 BUDGET PROGRESS REPORTS

Mr. Dickinson updated the City Council on the 2018 Budget progress.

2018 CITY INVESTMENTS REVIEW

Mr. Dickinson updated the Council on 2018 City Investments.

OTHER TOPICS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bukkila, Seconded by Goodrich, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Osbeck, Recording Secretary
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

