



City of Oakdale, Minnesota

-established 1974-

Department of Recreation
4444 Hadley Avenue North
Oakdale, MN 55128
(651) 747-3867

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April 15, 2022

Dear Parks and Recreation Commissioners:

Enclosed is your packet of information for the regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to be held on April 19. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Oakdale City Hall Council Chambers, 1584 Hadley Avenue.

Jim Romanik, Public Works Manager will update the commission on the rewiring of the Walton Ballfields, Skateboard Park, and Guthrie Park shelter re-roofing project. Finally, the commissioners will be updated on current and upcoming park projects and recreation programs.

Should you have any questions regarding the upcoming meeting, or are unable to attend, please feel free to contact me directly at (651) 747-3867.

Sincerely,

Julie Williams

Julie Williams



AGENDA

Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission

REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 2022
7:00 PM
Oakdale City Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. March 15, 2022

5. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REVIEW

a. OLD BUSINESS

- i. Walton Ballfield 5 – 8 Rewiring Update, Romanik/Koesling*
- ii. Guthrie Shelter Update*
- iii. Walton Skateboard Park Update*

b. NEW BUSINESS

6. OTHER

- a. Council Liaison Update(s), Koesling/Williams
- b. Commissioners Comments
- c. City Council Update, Ingebrigtsen*

7. ADJOURNMENT

*Items marked with an asterisk have no accompanying materials

The next regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be held May 17, 2022

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
March 15, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Chair Lockhart at 7 PM.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Chair: Paul Lockhart
Vice Chair: Glen Giacoletto

Commissioners: Jan Cunningham
Mark Giannini
Steve Meyer

Also Present: Jim Romanik, Public Works Manager
Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent

Absent: Freddie Jiles, Commission Member
Jake Ingebrigtsen, City Council

Quorum Present: YES NO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes, February 15, 2022

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2022 AS PRESENTED.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

VOTE CHAIR/VICE CHAIR – Chair Lockhart

Chair Lockhart opened nominations for chair. He nominated Commissioner Meyer.

Commissioner Meyer nominated Chair Lockhart to continue as chair.

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Chair Lockhart closed nominations and the commissioners cast their ballots.

Superintendent Williams tallied the votes. Three to two, Chair Lockhart won.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MEYER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIACOLETTO TO APPROVE CHAIR LOCKHART TO CONTINUE HIS ROLE AS CHAIR.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

Chair Lockhart opened nominations for vice chair. He nominated Commissioner Meyer.

Commissioner Cunningham nominated Commissioner Giacoletto.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MEYER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

Superintendent Williams tallied the votes. Three to two, Commissioner Giacoletto won.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MEYER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER GIACOLETTO AS VICE CHAIR.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

WALTON BALLFIELD 5 THROUGH 8 REWIRING – Jim Romanik

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) will be partnering to help develop a project plan with Mr. Koesling and Mr. Romanik. Based on estimates, the project will be tight within the \$40,000 budget due to price increases across the board with construction and labor. The best results will consider cost and Oakdale Athletic Association (OAA) as the end user of the ballfield outlets. SEH will assist with design, coordination, and bidding with contractors. There are options in how to bury the conduit; direct bore or open trench bury. There will be less disruption to the season's ball players if we bore the line. The original plan was burying more wire than necessary along the perimeter, and SEH has proposed a cost savings plan that Mr. Romanik is pretty confident will fall within the budget. We are awaiting a cost of service proposal to move forward.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE – Jim Romanik

2022 Projects – Updates will be forthcoming for the Guthrie Shelter Reroofing and Walton Skate Park Repair Projects now that spring snow melt will allow the opportunity to meet with contractors and develop plans.

Chair Lockhart asked how long the skate park will be down.

Mr. Koesling predicted repairing the skate park would take a couple weeks.

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Manager Romanik recalled the last action on the project was made by Director Brian Bachmeier, who had contacted American Ramp about resurfacing ramps. Superintendent Koesling recommends more repairs, and the next step will be to reach out to American Ramp again for recommendations.

Chair Lockhart confirmed that the skate park's repairs have an \$115,000 budget.

PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT RECOMMENDATION – Jim Romanik

Manager Romanik explained that vintage 1995 to 1998 playground parts are increasingly difficult to find and more costly to repair or replace. A slide section at Eberle Park was damaged by fire due to vandalism, and without the option to replace the older piece, a whole new slide was an expensive purchase. Council is seeking a recommendation for a playground to be replaced when funding becomes available.

Referring to a list of the Oakdale park system's playground installation dates, Superintendent Koesling suggested Tanners or Eberle for playground replacement. Tanners Park has high use with its beach and summer rentals. While Tilsen has an older playground, it is not a high volume use park.

Chair Lockhart agreed with Tanners and Eberle as the top contenders, considering Northdale too for its high use. He suggested starting with the oldest playground and working that way through the list.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO RECOMMEND THE TANNERS PARK PLAYGROUND FOR REPLACEMENT.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

Commissioner Cunningham commented that because Eberle is slated in the Capital Improvement Program for resurfacing and a location considered for a court addition, that it may be possible to save costs by combining projects, dependent on the timing of the budget.

Chair Lockhart found Eberle on the Capital Improvement Plan for 2023. Adding a playground set is a different project category from improvements that include resurfacing. The possibility of adding a volleyball or pickleball court at Eberle has not been decided.

Mr. Romanik agreed with Commissioner Cunningham that there may be some benefit to timing a playground replacement with a volleyball or pickleball project, by being able to save time and costs with landscaping and restoration.

Commissioner Meyer filled Mr. Koesling in, following his extended work absence, on planning for the addition of pickleball and volleyball courts to Oakdale's park system by referencing Director Bachmeier's report on tentative park locations, with maps sizing the courts within available park spaces.

Commissioner Cunningham showed that report to Mr. Koesling.

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PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling

Ice Rinks and Warming Houses – Using the trailers as temporary warming houses was successful, with rink use going up this year. Recreation Coordinator Nathan Timmons has created a rink report for the season that will be shared at next month's meeting. When surface conditions dry up, the semi will pull the trailers out. There is no extra cost on waiting for the removal, as the price paid was for the season.

Chair Lockhart cautioned warmer weather may bring out vandals who may target the trailers.

Summer Seasonal Public Works Staff – Public Works is in the process of hiring for their six seasonal staff positions for those ages 18 and up. Applications are being taken and one has been received. There is one seasonal returning from last year. Streets takes one seasonal, and so does Forestry.

RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams

Indoor Market – The 2 Sisters will perform live music to wrap up the last Indoor Market this Saturday. It has been a good year, ending the season with approximately 18 vendors. Nathan Timmons does a great job coordinating the markets, and will now start to focus on the Farmers Market.

Warming Houses – The rinks are now closed for the season. Public Works did a great job maintaining the rinks and quickly clearing the ice after snow events.

Artist of the Month – Shelita Kelly will be displaying mid-March through April.

Best Snow Sculpture of Oakdale Contest – Seven entries have been received for the "Snow Castle" theme contest running through March 31. The snow is melting quick! The winner will receive a \$100 Target Gift Card.

Maple Syrup – The annual activity will be held Sunday, March 20 from 1 to 3 PM at the Discovery Center. The full class of 35 participants will learn how maple syrup is made and how to tap trees.

Indoor Garage Sale – Signs and advertising will begin this week for the Indoor Garage Sale taking place Saturday, March 26 from 9 AM to 1 PM. Typically 400 to 500 shoppers attend. The event booths, two tables per booth, are full with 23 sellers.

Superintendent Williams informed Commissioner Cunningham that there will also be an Oakdale Citywide Garage Sale this year. The city wide event is now organized by the Oakdale Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mystery Egg Hunt – The big spring event will take place on Saturday, April 16 from 9 to 11 AM. A maximum of 200 kids and their families hunt for eggs, play games, and make crafts. There are also face painters, a petting zoo, and prize drawings. Thanks to Larry and Vicki Eberhard of Keller Williams Realty who will be returning to provide donuts and raffle two kids bikes.

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Summer Program Instructors – Applications are being taken through the end of March, with interviews held in April. Pay starts at \$14 an hour. Only a couple applications have been received.

Special Early Addition of the Summer Newsletter – Summer registration begins April 28. The early newsletter will be available early April, online only.

Community Walk – The community walk begins April 1. The 2022 end of season rewards have been changed to the following tiers: maximum reward is a \$25 gift card for 150 miles walked, 100 miles walked will receive a \$10 gift card and t-shirt, and 25 miles walked will receive a \$5 gift card.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Wellness 50+ - Commissioner Cunningham announced a new Meetup website for Wellness 50+ events. View and register for events in Oakdale and Washington County by visiting www.meetup.com/Wellness50-TwinCities/.

Annual Arbor Day Tree Giveaway – Vice Chair Giacoletto attended the Tree Board’s quarterly meeting two hours ago. Details were determined for the tree giveaway, taking place Saturday, April 30 between 9:30 and 11:30 AM. Tree choices include three deciduous and one evergreen; Blue Beech, Common Hackberry, Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry, and Medora Juniper. City Forester Loren Cota felt online registration should open tomorrow. The drive up aspect worked great last year and will continue this year.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MEYER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED MARCH 15, 2022, AT 7:27 PM.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Linzmeyer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Christina Volkers, City Administrator
FROM: Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent
DATE: April 15, 2022
SUBJECT: April Program Update

The following information is provided to the City Administrator and Parks and Recreation Commissioners as information only. There is no need for any official commission, council, or administrative action; but rather, this is an effort by staff to keep you informed of the Department's day-to-day operations.

1. **Summer Programs** - Our early summer program guide is now available online. The full summer newsletter will be mailed to residents mid to late May. Summer program registrations will begin on Thursday, April 28.
2. **Mystery Egg Hunt** - Our annual Mystery Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 16. Always one of our most popular events of the year, 200 kids will search the grounds of the Oakdale Nature Preserve for hidden eggs. Larry and Vickey Eberhard of Keller Williams Realty will again provide donuts and raffle off two bikes.
3. **Best Snow Sculpture of Oakdale Contest** - We received 9 creative "Castle" entries this winter. It was truly difficult picking just one winner after receiving photos and videos showing off the spectacular castles. Congratulations to the Koenig family for submitting the winning snow sculpture, a large glowing castle that you could even crawl through! Thank you to everyone who participated.
4. **Community Walk** - The popular Community Walk is underway! Over 150 participants have already signed up through the first two weeks of the program.
5. **Park Clean Up** - The annual Park-Clean Up is scheduled for the week of April 25. We currently have a number of volunteers signed up to clean a variety of parks throughout the city. Trash bags are provided and each participant will receive a thank you gift. Thank you to all volunteers!
6. **Junior Master Gardeners** - Our annual Jr. Master Gardener class will be held on Sunday, April 24. Participants will stop by Discovery Center to decorate pots and plant seeds of their choice. The event is full!
7. **Pickleball** - The Pickleball courts opened for the season in late March. Lessons will begin on May 3 and are currently full. We do have a couple of openings for the second session beginning in June.

**Best Snow Sculpture Award Winner
The Koenig Family**



2022 Winter Warming House/Ice Rink Report

- No holiday break skating this year. Rinks did not open to public skating until the beginning of January, with all four rinks open by January 7th.
- No accident or incident reports filed this season!
- Walton Hockey rink was the final rink to close for the season, on March 4th. The three other rinks all closed on March 1st. It is hard to compete with the March sunshine.
- Rink attendants and skaters loved the new trailer warming houses at Walton and Eastside. They were comfortable, bright, spacious and warm, and the rink attendants appreciated having such nice conditions for working.
- Out of the three hockey rinks, Eastside Park was skated the most this season with over 565 skaters. Walton Pleasure rink recorded the same amount of skaters as Eastside.
- Northdale Rink was used the least of the four rinks, recording over 230 skaters this season compared to over 500 two years ago. This could have to do with the upgraded ice conditions at Walton Hockey.
- Very few storms and bad weather this season, keeping the rinks open for continues weeks without storm or weather closures and resets. Public Works typically could clear rinks by the next day after a snow event.
- Road Signs stating “Ice Rink Here” with arrows were placed at the rinks! Great feedback was received from new skaters, some saying that they never even knew the rinks were there.

Summary

Total Days of Open Ice: 51 out of 54 days of season

Dates: January 3rd through March 4th (Walton Pleasure opened first, Walton Hockey last to close)

Number of Staff: 10 rink attendants throughout season- three went back to college after January

Total Hours Warming House were open: 929 total hours warming houses opened

Total Number of Skaters: 1784 total skaters

Walton Pleasure Rink

Days Open: 54 (Opened January 3 and closed Tuesday, March 1)

Days Closed: 3 (Jan 23, Feb 6, 22)

Last Full Season (2020): 49 Days Open, 16 Days Closed

Total Skaters: 566 recorded skaters (414 skaters last season)

Total Hours Opened: 262 hours recorded (232 hours recorded last season)

Walton Hockey Rink

Days Open: 53 (Opened January 7 and closed Saturday, March 5)

Days Closed: 4 (Jan 23, Feb 6, 21, 22)

Last Full Season (2019): 18 Days Opened, 17 Days Closed

Total Skaters: 417 skaters recorded (106 skaters recorded in 2019)

Total Hours Opened: 236 hours recorded (91 hours open in 2019)

Northdale Hockey Rink

Days Open: 50 (Opened January 7 and closed Tuesday, March 1)

Days Closed: 4 (Jan 23, Feb 6, 21, 22)

Last Season (2020): 45 Days Open, 13 Days Closed

Total Skaters: 236 Skaters recorded (491 skaters last season)

Total Hours Opened: 215 hours recorded (203 hours last season)

Eastside Hockey Rink

Days Open: 50 (Opened January 7 and closed Tuesday, March 1)

Days Closed: 4 (Jan 23, Feb 6, 21, 22)

Last Season: No Warming House

Total Skaters: 565 skaters recorded

Total Hours Opened: 215 Hours recorded