



AGENDA

Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission

REGULAR MEETING
October 17, 2023
7:00 PM
Oakdale City Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. September 19, 2023

5. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REVIEW

a. **OLD BUSINESS**

b. **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. Introduce new commissioners Kari Moore and Jen Schorr
- ii. Oakdale Pickleball Club Presentation, Sara Scott

6. OTHER

- a. Council Liaison Update Koesling*
- b. Council Liaison Update Williams
- c. Commissioners Comments
- d. City Council Update, Council Member Andy Morcomb*

7. ADJOURNMENT

*Items marked with an asterisk have no accompanying materials

The next regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be held November 21, 2023.

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
September 19, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Chair Meyer at 7 PM.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Chair: Steve Meyer
Vice Chair: Glen Giacoletto
Commissioners: Jan Cunningham
Mark Giannini

Also Present: Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent
Andy Morcomb, City Council

Absent: Glen Bearth, Commissioner

Quorum Present: YES NO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes, August 15, 2023

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2023 AS PRESENTED.

4 AYES 0 NAYS

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN DRAFT – Julie Williams

The draft work plan for the Commission was presented, following the discussion from last month's workshop. Additions and changes can be given to Mrs. Williams between now and the next meeting for next month's agenda.

NEW COMMISSIONERS UPDATE – Julie Williams

Three candidates are on the agenda to be interviewed at the September 26 Council Workshop. Two will be selected to fill the vacant Parks and Recreation Commission spots and begin either at the next meeting, or following.

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PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling

Fall Sports – The season is moving along with cooperative weather. There have been very minimal closures as far as rain. Rain could be useful.

Lawn care – Crews will begin aerating and over seeding areas without athletic uses next week. After soccer ends, athletic areas will follow.

Winterizing – Winterizing irrigation systems and buildings will start within the next week or two to prepare for the arrival of cold weather.

Plowing – Today the crew attended salt training in Cottage Grove. The training is required to operate the equipment.

RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams

Touch a Truck – Thanks to Public Works, Police, Fire, and others who participated with their vehicles to make a great community event and turnout last Tuesday. Free ice cream was provided and 300 hot dogs were sold thanks to Glen Bearth and the Maplewood Oakdale Lions Club.

Farmers Market – Four markets remain with fall products arriving. Market Coordinator Nathan Timmons will begin transitioning to the Indoor Market season beginning November 11 at the Discovery Center.

Family Fun Flatables – There was a great turnout this past Saturday from 11 AM to 4 PM at Walton Park. The weather was perfect, there were 12 inflatables, six sponsors, and the Tartan Boosters sold out of concessions. Gold Sponsors included the Oakdale Athletic Association and American Legion Post 39, a silver sponsor was New Horizon Academy, and the bronze sponsors were Marcus Theatres, North Star Skate School/East Metro Stars Hockey, and Parkview Chiropractic.

Oakdale Wellness 50+ – A Walgreens Flu Clinic will be at the Discovery Center on Saturday, September 30 from 11 AM to 2 PM. No registration is required.

Fall Winter Oakdale Update – Newsletters are now available online and will be expected in mailboxes this week.

Discovery Center Beehive – Congrats to beekeepers Karen and Duane Voy who won a Washington County Fair Blue Ribbon, and three ribbons at the Minnesota State Fair for their honey.

MEA Amped Up Entertainment – On Thursday, October 19, from 10 to 11 AM, a special fall amphitheater date will feature the RAD Zoo's Radical Reptile Adventure with live snakes, lizards, turtles, and an alligator.

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COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Park Tours – Chair Meyer reported that the Commission visited Golfview, Furlong, Northdale, Bark Park, and Oakfield on Saturday, August 19. Input from park users is also welcome by email. Feedback and suggestions are shared with staff. Discussed were uses for different age groups, multi-use athletic options, park maintenance items, addressing underused parks such as Tilley, and prioritizing funding for parks with high use. Overall, parks are in good shape. There are a lot of parks in Oakdale with limited staff to care for them. The grass looked really good at the parks visited but not as well at Guthrie Park where the organic fertilizer was tested. He shared that Superintendents Koesling and Williams are doing a great job and more funding overall for parks and recreation would be great.

Commissioner Cunningham explained that the tours allow Commissioners to gain hands on knowledge of park use, see what needs attention or can wait, and receive the valuable input of Superintendent Williams, Councilmember Morcomb and the neighbors that came out to talk. The tours build community that supports children and park users.

Vice Chair Giacoletto looks forward to adding the new Commissioners and assigning parks to each member to share reports on. The basketball project at Guthrie looks great.

Commissioner Cunningham shared that Oakdale Police and Fire will host a public safety and fire prevention class at the Discovery Center on Saturday, October 7 from 10 AM to 12 PM. Please sign up by emailing oakdalewellness50new@gmail.com.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Andy Morcomb

Park Tours – Council values feedback to help answer questions about how to fund parks going forward and what parks should look like in Oakdale's future. Three new parks are coming in the Willowbrooke neighborhood, along with a park planned for the development adjacent to the bus rapid transit line. It will be helpful to see an equation to determine staff needed per number of parks or acreage, and see if Oakdale is ahead or behind to budget accordingly for the opening of the parks and maintenance of these resources.

Guthrie Park Grass – Mr. Koesling replied to Councilmember Morcomb's question about his opinion on the organic fertilizer outcome at Guthrie Park. Mr. Koesling noticed that the grass may not be as thick as it had been in the past but there is a drought.

Willowbrooke Commons – The asphalt trails are almost complete except for a few connection points with roads. The asphalt layer for 36th Street is scheduled for later this week or early next week, now that a number of weeks passed to make sure that sinkholes did not form.

Norhart Apartments – Developers have expressed interest in the land surrounding the 4th Street bus rapid transit project. They have not yet submitted any formal applications. There is a future potential park planned for this area. Zoning will determine what businesses and apartment buildings come in.

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ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 7:24 PM.

4 AYES 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Linzmeyer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Christina Volkers, City Administrator
FROM: Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent
DATE: October 13, 2023
SUBJECT: Monthly Update – October 2023

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. FARMERS MARKET

The market wrapped up on Wednesday, October 11. The great fall weather in September and October created a thriving atmosphere at the market for vendors and customers still looking to get fresh produce right up to the first frost of the season. Despite the hot summer, vendors were not impacted by droughts like they were the previous year. Mr. Egg Roll was a great food truck addition as well as the continued support from Oscar and the Taqueria Los Pasionos truck. We look forward to the Indoor Market kicking off on Saturday, November 11.

2. MEA BREAK AMPED UP ENTERTAINMENT

The department will offer a special fall edition of our Amped Up Entertainment program at the Discovery Center amphitheater on Thursday, October 19 from 10 to 11 AM. The RAD Zoo will bring their Radical Reptile Adventure Program, an interactive experience with snakes, lizards, turtles and an alligator. The event is free to the public.

3. RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The department is again partnering with Oakdale Wellness 50+ and the Maplewood-Oakdale Lions Club to host a blood drive on Friday, October 20 from 9 to 3 PM at the Discovery Center. Sign up at redcrossblood.org.

4. FLASHLIGHT PUMPKIN HUNT

Our annual Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt will take place on Thursday, October 26 from 7 to 8:30 PM at the Discovery Center. Kids will hunt for pumpkins along the luminary lit trails of the Oakdale Nature Preserve. Halloween balloon twisting, a dance party, new games, pumpkin decorating, spooky treats, glow necklaces and a bonfire are all part of the fun event this year.

5. PUMPKING CARVING CONTEST

The department is again hosting a pumpkin carving contest, open to all ages and skill levels. The pumpkins will be displayed during our Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt where the attendees will vote on the winners. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: Best, Spookiest, and Bumpkin Pumpkin (carvers 12 and under). You do not need to be registered for the Pumpkin Hunt to participate. Pumpkins will be accepted at the Discovery Center Oct 22 through October 25.

6. ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Painters Susan Solomon and Mandy Madsen will be featured at the Discovery Center Art Gallery the months of October through November. Susan Solomon's painting of a bench in a snow-covered Oakdale Nature Preserve is on display, and the piece was selected by Courage Kenny last year as their featured Holiday Card. Other paintings feature local state parks, familiar local scenery like the Como Zoo, and faraway landscapes. Sales of their artwork through an online fundraiser support the Twin Cities Spinal Cord Society.



7. ART DISCOVERY FAIR

21 local artists have applied to participate in the 11th Annual Oakdale Art Discovery Fair, taking place Saturday, November 18, from 10 AM to 3 PM. Live music will be performed by the 2 Sisters from 10 AM to 12:30 PM. Paintings, cards, artificial floral, plushies, jewelry, clay creations, candles, and more will be available to purchase just in time for the holiday season.

8. INDOOR MARKET

The Indoor Market will be back at the Oakdale Discovery Center on November 11 from 9 AM to 1 PM. We look forward to welcoming vendors from the farmers market; Cincotta Family Farm, Davis Urban Farm, Perry Family Farm, and Bitmad Bakery! Everyone will be excited for the return of their winter favorites; Ruhland's Strudels and Natasha's Peirgois, as well as J&J Hot Cocoa Bombs, Mac Haus macaroons, and so many more! There are nine indoor markets this year with plenty of shopping opportunities through the final date on March 23.

9. RINK ATTENDANTS

The department is currently taking applications for Ice Rink Attendants. The season will run late December through February, weather permitting. Apply by November 20.

10. DISCOVERY CENTER DISPLAY ROOM

The display room at the Discovery Center will receive a much needed "makeover" this fall. Staff is currently looking at new ideas to update and refresh the space with a variety of different hands on experiences for kids. Stay tuned!

A stylized, colorful illustration of a landscape. The foreground features rolling green hills with dark brown soil patches. On the left, there is a green tree, a purple flower, and an orange flower. A small red bird is flying in the sky above the tree. The background consists of layered, wavy blue and white bands representing the sky.

Oakdale Pickleball

Update and Request

Oakdale Pickleball Club

- Club founded in 2013 with 29 members
- 188 Members today
 - Increased by 63 people from 2022 (+50%)
- Pickleball Continues to be very popular
 - More than 4.8 million Americans play
- We frequently have 30+ people at Tanners Park Courts
 - Courts hold 4 people at a time
 - Maximum of 20 play simultaneously (including tennis court)



Tanners Park Pickleball Courts

Our Request

- To help us accommodate rapid growth in players
 - Our requested improvements also will help enable 50% more students to attend Oakdale City Pickleball Lessons
- Resurface the courts
 - The North side courts surfaces are bubbling up
- Replace the existing tennis court at Tanners with 2 Pickleball Courts
 - We rarely see anyone on the Tanners Tennis court during scheduled Pickleball play times
- Install a lockable storage container
 - For brooms, squeegees and balls

Budget Implications

- We understand that the 2024 budget is nearly final
- Can our request be a priority for 2025?
- Lockable storage container
 - The Pickleball Club is willing to pay for this
 - Can this be approved for 2023
- Pickleball Lines on Tennis Court
 - Interim Improvement – Spring 2024
 - The Pickleball lines that were previously applied have faded away

Focal Point

- *Would the council name a contact for Oakdale Pickleball Improvement*
- *One person that we can communicate with*
 - *To provide us with updates about our request*
 - *To Whom we can provide details about our request*



Thank You

*Thank you for listening to our request
Thanks for providing courts for our club*