

**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