

**REGULAR MEETING  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
City of Oakdale  
March 21, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, March 21, 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:	Glen Bearth
	Jan Cunningham
	Mark Giannini
	Freddie Jiles
	Paul Lockhart

Also Present:	Shannon Reidlinger, Senior Community Development Specialist
	Jonathan Fillmore, SRF Consulting
	Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent
	Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent
	Andy Morcomb, City Council

Quorum Present: YES  NO

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes, February 21, 2023**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BEARTH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2023 AS PRESENTED.**

**6 AYES      0 NAYS**

**WILLOWBROOKE COMMONS PARK CONCEPT DISCUSSION – Shannon Reidlinger and Jonathan Fillmore**

Senior Community Development Specialist Reidlinger updated the Commission that the Council has approved a base plus concept design. Conceptualized play structures are planned for the south east corner of the park, to have containers for prekindergarten and elementary ages, with a challenge course for teens. Residents have been given a survey that was replicated for the Commission.

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Specialist Reidlinger presented two concepts. She started with the more nature based concept one and opened discussion for feedback.

SRF Consulting's Jonathan Fillmore informed Commissioner Cunningham that the poured in place rubber meets the safety fall height for playgrounds. It adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), like engineered wood fiber. The benefit, though it may not be recycled material, is that it reduces maintenance such as raking to maintain depth, doesn't become eroded in high use areas, and comes in a multitude of colors and design patterns can tie into ground play. Another material that is considered for the teen challenge is a synthetic turf that has a grass-like appearance.

Mr. Fillmore reported to Chair Meyer that the surveys collected as of this morning indicate that the music equipment has been selected as a desired component for sensory equipment. The playground location provides a decent buffer from residential backyards. Landscape Structures is the vendor for additional imagery of equipment. Signage for equipment age level is included.

Chair Meyer doesn't like the music and preferred the youth music station not positioned near adult workout stations.

Mr. Fillmore dismissed winter weather as an equipment concern for Vice Chair Giacoletto, citing that all equipment has been installed to be durable and elsewhere in Minnesota. He agreed that younger children will try to use equipment designed for ages 13 plus, but reassured that designs meet safety standards with the cushion material.

Specialist Reidlinger switched to the more modern concept two and opened discussion for feedback.

Mr. Fillmore added that the play odyssey has a nature aesthetic and color scheme in concept one, and concept two features a Super Netplex.

Commissioner Lockhart supported concept two for appearing to be spread wider with separation of the smaller kids from the zip lines and swings.

Parks Superintendent Koesling shared that Netplex towers by the same company can be viewed at the Justice Alan Page Elementary school.

Chair Meyer also liked concept two.

Mr. Fillmore confirmed for Commissioner Cunningham that the costs of poured in place rubber are high, and the direction so far has been for the entire container to be poured in place rubber if the budget allows. If there are budget constraints, wood mulch may be incorporated into low use areas.

For the motion and climbing elements, Commissioner Giannini preferred the zipline.

Commissioner Lockhard recommended removal of the Omni Spin and We-Go-Round because bigger kids may abuse them, creating repair issues. He liked all the climbing equipment.

Specialist Reidlinger said the log stock climber was a hit for those surveyed at the Indoor Market.

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Mr. Fillmore pointed out that the log stock climber and wiggle climber are considered nature based.

Commissioner Cunningham liked that the spinning equipment was ADA friendly.

Vice Chair Giacoletto saw a similar spinning piece at Eagle Point Elementary.

Commissioner Giannini added that he saw an Omni-Spin at the Castle Elementary playground.

Chair Meyer liked the learning panels and roller slide.

Mr. Fillmore told Commissioner Cunningham that all equipment shown is within the ballpark budget. He clarified that the roller slide is considered sensory equipment because of the texture while riding down. He clarified that the sensory wall has moving switches and textures.

Mr. Koesling told Commissioner Cunningham that the Oakdale Nature Preserve Exercise Equipment use is up and maintenance is low. Vandalism can occur on equipment that is not within the public view, but there has been little.

Lastly, Specialist Reidlinger presented equipment designed for a teen/adult demographic.

Chair Meyer thought the teen challenge was great.

Mr. Fillmore informed Vice Chair Giacoletto that similar equipment has been installed in Plymouth near the Northwest Greenway Trailhead building. He also clarified for Commissioner Lockhart that netting is affixed and not removed in winter.

Commissioner Giannini and Superintendent Koesling agreed that ninja warrior and challenge courses are popular in Chanhassen and the west metro.

Commissioner Lockhart liked the concept but is nervous about younger kids.

Vice Chair Giacoletto likes that the equipment is designed for teens.

Specialist Reidlinger indicated that the adult fitness equipment is supervisory, with a view of the kids on play structures.

Commissioner Cunningham preferred the hand cycler to work the upper body.

Chair Meyer said the squat, elliptical, stretches and crunches all look like good equipment. If any were removed, he and Commissioner Lockhart suggested the parallel bars.

Mr. Fillmore explained that the adult equipment has a variety to provide a full body work out.

Commissioner Lockhart added that ADA consideration will enable the elderly to use the park.

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Mr. Fillmore approximated 35 parking spaces, as well as street parking, when asked by Commissioner Bearth.

Ms. Reidlinger informed that the next steps will be tweaking the concepts using feedback from the community and Commission. Council will provide input. The process for agreement and approval will be followed, with construction starting on the largest, central park in Willowbrooke in 2023 and concluding in 2024. Replying to Commissioner Cunningham, she said that maybe one of the other Willowbrooke parks could feature pickleball.

### **PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling**

Snow Melt – Superintendent Koesling reported that crews will get on the fields in a month or so provided that the weather is cooperating.

Warming Houses – Commissioner Lockhart requested information on the treatment and status of the rented warming houses. Mr. Koesling replied that there was no ice to skate and no vandalism. Eastside’s rental was taken yesterday and Walton’s was picked up this afternoon.

### **RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams**

Indoor Market – The Indoor Market wrapped up this past Saturday, March 18. Nathan Timmons coordinated a great season with record crowds and vendor sales. Markets will resume outdoors on Wednesday, June 7 with the Farmers Market at Walton Park.

Ice Rinks and Warming Houses – It was not the best year and may have been the worst for weather with four weeks of snow, temperature fluctuation, rough ice, and staff shortages. Public Works tried hard to maintain ice and were not alone with other Twin Cities communities experiencing the same challenges. Nathan Timmons created a rink report of use and attendance that can be sent by request.

Artist of the Month – Susan Costello Sepulveda returns with amazing colors this April. She has an inspiring biography.

Best Snow Sculpture of Oakdale Contest – This year’s fun theme is “Upside Down Snowman.” 11 submissions have been received for the contest closing on March 31. The winner receives a \$100 Target gift card.

Indoor Garage Sale – There will be 40 tables of goods to shop this Saturday from 9 AM to 1 PM. Booths are sold out and typically 400 to 500 shoppers attend.

Red Cross Blood Drive – 19 spots remain for Tuesday, March 28. The drive is hosted by Wellness 50+ and the Maplewood Oakdale Lions Club.

Mystery Egg Hunt – One of the biggest events of the year will be held on Saturday, April 8 from 9 to 11 AM. Over 200 kids will roam the grounds of the Oakdale Nature Preserve looking for eggs. Thanks to Larry and Vickie Eberhard of Keller Williams Realty who sponsor the event, provide donuts, and raffle off bikes. The event is full with 200 kids.

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Employment Opportunities – Recreation is hiring Summer Recreation Program Instructors starting at \$15 an hour. Applications and job descriptions are on the website.

Early Summer Program Newsletter – Youth programs will be posted online and in house in early April. The first day of registration will be April 27.

Community Walk – Snow on the ground will mean a slow beginning for the residents-only program that begins on April 3. There are no new changes this year, with the ultimate goal to walk 150 miles in the Oakdale Nature Preserve.

Park Clean Up – Volunteers can sign up to clean Oakdale's parks. Park clean up is the last week of April.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

City Wide Garage Sale – Commissioner Bearth shared that the Maplewood Oakdale Lions Club is sponsoring the event and all the information to participate is located on the Facebook page. Please follow and share the event.

Oakdale Wellness 50+ Aging with Gusto - Commissioner Cunningham welcomed all ages to sign up with Oakdale Library for the series taking place on Mondays, April 10, 17 and 24. Classes are eye opening, have an interesting philosophy on aging, bring up good points on not being discriminated on based on age, and include group break outs where participants can voice opinions.

### **CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Andy Morcomb**

New Councilmember – A lot of qualified candidates have applied for the open position on Council. Interviews for appointing a new member take place Thursday.

Willowbrooke Commons Park Survey – Getting feedback is important, but difficult. As much feedback as possible is wanted so whatever goes in with the city's big investment is going to reflect what the community wants to see. Mr. Morcomb connected with the principals of Castle and Eagle Point schools, nearby Willowbrooke's development, to share the surveys with their families that represent 1,000 kids. He asked that Commissioners consider sharing the surveys with their groups as well, such as Commissioner Giannini with the Oakdale Athletic Association.

Bike and Pedestrian Plan – A draft of ideas for trails, crossings, and opportunities across town is online. Recommendations for new developments and parks are listed for feedback.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED MARCH 21, 2023, AT 7:52 PM.**

**7 AYES    0 NAYS**

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Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Linzmeyer