

**REGULAR MEETING  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
City of Oakdale  
April 19, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, April 19, 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  
Freddie Jiles  
Steve Meyer

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

Quorum Present: YES  NO

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2022**

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

**6 AYES      0 NAYS**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE – Jim Romanik**

Walton Ballfield 5 through 8 Rewiring - A contract has been signed with Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH). SEH will determine the scope of the project and should submit a design by May 13. There are no plans in place for the previous wiring, and a wiring plan will be in place going forward.

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Guthrie Park Shelter Reroofing – One bid has been received. Contractors have been behind and busy with projects. Mr. Romanik is hoping a second contractor will submit a bid in the next week or so to continue forward.

Walton Skate Park – A contract has been signed with American Ramp Company to reseal and caulk the ramps before or after Summerfest. The parks crew will do temporary repairs on structures for safety until American Ramp arrives to complete the project. The ramps will look brand new. The slab is in pretty good shape and will have minor cracks patched. Skaters are out enjoying the park tonight.

### **PARKS UPDATE– Jeff Koesling**

Field Maintenance – The weather has been an issue with rain tomorrow, and 50 to 70 degree temperatures for a few days will be followed by lows in the high 20s next week. Crews hope to get on the fields early next week if possible. Teams want to play and adult leagues are looking to start on May 1. A Toolcat sunk eight inches on the infield; fields won't hold a tractor with the drag. It is frustrating that the ground in some areas is frozen solid.

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

Early Summer Newsletter – The early summer newsletter is now available online with summer program registration beginning Thursday, April 28. The full summer newsletter will be mailed to residents mid to late May.

Mystery Egg Hunt – The past Saturday was a success with over 200 kids plus their parents and grandparents all bundled up in the chilly weather. Thanks to sponsors Keller Williams Realty Larry and Vickey Eberhard for providing donuts and doing a raffle for two new bikes.

Best Snow Sculpture of Oakdale Contest – It was hard to choose from the nine participants who submitted creative entries. The winner was the Koenig family with a large glowing castle you could crawl through.

Community Walk – 160 participants have signed up in the first two weeks for the walk season underway. The number is lower than normal and may be due to the colder weather. Warmer temperatures will likely bring out more walkers.

Park Clean Up Week – Oakdale Recreation will provide trash bags and thank you gifts for volunteers the week of April 25. Call 651-747-3860 to choose a park to clean.

Junior Master Gardeners – The annual program is taught by a Master Gardener and is full this year with 30 registered kids.

Pickleball Courts – Courts opened for the season in March. Both May and June Pickleball Adult Lessons have filled with 20 players in each session.

Warming House Report – Ice Rink Coordinator Nathan Timmons reported that the two portable warming houses were successful. There were lots of skaters at Eastside Park.

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Commissioner Cunningham asked if there will be temporary warming houses next year.

Superintendent Koesling predicted there will be, if the Commission recommends it, and decision is passed by the Council. They worked phenomenally, numbers were up, and it was a great year for ice once it was established after Christmas.

Chair Lockhart added that the City is not in the stage of building permanent warming houses.

### **COUNCIL UPDATE – Jake Ingebrigtson**

Walton Field Use – Councilmember Ingebrigtson asked Superintendent Koesling about the reasoning this year that the youth travelling baseball team doesn't get to use fields at Walton Park when they did last year.

Mr. Koesling informed that last fall, City Administrator Chris Volkens told Oakdale Adult Softball Association Organizer Curt Russell to fill up as many nights as possible because the numbers were down. Thursday nights were originally used by senior girls, who since disbanded. After Covid-19, the numbers were down and there were open nights. This year, the numbers are way up and there are not open nights.

Chair Lockhart added that the Oakdale Athletic Association (OAA) is also fielding a lot of parent questions. The answer they are given is that the field use is purposed for adult play, and if there are open nights, they try to get OAA in there.

Councilmember Ingebrigtson hopes that the development of Willowbrooke may offer opportunities for new fields in its parks.

Mr. Koesling updated that he met with the developer last week. Willowbrooke will have a commons area and two smaller park areas. Willowbrooke will not hold a four field complex. The park areas are small and may not even hold one field. The park planning process will have three phases. One park will be planned at a time in consideration of funding, and there is a desire to involve surrounding residents in the planning process.

Chair Lockhart also heard that open/common parks would be planned, versus field parks.

Councilmember Ingebrigtson noted that as Oakdale develops its remaining land, the focus of park planning will be improvements to the parks we have.

Mr. Koesling informed Commissioner Cunningham that a pickleball court is possible in Willowbrooke.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Park Tours – Mr. Lockhart will email suggested dates for the Commission to tour three parks. Parks will be selected based on playground age. Some older playgrounds were installed in 1995. The last park tour was in the fall.

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Commissioner Meyer asked Superintendent Williams if the neighbors could be informed of the park tour, so that they have the opportunity to visit the park and share their comments.

Commissioner Cunningham recalled being approached by residents with good feedback on past tours.

Tree Board – Vice Chair Giacoletto informed that the April 30 Arbor Day Tree Giveaway has an online registration for the available trees. The event will be held rain, shine, or snow.

Wellness 50+ - Commissioner Cunningham shared that on Wednesday, May 11, Fitness Instructor Susan Weum will teach how to use the Oakdale Nature Preserve Exercise Stations at her class Fitness Fun in the Park. Registration is at [www.oakdalefun.com](http://www.oakdalefun.com) or 651-747-3860. There will also be a \$20 Bike Maintenance Class at the Discovery Center on Monday, April 25 at 10 AM. To sign up, visit the Wellness 50+ Twin Cities Meetup page. The class will be taught by Kerri Kolstad from Wahoo Adventures, and include a bike ride to Gateway Cycle if it isn't raining.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MEYER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED APRIL 19, 2022, AT 7:21 PM.**

**6 AYES    0 NAYS**

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Linzmeyer