

**REGULAR MEETING  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
City of Oakdale  
July 18, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, July 18, 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

Also Present:	Jim Romanik, Public Works Manager
	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, March 21, 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 MARCH 21, 2023 AS PRESENTED.**

**5 AYES      0 NAYS**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) UPDATE – Jim Romanik**

Manager Romanik presented the draft CIP that was originally presented to City Council at their June 27 workshop. The intention of the presentation is to receive feedback from Council and Commissioners, compile the comments and bring to a future workshop. Proposals are for projects and not the financing of them at this time. Names of playgrounds or parks may be changed based on feedback and Council direction. The CIP is a five year plan, with projects becoming relevant as their project year approaches.

Mr. Romanik explained that the location of a playground project may be changed following a playground evaluation that will be completed by Parks Superintendent Koesling and his staff in the

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next few weeks as part of the safety inspection completed throughout the year. Council will receive recommendations based on conditions of the structures to assist in decision making for prioritizing playground replacements.

### **2024 PROJECTS**

- Playground replacement at Oakdale Park
- Sand Volleyball Court at Guthrie Park
- Walton Park Ballfield Upgrade to LED Lighting (lack of parts to replace failed lights)
- Willowbrooke Commons Park (development may extend into 2025)
- Willowbrooke Trails and Open Space (began in 2023; ongoing as areas built out)

### **2025 PROJECTS**

- Playground Replacement at Northdale Park
- Repave parking lot and existing trails at Eberle Park (Eberle Water Tower reconditioned in 2023)
- Willowbrooke Park West
- Willowbrooke Trails and Open Space

### **2026 PROJECTS**

- Tanners Park Playground Replacement
- Tanners South Parking Lot Repaving
- Eastside Park Tennis Court Practice Wall
- Helmo Station Park

### **2027 PROJECTS**

- Guthrie Park Playground Replacement
- Golfview Park Sand Volleyball Courts
- Eberle Park Pickleball Court
- Horseshoe Park

### **2028 PROJECTS**

- Walton Park Playground Replacement
- Walton Park Tennis Court Reconstruction

Mr. Romanik stood for questions and requested feedback.

Commissioner Cunningham asked if pickleball will be included in Willowbrooke's parks or another location. If pickleball were placed in Willowbrooke, pickleball could be removed from Eberle in the 2027 CIP. She asked if that were the case, if the funding planned for Eberle Pickleball could go toward another project or move another one sooner in the schedule.

Mr. Romanik replied that the consultants have identified pickleball as a recommendation for Willowbrooke but the inclusion will ultimately be decided by Council. With the Willowbrooke Parks unplanned, the projects included in the CIP hold the intention of a pickleball court somewhere, and could be adjusted as Willowbrooke is planned.

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Chair Meyer requested that the Tanners Park Playground and Parking Lot project be moved sooner on the schedule due to the popularity of the location.

Commissioner Bearth asked what happens to the old playground equipment when it is replaced. He asked if there a way to make money.

J. Romanik replied that the City's playground equipment is passed its useful life because broken equipment does not have replacement parts.

J. Koesling added that the metal structures are recycled. He recalled a past memory when a Lions Club resurrected the old Walton Park playground when it was replaced. Pieces were donated, numbered, dismantled, and reassembled on a park along the river in Taylors Falls. The contacts have since passed away and their group quit taking equipment. There are concerns with equipment changing ownership due to insurance and liability. Retired Parks Superintendent Randy Bastyr had been involved with signing off on the donation of Walton's old playground.

Commissioner Cunningham asked if development plans impacting Golfview Park's location were proceeding.

Mr. Romanik replied that Golfview Park projects will be planned at the current park location and can be adjusted if development plans change.

### **PARKS TOUR – Jeff Koesling**

Parks Superintendent Koesling explained that park tours are an opportunity for commissioners to see the parks first hand, come up with ideas, and talk to park users. Four to five parks are recommended. Last year, parks toured were Tanners, the Oakdale Nature Preserve, Tilsen, and Eberle. The Commission decides dates and times with the Chair.

Chair Meyer will connect by email with the Commissioners.

Recreation Superintendent Williams informed the Commission that six applications were received and will be reviewed soon to fill the two vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

### **FALL/WINTER PROGRAMMING SUGGESTIONS – Julie Williams**

Mrs. Williams is seeking new suggestions and feedback on programs for the Fall/Winter season of October through January. They can be emailed to Mrs. Williams.

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

Park Tours and Feedback on Parks – Councilmember Morcomb reminded the Commission that Guthrie Park is the location for the trial use of organic fertilizer, for consideration in selection of parks for the Commissioners' tour. Council would love feedback from the community on the health of the lawn. Guthrie also has a volleyball court listed in the CIP. He encouraged the Commissioners

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to take notes, score, and rank CIP projects. He noted that the Mayor also desired revitalizing Tanners sooner on the schedule due to its popularity.

Volleyball – Volleyball is now a boys sport in the Minnesota State High School League. His son is a volleyball player that sets up nets throughout the City with the preference for grass over sand as a play surface. Without a formal court, the play does do damage. In St. Paul the grass turf is becoming more popular and is more expensive. Councilmember Noah Her is involved in the volleyball community and created his own survey with 50 to 60 participants that prefer other surface types to sand.

Superintendent Koesling said the special turf used for St. Paul's Takraw courts does not require mowing.

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

Summer Programming – Staff and programs are more than half way through and going great.

Amped Up Entertainment – Amphitheater programs have had great attendance, averaging 100 to 150 guests per show. The next event is Snake Discovery on August 10, followed by Brian Richards Family Magic Show on August 17 to conclude the season.

Summer Concert Series – Fingers crossed no rain tomorrow for the performance of the Capri Big Band. Then Bluegroove Bluegrass performs on July 26, and Smooth Sensation Band on August 16.

Farmers Market – Peak season has arrived with most vendors now participating. Edge Mobile Sharpening is a new vendor that provides on-site kitchen knife and yard tool sharpening. Strawberry season was short lived due to the drought. Ron the Corn Guy will be bringing corn in the next week or so.

Vice Chair Giacoletto recommended getting to the market prior to 3 PM to purchase a great pie from the gentlemen from Woodbury before they sell out.

Art Gallery – Joe Hilyar returns this July with his annual display of abstract paintings that are similar in appearance to the Northern Lights. His art is not sold, rather given as gifts to family and friends.

Movie in the Park – Friday is the first movie of the season with *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*. Oakdale Police and Recreation sponsor the movies. Ice cream treats will be for sale. The movie starts at dusk, around 9:15 to 9:30 PM.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Wellness 50+, Oakdale Recreation and the Maplewood Oakdale Lions Club sponsor the drive taking place Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Discovery Center. There are ten plus openings available to sign up for on the Red Cross website.

Library Story Time – A Washington County Librarian will visit the Discovery Center on July 26 from 10:30 to 11:30 AM. Reserve your spot by calling Oakdale Recreation, or walk-in.

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Pop Up Splash Pad – The first ever pop-up splash pad will be Friday, August 11 from 1 to 3 PM at the Walton Park Oakdale Athletic Association Parking Lot. Oakdale Recreation and Fire partner to bring fire hose spray, water games, and the youth summer staff.

### **PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling**

Amphitheater Maintenance – The Oakdale Nature Preserve Amphitheater had lumber replaced today. Crews will be placing new mulch and gravel, and staining the wood tomorrow if no rain, or Friday or Monday depending on the forecast for rain.

Sports – This weekend is the first end of the year tournament for the Oakdale Athletic Association, the following weekend also has one. Next, fields will transition over to football and soccer.

Walton Fields – Killmer Electric was tasked with a 2023 CIP Project on Walton Fields five through eight last fall when it snowed three inches, covering the painted zones and delaying the project. Spring was too soft to get equipment on the fields, then teams wanted to get out to play when poor weather delayed their season by a month, leaving the window of opportunity until the gap between softball and baseball seasons. Killmer Electric began pot-holing rock hard ground and hand digging around the electric to trench it so the electric isn't hit today. Tomorrow the hope is to pull the conduit, run wire on Thursday, and to maybe conclude on Friday.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Wellness 50+ – Commissioner Cunningham shared that on August 13 the Wellness 50+ Summer Social will take place outside at the Discovery Center Shelter. The free, family event will have popsicles, corn hole, bocce ball, and hula hoops. Wellness 50+ had a line dancing event at the bandshell on July 11 and they are planning another Halloween “Thriller” theme line dance. On October 7, Oakdale Police and Fire will be hosting a crime and fire prevention class.

Summerfest – Chair Meyer asked for a report on Summerfest and if the event was downsized. He likes parades and would like to see more music and marching bands included.

Mr. Koesling replied that the new organizers put in a lot of time and effort and did a great job at keeping the event going. The weather hurt the event on Friday and Saturday.

Commissioner Bearth shared that several parade units participate only when paid and as the event is transitioned to his coordination, the performance costs and income from parade fees must be looked at. It is on his list to talk to the group about music and finding parade units that don't require a payment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR GIACOLETTO TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED JULY 18, 2023, AT 7:44 PM.**

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**5 AYES    0 NAYS**

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Linzmeyer