

**REGULAR MEETING  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
City of Oakdale  
August 16, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, August 16, 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: Glen Bearth  
Jan Cunningham  
Mark Giannini  
Freddie Jiles

Also Present: Jim Romanik, Public Works Manager  
Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent  
Chris Volkers, City Administrator  
Jake Ingebrigtsen, City Council

Absent: Steve Meyer, Commissioner  
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent

Quorum Present: YES  NO

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes, July 21, 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 JULY 21, 2022 AS PRESENTED.**

**6 AYES      0 NAYS**

Commissioner Cunningham explained that when considering a splash pad versus a pool, her suggestion for a pool was not necessarily over a splash pad. Consideration for a pool depends on cost. She expanded that notes taken from August 16, 2016 estimated that a 1,600 square foot splash pad at Tanners Lake would cost close to \$700,000 with a very generous 20 percent

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contingency due to the high level proposal. A larger, 3,200 square foot splash pad was estimated to cost \$883,000. The Council recognized a project of that magnitude could not be financed through the current park reserve. There is both the cost to build the splash pad and the reoccurring cost to keep it running and uncontaminated.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) BACKGROUND – Jim Romanik**

Manager Romanik defined what a CIP is. The City plans for capital maintenance and improvements by preparing a CIP, representing a framework for planning the preservation and expansion of capital including equipment, facilities, and infrastructure. It sets forth a schedule, timing, and details of specific improvements by year, together with an estimated cost, the need for improvement, and sources of revenue to pay for the improvement.

City Council considers the following when preparing for each project and overall plan: the condition of the City's infrastructure, including projected need for repair/replacement, likely demand for improvement, estimated cost, available public resources, level of overlapping debt in the City, relative benefits/costs of alternative uses of funds, operating cost of proposed improvement, and alternatives for providing services most efficiently through shared facilities with other cities or local government units.

The CIP is a planning document to assist policy makers and staff to plan for major capital improvement, renewal, and replacement expenditures. It does not bind the City to anticipated expenditures in projected years. It is not a budget or authorization to spend funds. The authorization to spend funds occurs through City Council action and adoption of annual budgets.

### **OLD BUSINESS – Jim Romanik**

Sand Volleyball – A concern at the last meeting was if grassy surface volleyball players will utilize sand courts. Based on the frequent use of sand volleyball at Tanners Park and grass areas of other parks, the staff opinion is that adding a volleyball court will meet an unmet need. Recommendation is for installation consistent with previous Engineer Brian Bachmeier's plan.

Adding Pickleball Court in Oakdale Nature Preserve – Mr. Romanik and Mr. Bachmeier explored measurements and laying out basketball and pickleball to see if there was enough space to fit both courts by using the open area. Based on recommendations, it was determined that a good, safe area is not possible having both laid out. The lines of play can't be right next to each other with the overlap of play.

Brockman Property – If a land acquisition is to be made, it would be done in a non-public form, with negotiations taking place between the City Administrator, Finance Director, and legal team, then brought into public form for Council approval. It is in the best interest to not include the property acquisition in the CIP.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) 2023 THROUGH 2027 – Jim Romanik**

Manager Romanik presented the plan for capital improvement. He noted there are increased costs in construction of proposed improvement projects for the coming years. Many playground structures

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are at the end of their useful life. There are issues finding replacement parts to keep equipment in safe operation. Next year's projects include trail repaving at the Oakdale Nature Preserve and a playground replacement at Tilsen Park. The new swing set will stay, and aging structure will be replaced. Then, in 2024, projects include the ballfield LED change out, selecting another playground (proposed is Tanners), and adding a volleyball court without lighting. In 2025, parking lot with trail replacement and another playground replacement (proposed is Oakdale Nature Preserve) will take place. Next, in 2026, there will be another playground replacement, parking lot replacement and repaving, and the addition of a tennis court practice wall at Eastside Park. Lastly, 2027 projects include a playground replacement at Guthrie Park, addition of a volleyball court, and converting some Horseshoe Park lanes to corn hole.

Commissioner Cunningham asked if Golfview should be tabled, seeing it in the CIP for 2026.

Mr. Romanik replied that Golfview's location may be a fit for potentially adding pickleball courts and lighting, however if pickleball were to be added at Willowbrooke, another project may be considered based on demand. It is best to keep Golfview included for long range planning.

Mr. Ingebrigtsen added that the City is waiting to see if Cedric's Landing will develop.

Chair Lockhart noticed that replacing playground sets is following the pattern of how many years old they are.

Mr. Romanik confirmed, reasoning that the older the set is, the harder to buy parts.

Manager Romanik explained that the role of the Parks and Recreation Commission is to advise City Council, the City Administrator, Public Works Manager, and Parks and Recreation Superintendents in all matters pertaining to Parks and Recreation Planning and Programming. Based on that, tonight staff is seeking recommendation to bring the proposed 2023 through 2027 Parks CIP forward to City Council.

Replying to Commissioner Cunningham's question about where the Eastside Volleyball Court will be placed, Mr. Romanik replied it may be in the area south of tennis and east of hockey, and is also dependent on the pipeline location.

Replying to Chair Lockhart's question about funding for the temporary warming houses, Mr. Romanik replied that the expense is included in this year's operating budget for rental and utilities.

Chair Lockhart remembered that \$150,000, he guessed the amount, was planned to replace the Walton garage next to the hockey rink. Using the funds was put on hold and used for funding the temporary warming houses. Now, funding for temporary warming houses falls back on the normal operating budget.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO RECOMMEND THE 2023-2027 PARKS CIP, AS PRESENTED, FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL.**

**6 AYES**

**0 NAYS**

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### **CHARITABLE GAMBLING FUNDS TO REPLACE EBERLE PARK PLAYGROUND – Chris Volkers**

Administrator Volkers reported charitable gambling funds coming in at a faster pace than expected. There are more charitable gambling sites throughout the City and they are doing very well with pull tabs. Council was unable to fund a playground replacement this year, though desired for 2022. Staff recommend replacing a playground using the extra funding. Eberle is expensive to replace, and money is available. Council is predicted to be supportive. If the Commission supports the project, a recommendation can be given at Council's workshop next week.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JILES TO RECOMMEND EBERLE PARK FOR PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT IN 2022 FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL.**

**6 AYES      0 NAYS**

### **PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling**

Fall Sports – Crews are transitioning fields from summer to fall sports. Fall softball kicked off Monday night at the Walton Complex. 11 soccer, 2 flag football, and 1 full size football field were laid out. The last two smaller soccer fields were finished and installed today. Soccer will be ready to start Monday. Football started on August 8.

Mowing – The rain finally gave grass to cut other than the irrigated lawns.

Seasonal Staff – Two seasonal staff went off to college last week, with two more going back to school after this Friday. The last seasonal staff will work one more week. They do a great job and carry a lot of the work load. Some are seniors, some are in the engineering field, and some are seeking internships next year. They won't be returning for another season. Maybe one or two will be back of the six.

Shelter Rentals – Shelter rentals have been crazy and busy on the weekends. It is good to see the parks are being used.

### **RECREATION UPDATE – Jeff Koesling**

Summer Youth Camps – Small World Camps, ITS Program, and Pop Up Parks have all wrapped up for the season. The summer staff were great and created special experiences for the campers. Compliments and cards were received from grateful parents and guardians.

Movies in the Park – Raya and the Last Dragon will be rescheduled from August 12 due to rain. A new date will likely be within two to three weeks and posted online on the recreation pages and City website.

Fall/Winter Newsletter – The next newsletter will be mailed to residents in mid-September and covers recreation programming for the months of October through January.

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Artist of the Month – Joe Hilyar returns to the Oakdale Discovery Center with his acrylic canvas paintings for August through September. Joe lets his arm move randomly with the paint brush and never knows how the painting will turn out.

Amped Up Entertainment – The program ended on a high note. The University of Minnesota Raptor Center had over 125 attending. Guests saw and learned about birds of prey including an owl, hawk, and falcon.

Let's Make Stuff – The Oakdale Library partnered to bring an adult watercolor painting class to the Discovery Center today, August 16. The free class was funded through the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. 20 painters signed up for the full class.

Touch a Truck – Touch a Truck returns the evening of Tuesday, September 13 at the City Hall Parking Lot. From 5 to 7 PM find equipment from Oakdale Public Works, Minnesota Department of Transportation, garbage trucks, and more for what is always a good turnout. Mr. Koesling will try to get a helicopter. Public Works pulls the fuses of their horns to prevent horns from honking.

Family Fun Flatables – Held on Saturday, September 17 from 11 AM to 4 PM, the event draws 2,000+ to the lawn of the Walton Park Bandshell. Kids and adults love the event. It is held the same weekend as the soccer jamboree.

Commissioner Cunningham complimented the selection of bands for the summer concert series. The steel drum band was excellent. The series enjoyed good weather.

Commissioner Bearth complimented the raptor event for its great attendance, very cool show, and good presenter. He also shared that the Maplewood Oakdale Lions look forward to seeing guests at the Touch a Truck and will be providing the chief concessions.

Mr. Koesling added that the Lions do a great job and keep hot dog, chips, and drink concessions affordable.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Oakdale Nature Preserve Tennis – Vice Chair Giacoletto requested a report on the resurfacing job and persistent cracks at the Oakdale Nature Preserve Tennis Court.

Parks Superintendent Koesling explained that the cosmetic work wasn't a resurfacing/structural job. Public Works had filled the cracks twice. Three years ago cracks were filled, temporarily patched with repair, and it cracked the following spring. When the work was completed again in 2019/2020 it cracked again. The understanding from a discussion last year with Engineer Brian Bachmeier, is that the cracking may be on top of either a frost or crown line. In order to fix it, the whole court may need to be removed. It looks bad and is sad with the repainting done.

Wellness 50+ - Commissioner Cunningham shared that the Be Safe and Well Series will kick off on Thursday, August 18 from 6 to 7:30 PM with Oakdale Fire presenting on kitchen fire safety, carbon monoxide, smoke detectors, and general fire safety. Next in the series will be Self Defense taught by Glen Giacoletto on Thursday, September 15. Basic concepts will help teach preparedness to

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avoid panicking in situations. The series will end with the Oakdale Police presenting on Crime Prevention on Thursday, September 29. Anybody is welcome to attend and benefit from the free events at the Discovery Center. Reserve a spot by calling 651-747-3860 or online at [www.oakdalefun.com](http://www.oakdalefun.com).

National Night Out – Chair Lockhart thanked Oakdale Fire and Police for visiting his block party.

**CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Jake Ingebrigtsen**

Councilmember Ingebrigtsen had nothing to report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER JILES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BEARTH TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED AUGUST 16, 2022, AT 7:33 PM.**

**6 AYES    0 NAYS**

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Linzmeyer