

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
September 20, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 20, 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

Commissioners: Glen Bearth
Jan Cunningham
Mark Giannini
Steve Meyer

Also Present: Shannon Reidlinger, Senior Community Development Specialist
Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent
Jake Ingebrigtsen, City Council

Absent: Glen Giacoletto, Vice Chair
Freddie Jiles, Commissioner
Jim Romanik, Public Works Manager

Quorum Present: YES NO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes, August 16, 2022

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MEYER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2022 AS PRESENTED.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN UPDATE – Shannon Reidlinger

Senior Community Development Specialist Shannon Reidlinger presented the City of Oakdale Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that is currently in Phase 2 (2022 – 2023). Phase 1 took place in 2019

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 20, 2022

Page 2

– 2020. The project purpose is to achieve goals of the City’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan for its transportation and pedestrian system. The stated goals are:

- City roadways shall be safe and functional for pedestrians, bikes, automobiles and trucks.
- Sidewalks, trails, and bikeways shall be connected within the city and between adjacent cities.
- Parks shall be integrated into the City’s pedestrian system.

Maps of existing crosswalks, existing bus stops, a draft of planned facilities, and destination analysis were presented.

The draft public engagement plan is scheduled from July 2022 through February 2023 and includes:

- 4 EMC meetings with additional input from other Oakdale advisory bodies
- 3 City Council presentations
- 1 Open house
- 2 Pop-up workshops
- 3 Focus group meetings
- Online questionnaire and map

Plan recommendations will follow public input, and include goals, strategies, and network recommendations. The next step in the timeline will be creating the implementation strategy, with a criteria for prioritizing projects, map with project IDs and phasing, and spreadsheet with planning level details. Lastly, a draft and final plan will be published. The first round will be reviewed by City commissions and staff, and second round by City Council then the greater public. Edits will be made between rounds. The draft and final plan phase is scheduled to take place January through March 2023.

Specialist Reidlinger facilitated a Strength Weakness Opportunities Threats (SWOT) Analysis with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Meyer identified quantity of bike and trail paths at the Discovery Center and within parks as strengths. Weaknesses he identified are poor signage for shared paths, lack of posted trail system maps, and residential areas lacking sidewalks.

Commissioner Cunningham is an avid biker and loves Oakdale and Minnesota in general for the bike trails, coming from Pennsylvania without many bike trails, paths, or even shoulders on the road. She identified adding lighting and crosswalks as opportunities, along with enforcing pedestrian right of way at crosswalks. Cars are not following rules at crosswalks. Threats she identified are electric bike accidents, added traffic with new neighborhoods, bikes and traffic on Century Avenue, and having to dismount or reposition bicycles to access poorly positioned crosswalk buttons when changing direction of travel at 10th Street and Hadley and 10th Street near the library’s street light intersections.

After asking commissioners to prioritize one vote per category, Specialist Reidlinger concluded that the commission has identified the following priorities: strength is the quantity of trails, weakness is the lack of residential sidewalks, opportunity is adding lighting to walking path areas, and threat is e-bike safety.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 20, 2022

Page 3

Goals and objectives will be drafted using the feedback given by the commission, along with the other advisory boards that have already completed the SWOT analysis (Environmental Management, Economic Development, and Planning Commissions). These goals and objectives will be refined during public engagement at the open house, pop up workshops, focus groups, and whittles down to the most important elements. These goals and objectives will be used to draft a plan reflective of the advisory bodies and public feedback at large.

Specialist Reidlinger stood for questions.

Commissioner Bearth pointed out that the Gateway Trail is not shown as a destination area on the density map for destinations in Oakdale. It is heavily used by bicyclists.

Chair Lockhart didn't believe the map showed trails as destinations, but a restaurant may be considered a destination.

Ms. Reidlinger replied that in 2019 when the map was created, criteria for destinations included population density, among other listed criteria. The trail system was not indicated in the criteria for destinations in the analysis.

Commissioner Meyer noted that where the Gold Line is planned is weighted heavily on the destination map.

PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling

Touch a Truck – Mr. Koesling said the crew has had a busy week last week. They participated at Tuesday's Touch a Truck, a well attendant event that enjoyed great weather.

Family Fun Flatables – Over the weekend, Family Fun Flatables and the Soccer Jamboree were held together. There was steady attendance and no rain.

Guthrie Park Picnic Shelter Roof Replacement – The shelter roof was tore off Monday and three corners of rot were discovered. Parks maintenance changed the boards on Tuesday, and the reroofing continued after the delay on Wednesday. On Wednesday the roof was replaced and project was completed by noon.

Street Repair – The Parks Department is assisting the Streets Department with crack sealing. It takes a few extra staff to direct traffic. Public Works is preparing for winter.

Fall Sports – Soccer, football, and adult leagues have been steadily busy. Cooler temperatures are coming.

RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams

Touch a Truck - Last Tuesday, over 800+ attended. The Maplewood/Oakdale Lions Club provided concessions, thank you to Commissioner Bearth. Oakdale Police sponsored the free ice cream.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 20, 2022

Page 4

Thanks to Public Works, Fire, and Police for bringing trucks and making the popular, appreciated community event great.

Farmers Market- The market is winding down with only 4 weeks left. The last market is October 12. The market experience will continue indoors at the Discovery Center. The Indoor Market season will begin Saturday, November 12.

Family Fun Flatables- Held the past Saturday from 11 AM to 4 PM at Walton Park. There were 12 total inflatables and Kidsdance performed from 12 to 3 PM. Tartan Boosters provided concessions. Shaved ice and smoothies were sold by Twin City Pita, who shared five percent of their profit with Tartan Boosters. Thanks to our sponsors, gold: Oakdale Athletic Association, silver: CCF Bank, and bronze: Parkview Chiropractic, Northstar Skate School/East Metro Stars, TruStone Financial Credit Union, and American Legion Post 39. Also, thank you to Tartan Honor Society volunteers who helped with monitoring the inflatables.

Oakdale Update Newsletter – The newsletter is expected to arrive in mailboxes at the end of the week. The Communications Department has done a really great job revamping the Oakdale Update. New changes will be seen in the appearance.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Parks and Recreation this Summer – Commissioner Meyer commended Superintendents Williams and Koesling for their good job this summer and thanked them for their hard work.

Oakdale Wellness 50+ - Commissioner Cunningham informed that a community listening event will be held on Saturday, Sept 24 from 1 to 3 at the Discovery Center. The listening session is in response to a survey given to people living or working in Oakdale, even those not over age 50 but may have a relative or friend in Oakdale, with the aim of improving the community through new ideas. The next event in the Be Safe and Well Series is a self-defense class on September 29 hosted by Glen Giacoletto, a licensed martial arts instructor. Previous classes included an August 18 kitchen safety, carbon monoxide, smoke detector and general fire safety class hosted by Oakdale Fire Department, and a September 15 crime prevention class hosted by the Police Chief and Sergeant Stewart that was well received. Register for these events online on the City website or by calling 651-747-3860.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Jake Ingebrigtsen

Councilmember Ingebrigtsen had nothing to report and stood for questions. No questions were asked.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MEYER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED SEPTEMBER 20, 2022, AT 7:55 PM.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 20, 2022

Page 5

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Linzmeyer