

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
November 15, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, November 15, 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
Freddie Jiles
Mark Giannini
Steve Meyer

Also Present: Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent
Jake Ingebrigtsen, City Council

Absent: Jim Romanik, Public Works Manager

Quorum Present: YES NO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes, September 20, 2022

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MEYER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 AS PRESENTED.

7 AYES 0 NAYS

PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling

Fall Cleanup – Mr. Koesling reported that park crews were cleaning all parks with two remaining; Guthrie and Tower Park. Boulevards were finished on Thursday at Tanners Park, Horseshoe Park

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was completed, and then the winter weather arrived. Seasonal equipment was then switched over to winter equipment.

Walton Fields 5 through 8 – To Mr. Koesling’s surprise, Killmer Electric called yesterday morning to say they’ve arrived to install the electric. There had been a delay over the last three to four months. The zones that had been painted were now covered in snow. Hopefully the weather will cooperate to get electric in this week. It will only take a couple days to do.

Satellite Portable Warming Houses – Next Monday, a delivery is confirmed for two portable 32 foot warming houses to arrive at Walton and Eastside Park. They worked out great last year. Eastside had a 28 foot portable warming house last year. The larger size ordered for this year will fit within the space.

RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams

Community Walk Recap – Nearly 300 walkers signed up; a typical number to have registered. 198 walkers earned gift cards, with 117 of them reaching the highest reward of a \$25 gift card for walking 150 miles. Thanks Big Frog Custom T-Shirts for giving all walkers reaching 100 miles a free tee shirt.

Pumpkin Carving Contest – Congratulations to the winners, whose pumpkins received votes from the guests of the Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt; “It’s Corn” won best pumpkin, “Big Apple” won spookiest, and “Horsey Pig” won bumpkin pumpkin.

Indoor Market – The kick off market was last Saturday. Over 300 shoppers made for a really great turn out. The next market is November 26 for Small Business Saturday. The market runs select Saturdays all winter long, concluding on March 18.

Art Fair – The fair will be on Saturday, November 19, from 10 AM to 3 PM, at the Discovery Center. The event is full with 22 vendors and will feature a performance by the 2 Sisters from 10 AM to 12 PM.

Santa’s Mailbox – Letter boxes will be placed at Walton Park and the Discovery Center soon after Thanksgiving. Letters received are forwarded to the North Pole. Everyone gets a personalized letter from Santa.

Santa Firetruck – Oakdale Recreation and Oakdale Fire will partner for the event on Thursday, December 8 from 6 to 7:35 PM. Santa hands out candy canes at stops along Hadley Avenue. His trip on a lighted fire truck begins at the North Fire Station.

Winter Wonderland – The biggie of the year, with an annual turnout of over 1,000 guests, will take place Saturday, December 17 from 9 AM to 1 PM. There will be a visit with Santa, horse drawn hayrides, the dogs of winter, petting zoo, candy cane hunt, bonfire with s’mores, breakfast, lunch, face painting, holiday craft station, and new this year, gingerbread house contest. Partners for this event are the Oakdale Area Chamber of Commerce and First Resource Bank.

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Rink Attendants – Oakdale Recreation is still hiring and looking for a couple more applicants. The season runs the end of December through February.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Oakdale Wellness 50+ - Commissioner Cunningham shared that another blood drive will take place at the Discovery Center on Friday, December 30 from 9 AM to 3 PM. The spots to donate blood fill quickly, and can be reserved through the Red Cross. Wellness 50+ is planning more events to take place in the new year.

Commissioner Bearth added that donors can visit the Lions who will hand out snacks at the blood drive.

Happy Holidays - Commissioner Bearth wished those on the Commission and watching at home a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Giannini added to have a happy holidays and to be safe.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Jake Ingebrigtsen

Willowbrooke Parks - Councilmember Ingebrigtsen shared that Council is planning for the parks in the new development. Decision making is easier for him now that the local option sales tax has passed. It provides a little budgeting flexibility across the board. There will still be several challenges in the next three to five years. The Willowbrooke Parks will be a substantial investment, north of five million dollars.

Chair Lockhart is concerned with the cost of Willowbrooke Parks and balancing the five year Capital Improvement Plan.

Councilmember Ingebrigtsen's concern is the possible plummet in housing values in terms of the levy. Hopefully what will offset that is the increased tax revenue from the Willowbrooke Development. Budgeting is a delicate balancing act. Being one of the five members of Council who makes the decisions has a lot of stress and pressure in finding the happy medium between not wanting to pay more in taxes than necessary, and wanting nice parks kept up. It is tricky to keep everyone somewhat happy, and in a way, a thankless proposition that he signed up for.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER JILES, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED NOVEMBER 15, 2022, AT 7:12 PM.

7 AYES 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Linzmeyer