



**Minutes
Minnetonka Park Board
Wednesday, October 5, 2022**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Park board members present: Korey Beyersdorf, James Durbin, Chris Gabler, David Ingraham, Katie Semersky, Isabelle Stroh and Chris Walick. Excused: Ben Jacobs.

Staff members in attendance: Kelly O'Dea, Mike Pavelka and Sara Woeste.

Chair Gabler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

3. Reports from Staff

There were none.

4. Approval of Minutes

Ingraham moved, Beyersdorf seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of Sept. 7, 2022 as submitted. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda

There were none.

6. Special Matters

There were none.

7. Business Items

A. Guidelines for Evaluating Resident Requests for Special Projects

Recreation Director Kelly O'Dea gave the report.

Semersky loved the design format and thought it was a very nice improvement. She noticed on the first two questions that the word "Plan" was missing at the end.

Assistant Recreation Director Sara Woeste said staff will add the word plan.

Durbin thought it was really nice. He questioned if there was enough room for the person proposing a project to write a description about what they want. The form gives room for a project name/type and the support for the demand, but there is not really an area for them to describe what they are proposing.

O'Dea thought it made sense to have enough room to fill out each section. Staff's plan is to make this a fillable form so they can email it to somebody and have them fill it out.

Beyersdorf questioned if they should include the sentence, "If all are 'Yes', continue evaluation. If any are 'no', deny request." She thought if that is stated, everybody will put yes because otherwise their proposal won't be considered.

O'Dea said that was a good point. He thought that is something either staff or the park board could verify and see if they follow through.

Beyersdorf mentioned that they are going to mark yes if they knew they had to have all yeses.

Ingraham thought it might actually lead people to look at the Parks, Open Space and Trail (POST) Plan and the Natural Resources Master Plan (NRMP). If they need all yeses, they should assume it will be checked.

O'Dea thought the issue could be if they answer yes to having neighborhood support and demand for the project, and then find out that they do not have that because two of their eight neighbors thought it was a good idea. He thought that would be maybe up to the park board or staff to talk through and make sure those yeses are really yeses.

Semersky moved, Ingraham seconded a motion to approve the guidelines for evaluating resident requests for special projects. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

B. Consideration of 2023 Boat Slip Rates for Gray's Bay Marina

Community Facilities Superintendent Mike Pavelka gave the report.

Walick asked if there has ever been any concern from the slip holders when the fees were raised. It appears so incremental that it doesn't seem like there would be that much of an impact.

Pavelka responded that staff hasn't heard anything from the last few increases. Staff heard from about three people back in 2007 when fees were increased almost \$600. It hasn't effected anybody's decisions to stay or go.

Ingraham commented that they haven't heard anything because there are no slips available on the lake. From what he has heard, everyone has waitlists that are three or more years long.

Walick added that it looked like expenses for this past year were \$30,000 more than the previous years. He questioned if that was material costs or anything specific.

Pavelka explained that is the budgeted amount for expenses. Part of that is gas costs which fluctuates and it jumped quite a bit this year. That number is offset by the revenue.

Ingraham asked how much of the total revenues is slip fees versus gas.

Pavelka said gas is probably about 60, so it is roughly 60/40.

Ingraham questioned if the term for a slip is three years.

Pavelka replied that the term is up to eight seasons.

Ingraham asked if you get a parking pass with a slip.

Pavelka said they have 14 parking spaces that are specifically set aside for slip holders and staff. There are 29 boat slips, but typically the parking spaces aren't filled. They never filled the parking spots this year.

Ingraham commented that otherwise the closest parking is at Gro-Tonka Park.

Pavelka replied that there is a parking lot on the causeway which is close but parking spaces are usually taken right away.

Ingraham thought Pavelka's recommendation was good.

Gabler asked if there were any issues with water levels being down this year.

Pavelka said no, but they had a challenge in the past when water was as low or maybe a little lower. They also had a year where there was no wake on the lake during the entire season.

Gabler asked if staff have thought about adding areas for people to bring personal water craft and store it on the shore.

Pavelka responded that they don't really have space available for that. Looking north into the bay from the launch lanes, there are boarding docks, boat slips and then the DNR's property ends. To the left, there is a small beach area but it isn't a place that can be accessed very well.

O'Dea added that although there may not be space there, staff has had a couple of requests from people to put up kayak holders. Staff just hasn't found a great spot for it.

Gabler commented that there isn't a great spot. Even the dam only has about 12 parking spots.

O'Dea mentioned that a couple of people have asked how they can either use their own kayak or rent one on the lake.

Semersky said that the escrow is healthy but she wondered if there are capital projects on the horizon or in the near future.

Pavelka explained that there is nothing in the near future but there might be some shoreline stabilization needed in the next few years. He doesn't see that being a huge dollar value though. The first big project they are anticipating is the fuel holding tank that will potentially be in 2032. That is going to be somewhere around \$100,000 to \$250,000.

Durbin liked how they are going up by incremental amounts because it seemed fairer. Everything is costing more money so it's not unreasonable to increase the slip price. We might be the most expensive municipality owned marina but we are still a good deal

compared to the private marinas on the lakes. He also questioned if there were any problems with staffing last year and if they were able to pay employees enough.

Pavelka explained that they were fortunate to have staff that wanted to work and wanted hours. They increased wages and those people are still working because the season wraps up at the end of this month. If they didn't have those employees that really wanted to work, they might have had some challenges.

C. Review 2022 Athletic Field Use and Consideration of the 2023 Fee Schedule

Pavelka gave the report.

Gabler thought the fees were a bargain because he deals with a lot of different places trying to get field time. He questioned if these hourly charges would meet the maintenance cost.

Pavelka didn't think they will ever cover the maintenance costs. He thought that Street and Park Operations Manager Darin Ellingson said it covered around 25 to 33 percent of the maintenance cost. He understood that the fees were low but he didn't want to make a huge jump at this time; it's probably more of a step process throughout the years.

Gabler thought he would get pushback on a huge jump.

Durbin said the community assets are wonderful fields and the kids playing these sports. As a parent, he appreciates the fact that the city takes on a major burden of the field maintenance cost. If parents had to pay what they really needed to, it would probably start limiting some kids from participating and it would have a definite negative effect.

Ingraham wondered what the total maintenance cost was.

Pavelka wasn't sure.

Ingraham asked if category A is the most wide open option for residents and if option C was the most restrictive.

Pavelka explained that category C could be a team from St. Louis Park or an individual that is a nonresident.

Ingraham asked if Pavelka knew how much of our usage was between A, B and C.

Pavelka replied that the majority of use is category A. That would be an organization like Tonka United who has soccer programs throughout, Hopkins Baseball Association, Hopkins Fastpitch softball or Minnetonka Girls Softball Association (MGSA). Category C is used more on soccer fields and the regulation baseball field. Some amateur adult teams end up using category C as well as men's adult soccer teams. That is where they see most of the category C participation.

Semersky asked if Pavelka yearns to simplify the cost structure because there were 42 different fees on the page. She wondered if this fee structure is complicated to maintain and time consuming.

Pavelka said it's not complicated because staff plugs the information into the computer and it charges them based on the number of hours or per game. It was time consuming on the front-end because they had to load all the fees into the software program.

Semersky wondered if there is a lot of conversation to figure out which category they fit into and what field they want based on price.

Pavelka responded that there is not as much conversation as you would think. For the majority of the people that we serve, they are local athletic associations that staff has been working with for a long time. The groups that are from outside the community know they would fall into category C. If it is a men's league, staff can quickly figure out the right field location because they know an adult league wouldn't want a youth soccer field.

Gabler said for a program that he is affiliated with, there might be one kid from Minnetonka so he knows that would fall under category C. He still looks at that and thinks it is a great deal.

8. Park Board Member Reports

There were none.

9. Information Items

Recycling in Parks

O'Dea gave the report.

Robinwood Park

O'Dea gave the report.

Meadow Park

O'Dea gave the report.

10. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

O'Dea gave the report.

11. Adjournment

Walick moved, Beyersdorf seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. All voted "yes."
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kline

Kathy Kline
Recreation Administrative Coordinator