

Agenda

Joint Meeting of The Park Board & City Council

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

5:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center – Community Room

Parks & Recreation **Board Vision**

A city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a valued natural environment.

Parks & Recreation Board Mission

The mission of the Minnetonka Parks & Recreation Board is to proactively advise the City Council, in ways that will:

- » Protect & enhance Minnetonka's natural environment
- » Promote quality recreation opportunities and facilities
- » Provide a forum for citizens interested in our parks, trails, athletic fields and open space

1. Roll Call

Park Board

<input type="checkbox"/> Jack Acomb	<input type="checkbox"/> Peggy Kvam
<input type="checkbox"/> James Durbin	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Gabler
<input type="checkbox"/> Chair Nelson Evenrud	<input type="checkbox"/> Madeline Seveland
<input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Kist	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Walick

City Council

<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor Terry Schneider	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patty Acomb	<input type="checkbox"/> Bob Ellingson
<input type="checkbox"/> Dick Allendorf	<input type="checkbox"/> Tony Wagner
<input type="checkbox"/> Tim Bergstedt	<input type="checkbox"/> Brad Wiersum

2. Business Items

- A) Report from the Chair
- B) Project Updates

3. Adjournment

*Park Board Volunteer Recognition event to follow joint meeting

**Joint Meeting of the Minnetonka Park Board and City Council
Item 2A
Meeting of November 1, 2017**

Subject:	Progress report from the Chair
Park Board Related Goal:	Enhance Long-Term Park Board Development
Park Board Related Objective:	Enhance council relations – serve as a voice to the council
Brief Description:	The Chair will provide a summary of 2017 work completed to date

Background

In January, the park board appointed Nelson Evenrud as Chair and Cindy Kist as Vice-Chair for terms running through January 31, 2018. In February, two new members were appointed to the park board; James Durbin and Chris Walick.

Summary

As of November, the park board has met a total of six times in 2017. In addition, the board conducted a tour of parks and facilities in May. The following is a summary of significant park board accomplishments to date in 2017:

- ✓ Adopted a Strategic Plan in January that includes a mission, vision, four primary goals, and related objectives.
- ✓ Approved park and trail projects for the 2018 – 2022 Capital Improvements Program.
- ✓ Reviewed and recommended price adjustments to 2017 Shady Oak Beach fees.
- ✓ Received a request to construct mountain biking trails in Civic Center and Big Willow Parks. Held a public meeting regarding mountain biking trails and directed staff to look at other feasible locations including the 494 corridor. Discussed and recommended a plan for the public input process.
- ✓ Reviewed and approved changes to the city’s park regulations.
- ✓ Reviewed the Natural Resources Division’s 2017 Education and Outreach Plan.
- ✓ Approved 2018 slip fees for Gray’s Bay Marina.
- ✓ The Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District, Scenic Heights Elementary School and the city of Minnetonka are collaborating to restore a portion of Purgatory Park in conjunction with the ecological restoration of the Scenic Heights Elementary School Forest. The Park Board reviewed components of the restoration plan and community outreach efforts.

- ✓ Will hold the annual Volunteer Recognition event to show appreciation for volunteers who donated their time and efforts to the areas of parks, recreation and natural resources management in 2017.

Chair Evenrud will provide a brief overview of these accomplishments at the November 1 joint meeting with the city council.

Recommended Action: None. Informational only.

**Joint Meeting of the Minnetonka Park Board and City Council
Item 2B
Meeting of November 1, 2017**

Subject:	Project Updates
Park Board Related Goal:	Enhance Long-Term Park Board Development
Park Board Related Objective:	Enhance council relations – serve as a voice to the council
Brief Description:	Staff will provide updates on park board–related projects.

Summary

The park board has been busy with a number of projects in 2017. The following is an update on significant projects:

- ✓ **Mountain biking:** Interest in mountain bike trail development was first generated through the Imagine Minnetonka visioning process in 2016. Staff worked with interested residents and Trail Source Inc. to provide and present a possible concept to the park board. Since that time, city staff heard from many residents regarding the potential creation of mountain biking trails. While many residents support the addition of trails, others have voiced concern over the potential project. WSB and Associates were contracted to assist with the public engagement process and will begin focus group and general public meetings in November 2017. Along with the public engagement piece, staff created a project page for mountain biking and to date has 536 email subscribers with 1,289 views. Staff is conducting an internal feasibility study that will run parallel with the public engagement process. Staff anticipates presenting their feasibility study to the park board in early 2018.
- ✓ **Pickleball:** Pickleball courts were designed and bids were received Aug. 3, 2017. Based on concept plans to build eight courts that were prepared in 2016, the estimated cost for construction was \$310,000. The lowest bid received was \$423,050.94, which well exceeded the budgeted amount. Bidding projects in the summer sometimes yields higher bids as contractors have their workloads established for the remainder of the year. The bids were rejected and the project will go out to bid again in January 2018, when the bidding is expected to be more competitive. If the bids again exceed the amount budgeted in the CIP, staff will look at either recommending amending the CIP or scaling back the project to six courts instead of eight.
- ✓ **Park Regulations:** The ordinance to amend park regulations was introduced to the council on March 27, and was on the city council agenda for adoption on April 24, 2017. The ordinance was adopted, except for the change regarding sledding, 1135.020 item 16. The council felt sledding should be an open activity and not regulated in specific areas. The language was therefore not changed and reads as follows: *A person must not use a sled, toboggan, or other means of sliding on snow and ice in areas where this activity is prohibited by signs.*

Staff met with the city attorney to review the city’s liability, with the following three options to consider: 1) Leave the language as is; 2) remove all language pertaining to sledding from the ordinance; or 3) bring the item back to the park board to refine the language to prohibit downhill sledding in parks, but allow general use of sleds in other

areas of the parks. In all three cases, the city's liability does not significantly change. As a result staff recommends not changing the ordinance, so the language will remain in effect.

- ✓ **McKenzie Park Boards:** Funds were set aside in the 2017 Capital Improvements Program to install a new board system at McKenzie Park ice rink. After researching different products, staff selected a system that will utilize fiberglass panels instead of HDPE plastic. The existing board system has been removed and the panels will be saved to be used on other rinks.

- ✓ **Trail Flooding:** A number of persistent trail flooding areas were remedied over the past year. None of the areas raised required an extensive repair like the “woodchip burrito” that was installed under the trail north of the Highway 7 cattle pass in 2015.
 - Purgatory Park – Two segments of trail in were raised.
 - Meadow Park –2,000 feet of gravel trail in was overlaid with 4 inches of new trail rock, and old pipes were replaced under the trail to help reduce flooding potential.
 - Big Willow Park – The paved trail that parallels Minnetonka Boulevard across from Applewood Pointe had settled over time, with one area as much as 10”. The low segment was raised back to the original elevation and the trail was overlaid from the small parking lot to the west side of the soccer field. The trail segment under the railroad bridge is also prone to persistent flooding. Unfortunately this trail segment will not be able to be raised enough to prevent being flooded. When the trail was reconstructed in 2013, it was raised as high as possible to still allow maintenance vehicles to cross beneath the bridge.

- ✓ **Civic Center Lighting:** The city applied for and received a Hennepin Youth Sports Program Grant in the amount of \$90,000 to add lighting at the Civic Center Field. Installation of the LED lighting system was completed in May 2017. The addition of lights allows for extended use of the field by an average of two hours per day from May through October.

Recommended Action: None. Informational only.