



Agenda

Minnetonka Park Board

Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 7 p.m.
Virtual Meeting on WebEx

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

_____ Elliot Berman

_____ James Durbin

_____ Nelson Evenrud

_____ Chris Gabler

_____ Elena Imaretska

_____ David Ingraham

_____ Ben Jacobs

_____ Chris Walick

3. Reports from Staff

4. Approval of Minutes

A) October 7, 2020

B) November 4, 2020

5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda

6. Business Items

A) Review of 2020 Farmers Market Operations and
Recommendations for 2021

B) Items Related to Shady Oak Beach

i) 2020 Shady Oak Beach Operations Report

ii) 2021 Shady Oak Beach Fee Adjustments

7. Park Board Member Reports

8. Information Items

9. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

10. Adjournment

Board Vision:

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

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.

Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, the park board's regular meeting place is not available. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, park board members will participate in the meeting remotely via WebEx. Members of the public who desire to monitor the meeting remotely or to give input or testimony during the meeting can find instructions at <https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/government/virtual-meeting-information>.



**Minutes
Minnetonka Park Board
Wednesday, October 7, 2020**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Park Board Members Present: James Durbin, Nelson Evenrud, Chris Gabler, Elena Imaretska, David Ingraham, Ben Jacobs and Chris Walick.

Absent: Elliot Berman.

Staff members in attendance: Jeff Dulac, Darin Ellingson, Carol HejlStone, Kathy Kline, Kelly O'Dea, Sara Woeste and Leslie Yetka.

Evenrud called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

3. Reports from Staff

Recreation Director, Kelly O'Dea reminded the park board that they received an addenda earlier in the afternoon and there were two items on it.

4. Approval of Minutes

Jacobs moved, Durbin seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of September 2, 2020 as submitted. Imaretska and Walick abstained. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda

Ashley Vaness Rude, 5950 Lone Lake Loop, Minnetonka wanted to advocate for the reprioritization of the already identified trail segment that is along Bren Road, between Shady Oak Road and Lone Lake Loop side entrance. This segment has already been prioritized as number 25 out of 71. Her hope is to influence the timing of that particular trail to possibly be sooner. Her personal opinion is that the sidewalk would not only improve the safety of Bren Road but also increase the use of the Bryant Lake Park trail and the Lone Lake Park trails and the light rail station that is also projected to open in a few years at Opus. It could also increase the safety for pedestrians getting there as well. She asked the park board if they would like to hear why she thinks it would be safer.

Walick replied that he would like to hear why because she lives in that area and is more familiar with it.

Jacobs asked Vaness Rude to clarify the part she is talking about again.

Vaness Rude replied that Bren Road connects to Rowland Road and those two roads are pretty much a straight road between Baker Road and Shady Oak Road. She lives on the Bren Road portion of it and her home overlooks that street and she sees the daily traffic

along with the families and children walking, biking and rollerblading on the shoulder there. She loves going for long walks but admits that she drives her car to Lone Lake Park, which is a five minute walk. The reason she drives is because she feels the shoulder is unsafe. There are a few blind spots and those are due to curves in the road. At some of those curves there are overhanging trees on personal property. People drive a little fast and given the blind spots and trees it is fairly blind. At this time of year in particular, the curves are worse with the morning sunshine or the evening sunset. Also, she sees a lot of cars veering into the shoulder where people often walk or bike. Three Rivers Park District is already planning a trail for Baker Road that will connect into Lone Lake Park. It could make sense to have this trail happen at the same time and there could be some efficiencies there. Vaness Rude would be happy to be an advocate in the neighborhood.

Imaretska thanked Vaness Rude for sharing her experience.

Jacobs stated that he lives in that area and it is very highly traveled. He agrees that there are a couple curves and hills that makes it a little hazardous. He also agrees that once we have the Three Rivers Park trail, it would be a nice segment to connect to other trails. Jacobs thinks that is a really good idea and that it is an important piece for that area.

Durbin asked which annual meeting they talk about the reprioritization of trails.

O'Dea responded that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is typically discussed in March or April. Each year we look at the five year CIP and ask for comments from the park board.

Imaretska commented that it is an issue and she thinks it is true of many segments in Minnetonka. There is a lot of space to cover with sidewalks and trails. It is important to the whole community and she is curious to hear how and if the new trail impacts the ranking of this specific segment. Staff takes a lot of time and effort into determining those segment prioritizations. They know that we want to get them done as quickly as possible with the resources that we have on hand.

Parks and Trails Planner, Carol HejlStone thanked Vaness Rude for calling into this meeting. The internal trails team will be looking at the overall score for this segment this Friday, October 9, to re-evaluate how that segment is scored. The Trail Improvement Plan is a really long range planning document. With long range documents like that, there's always elements that are in flux; meaning other capital projects for partner agencies. Part of that would be looking at recent developments that would potentially change how a segment would be implemented. The Eagle to Bryant Lake trail from Three Rivers Park District is currently undergoing a master planning process. It really isn't funded at this time but once that master planning effort is complete we would have a better idea of the actual project costs. Staff sees the value in aligning already nearby projects with projects like that. Staff will also be coming back to the park board with a recommendation that aligns more with that capital improvement timeline. Staff has a little bit more information to gather and is anticipating coming back to the park board in the spring of 2021.

Ingraham thinks it will be a good segment. He assumes that when that segment was last prioritized, the Three Rivers Park trail or the light rail weren't going in. He is glad staff is re-examining how the priorities map out because it would be a good segment to do.

Imaretska said the one other thing she heard was around safety with blind spots and some potential trees that might be causing issues. Maybe that is something that could be

explored, but didn't know if that was a question for the city or property owner. Maybe there could be some improvement made more immediately because of the visibility.

Larry Wade, Minnetonka resident called about the day camp that takes place on the hillside at Jidana Park. He explained that the park has a hillside, a moraine and it has acres of mature bur oak trees. About two weeks ago he met with Imaretska, Recreation Assistant Director, Sara Woeste and City Forester, Hannibal Hayes at Jidana Park. Hayes has a restoration plan, which he is recommending using an AirSpade to break up the compaction of the soil there. If it gets done then volunteers can spread some mulch around. Next spring, putting in some understory trees was discussed. His original recommendation was that this camp be closed permanently. He would like the camp closed because the bur oak forest that grows on that glacial moraine is typical of many oak savannas that we have in Minnetonka. There are beautiful savannas at Purgatory Park, Big Willow Park and also at Lone Lake Park. Most of what is now Minnetonka was once a continuous forest that stretched from St. Cloud to Mankato and it was known as the Big Woods. Minnetonka is right on the edge of it and it is primarily oak savanna. The Big Woods existed for over 700 years then in 1840 settlers moved in and began cutting it.

Wade contacted Dan Wovcha, Plant Ecologist at the DNR. Wovcha said that only three percent of the historic forest known as the Big Woods remains. Given the small number of existing native forest stands in the area compounded by a number of stressors including invasive species, climate change, developments and other factors. Every stand represents a valuable opportunity for conservation of the biodiversity in the region's natural heritage.

Wade looks at the oak forest in Minnetonka and thinks it needs to be protected. The stand of oaks where the day camp is has about 20 trees and he estimated the ages to be around 120 - 160 years old. These trees are extremely stressed due to the compaction in the soil. There is a lack of plants beneath the soil that will stabilize the soil and also enhance water filtration. Right now a lot of water runs off because it is so compacted. This hillside will probably be baring in the next 50 years because there is no regeneration of young oaks. Where it is not disturbed there are small oaks growing everywhere. The oak savannas we have in our city are a treasure and should be treated with greatest respect. Just because the day camp has been there for 40 years doesn't mean it should continue. When they had their meeting, someone said the camp is only open three weeks out of the year. He took that to mean what impact can that have? If you visit the site it will be obvious what the impact of a three week camp is. If the fact that the day camp is scheduled to go forward, he proposes creating what he calls a No-Go-Zone under the dripline in the oak trees. This would still allow for corridors and pathways between the trees and large areas of open space for meeting. These zones could be delineated with logs and would provide a visual barrier and deterrent to keep kids from crushing emergent plants. Wade is an educator, a naturalist and has worked with kids a lot. He would be available to work with the camp staff and campers to help them learn to respect the restoration work that is being done there.

Imaretska thanked Wade and asked for park board and staff input.

Ingraham is very familiar with the area and he thought the picture Wade sent does a good job of showing the top of the hill. It is interesting how compacted everything is. Ingraham is amazed it takes place from three weeks of camp. He would be a strong supporter of the Big Woods preservation but he looks for staff's expertise on this. The idea of the buffer area under the drip lines seems like a really good idea; anything that can help preserve and extend that. The Big Woods exists in Lone Lake Park and Purgatory Park and he thinks

some interpretative signage in those locations would be a terrific idea to create more awareness around that.

Wade said the Big Woods was destroyed before there were any scientific data. It would be very interesting to the public.

Jacobs commented that we all want to preserve things like this and it is a good educational opportunity especially for the kids.

Woeste said she was in the meeting with Wade, Imaretska and Hayes. From a recreation standpoint, staff hopes to keep the camp at Jidana Park. Staff thinks there is a balance and they want to get kids out in nature. When they met with Wovcha from the DNR at Lone Lake Park, he emphasized getting people out in the Big Woods. He sees the benefit of having the children there onsite. A good opportunity is including some education at camp about the Big Woods. Yetka and Hayes had some good steps moving forward with volunteers to help those trees.

Natural Resources Manager, Leslie Yetka wanted to speak on the conditions of the oaks. The trees are in relatively good health, except for some defoliation. That doesn't mean the trees are necessarily dying or in imminent decline. Overall, Hayes feels there could be some actions taken to reduce the stress on the trees and improve health. AirSpade is just a way to decompact the soil around the trees and then replacing that area with some mulch. That helps get some oxygen down to the roots; which helps keep the trees healthy. The stresses on this type of habitat is invasive species and climate change. Restoration activities with volunteers have taken place at the park for quite a few years. Yetka isn't sure if they have enough information or data to demonstrate that the three weeks of camp is what is potentially causing any further decline of these trees than what would normally exist with just use of this park. These types of habitats are relatively rare and in Minnesota we are blessed to have quite a few in our parks. We do want people to experience these areas so that they can appreciate them. Educational signage might be appropriate to raise the awareness of this type of habitat and the oak trees that have been there for over 100 years. In terms of drawing the connection between the camp and the potential decline of the trees, she's not sure that we have enough information to say if the camp has enhanced compaction due to the kids being out there. If it was an issue we probably would've seen that sooner than now.

Durbin asked staff if any kind of mitigation has ever been done to help the trees or if it is coming to light now that we see all this compaction. Durbin asked if this is something we should have started doing 20 years ago. He thinks they definitely need to protect the area but he is also a proponent of getting people and kids into the woods and nature. He is hoping for a balance of potentially some mitigation but he has a hard time thinking that it is from a three week camp that has been going on for 40 years. He believes it is probably from year-round traffic and lack of attention to it over the decades.

Yetka responded that the soil has probably been happening for a very long time and not just recently. AirSpades are a relatively new treatment for dealing with soil and soil compaction. We have started using it in trees and in more areas of compaction. It is certainly something that is becoming more prevalent. She's not sure if it was even available a decade ago.

Imaretska commented that it looks like there are some good next steps and the city is committed on working on that area. She loves the opportunity for volunteers to potentially

come and engage and do some mulching. She also loves the idea of educating people and engaging them in more meaningful ways through signage or programming.

Evenrud added that we are lucky to have Wade educate kids.

6. Business Items

A. Consideration of Futsal Court on Existing Tennis Courts

Woeste gave the staff report.

Evenrud thanked Woeste and said it was a great presentation.

Jacobs thinks it makes sense to use the recommended location at the school. The tennis usage was kind of low to moderate, where other places had more usage.

Woeste talked with the tennis manager and they said tennis has been up this summer due to COVID-19. This location was not highly used. Some of the courts are unplayable too because of the condition of their surface. Usage will pick up once they are resurfaced.

Jacobs thinks it should be a permanent court. That way it can be advertised for what it really is.

Walick agrees that the Glen Lake area makes the most logical sense. Walick asked if there would be a large cost to switch a dedicated court to a tennis or multi-use court in the future.

Woeste replied that the lining probably wouldn't be expensive but the posts might be.

Darin Ellingson, Street and Park Operations Manager answered that if we decide on Glen Lake to be a dedicated Futsal Court, when it gets reconstructed the net posts would be removed and there will be a better surface for Futsal. It would be coated and lined for Futsal. If adding tennis was decided, then it would be a matter of cutting the asphalt where the net posts would go and installing a type of removable posts system. If Futsal went away, they could install permanent tennis posts. One challenge would be the coatings would be down for Futsal and they would have to add some white lines for tennis.

Durbin likes Glen Lake as the pilot because it is at the elementary school. He thinks that Futsal court would be used primarily by the elementary school for recess or physical education during the school year. He is a proponent to having it as multi-use. He likes the season's idea where tennis would be during the summer season. His reason is that he doesn't think it will get used a lot for Futsal during the green grass season. That is high priority soccer season and that is when kids are out on soccer fields. Right now Futsal is being played at the Hopkins Junior High indoor gyms during the winter times. He doesn't think there will be much of a draw during the summer when kids can go play out on the grass. Durbin likes the idea of the fence bump outs for the Futsal courts. He recommends having that and he thinks it would be easier than trying to keep track of the goals.

Imaretska asked if Woeste got input from Tonka United because they would be using it. She wondered if they needed a dedicated space or if they would be ok with a shared court.

Woeste replied that she thinks they would be ok with anything at this point, whether it is multi-use or dedicated.

O'Dea added that he has communicated with them and they would be fine with multi-use or dedicated. They are just looking for a court to play on.

Woeste included that the city of St. Paul installed some Futsal courts and they have been very popular.

Imaretska supports Glen Lake and she thinks it is a good space. Imaretska likes to think about how we can have the most flexibility for different uses of our amenities and resources. She is aligning more towards the multi-use space because it gives more flexibility. She likes to use our resources in various ways.

Ingraham supports the Glen Lake location because of the location relative to the school and the fence is already there. He doesn't think we are losing tennis courts; he thinks we are gaining two tennis courts when they get resurfaced because they are not playable now. This would be two new courts, plus a multi-use or dedicated Futsal court. Ingraham compliment staff because he thinks it is really cool to see a resident coming forward with a proposal, then a few months later a recommendation came back to the board to move forward. He is very supportive of staff's recommendation.

Walick thinks he leans more towards the dedicated park along the lines of what Ingraham was saying. Basically there are zero courts there and resurfacing two tennis courts is like adding new courts. He has seen many people playing soccer during the spring, summer and fall. He's assuming Futsal would want to play all three seasons. Having it be a dedicated court would allow that and it wouldn't cause a potential conflict because it wouldn't be an issue with tennis players. If in the future, we find out nobody is using it we can transform it into a tennis court. He supports the dedicated court so people could play year-round.

Jacobs talked to some people that play soccer and they made comments that they would play Futsal. They mentioned that you could get eight to ten people to play on a smaller surface recreationally. Kids play soccer but he knows a lot of adults like to continue playing soccer when they are done with school and it is a lot easier to have that compact area. He likes the idea of the dedicated court.

Imaretska asked if there is a drawback to having a multi-use court.

Durbin doesn't think there is. He would hate to retrofit a court when it is basically staff that controls when it is a tennis court and when it is a Futsal court. You could let the demand dictate the schedule. Durbin would hate to see it not get used and then it comes back several years later on retrofitting a tennis court. He likes the idea of altering the fence to have those bump outs. It would also brand it as a Futsal court.

Gabler asked if one court is enough and if it will meet the need of Tonka United.

Woeste answered that Tonka United was looking to implement one and if it was successful we could consider it again in the future. There are a lot of tennis courts to get reconstructed over the years. She thinks they would be happy if there was one. Whether it is multi-use or dedicated doesn't have to be decided on tonight. There will need to be some neighborhood engagement on this and staff can have that discussion with the public as well. It could help steer their decision making for the final layout of the court.

Imaretska moved, Gabler seconded a motion to move forward with staff's recommendation for Glen Lake being used for a Futsal court. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

B. Review Park Signage

Ellingson gave the staff report.

Yetka said when you think about monument signs or park rules signs, they are fairly straight forward in the fact they are just conveying some static information. The interpretive sign, or educational sign can kind of be used interchangeably. Thinking about what we would be interested in or what we would need to do to actually update those would be a little more complicated than the monument or park rules signage. For instance, Ellingson mentioned that the educational signage was removed in Lone Lake Park just due to the fact that it had been quite aged and sort of dilapidated conditions so it was removed with the intent that it would be replaced. If we are looking at replacing there, we should be replacing or adding signs at other parks. There would be considerations that would need to be taken before we do that. We have an inventory of the signs and what the content is but we would need to go through and basically develop some ideas about what content we would want to showcase. It may have changed since when the signs were originally put in. There is also interest from a citizen group about providing some input on that. Staff would work to make sure there is an occasion for that input to happen. Once they decide what material they want to showcase, they would have to hire a contract designer to help sort of frame the content as well as any graphics that would be included. Then determining the sign, the size and material. Currently we primarily have pedestal signs but there has been a lot of advancement in sign technology and we would want to use materials that lasts longer. The public works staff would likely be able to install them. Staff's thinking is that right now if we are not making significant changes, it would fall within our existing operational budget. If staff were to go through and maybe look at replacing all signage or even adding signage, that may be considered as a capital improvement and come out of the capital improvement funds.

Ellingson asked for input from the park board on the park signs.

Ingraham is a proponent of interpretive signs. He really likes the ones that were in place at Lone Lake Park and is glad we are replacing those because they are worn out. He likes the idea of adding a sign to help create awareness and respect for things like bur oak at Jidana. There are also opportunities in Big Willow Park along the creek. The more you can engage people and show them that it is not just a path through the park is a positive thing. The inventory mentioned that there is an interpretive sign in Purgatory Park but your spreadsheet does not show that. Ingraham wasn't sure if Ellingson was referring to the one by the bathrooms or the one on the west trail. The one at the west trail is about to fall over, the Girl Scout troop sign is still there, but the sign at the bottom

of the hill is in ruff shape. Anything that helps engage some curiosity and respect for our resources would be really good.

Imaretska agrees there are a lot of opportunities or ways for the attendees to learn about the natural environment and some of the recreational areas. It makes her think of Purgatory Park and there is a lot to learn there. She is thinking about two bigger picture strategies. First one is around engaging kids. There are some really fun signs at the Scenic Heights School Forest that is kind of part of Purgatory Park. As we are thinking about adding signs, what kind of signs and how do we do it, she thinks putting something kids can engage with is a really great way to think about that. Maybe using a scavenger hunt mentality such as certain times for that and include the programming around it. A lot of parents are bringing their kids to parks so she asked if there could be something that is linked to natural environments. Maybe different signs to go visit this and learn about something and then you do that at a different park. She's thinking about the amount of amazing parks in Minnetonka and how it's sometimes hard to even realize it. The second bigger picture strategy would be having more directional signs maybe more on trails than in parks. Something that shows how trails connect to different parks and helping people understand. It would be really helpful for people that walk or run to venture off on a trail that they haven't been on before. That thinking could also be applied to some of the villages. A sign that says a coffee shop is .2 miles in that direction or something like that. More maps and directional signs that help educate people on the whole picture of how many trails and how to get there and how long it takes would be great. If we go that direction with more directional signs, marking key things like restaurants or garbage cans for dog walkers are really important.

Durbin was driving down Shady Oak Road to get to Lone Lake Park and he couldn't see the sign. Half of the sign was covered with Adopt-A-Park flowers, which is good because it beautifies the park but the sign is so simplistic you actually drive by it. He is a proponent to get a monument sign at some of these larger parks but he doesn't think they need to be at every park. Durbin likes what Imaretska said about the wayfinding signs and about connecting. He likes the concept of giving some direction of what is that way but just enough to make it look structured. There is so much to learn about in the parks. Durbin also mentioned interpretive signs and having a QR code on some of them that would link to something educational. That way people of all ages could learn. He wouldn't be a proponent of somebody walking around with their phones stopping every 100 yards to enter a QR code. He agrees with Ingraham that the sign in Purgatory Park needs to be replaced.

C. 2020 Park Board Strategic Plan Check-In

O'Dea gave the staff report.

There were no comments on the first three goals.

For the last goal: Enhance long-term Park Board development there were comments.

Ingraham asked on objective four if there is an intended activity or plan this year for the board to be involved with. If so, how do they do that or how would they access it.

O'Dea said the plan was to look at the POST plan but with COVID-19, he's not sure if that is something we can do this year but that is something we want to do in the near future.

Imaretska said one topic she is really interested in tackling as a board is the use of volunteers for parks restoration and invasive species removal. She thinks this year especially there are quite a few more people using the parks and trails. It would be interesting to learn more about if they can be helpful with the maintenance of our parks. She thinks there is an opportunity there. There are so many invasive species in our parks and there is certainly more work that can be done. She is a proponent in discussing simpler events that can be helpful in some ways to staff and the thinking around that topic.

O'Dea replied that they have had more volunteers this year with doing some of those events than in the past. It has been busy at both Lone Lake and Big Willow parks. Many parks have had a number of volunteers so it is really nice to see the volunteers are up.

Durbin thinks the times are changing and if someone wants something, they are going to have to put some sweat equity into it. He's seen people come to us and say they would like this and say they will help. That is really a cool thing and is community building. There is not enough staff to do everything. We as the citizens have to put in effort as well. If we really want something than let's volunteer and do it.

D. Naming the New Park at Ridgedale

HejlStone gave the staff report.

Evenrud said it is exciting to do this and to have a conversation about a new park.

Jacobs is excited about this and thinks it is going to be such a great park. When thinking about something being recognizable and identifiable; his idea was taking two of these names and putting them together. It would be something like Minnetonka Commons at Ridgedale Plaza. It kind of says this is a Minnetonka Park and then narrowing it down saying it is at Ridgedale. He thinks it draws both of those things out and sounds kind of classy too.

Imaretska is excited. She asked if they are planning any community engagement around the name or if it is them providing the recommendation based on staff's thinking.

HejlStone replied that at this time they have not reached out to the public for opinions or feedback on the names that are included. If that is the recommendation of the board that is something staff can move forward with.

Imaretska said it is more proven to solicit more ideas. These are great suggestions but she believes that there are great ideas out there. She thinks because of COVID-19, people are separated physically and it might be a really fun and joyful way to solicit some ideas for a new park. This might be a good opportunity to reach out to the public and get some ideas and names. Her favorite is Minnetonka Commons. She loves commons because it comes back to the identity that this is our park. Then Minnetonka because we are hopeful that this is the gateway to the city and some kind of signature space in our city. She hopes people will associate Minnetonka Commons with our city and our identity instead of Ridgedale.

Ingraham thinks receiving feedback is great for getting more creative ideas. He likes the options staff laid out. He is right there with Jacobs and Imaretska and would rather have it be associated with Minnetonka rather than it be a feature of Ridgedale. Appending Ridgedale to it would help because he might think Minnetonka Commons would be at the City Hall because there is a lot of common space there. One thing that came to mind is there was some discussion that there might be a park or a plaza adjacent to the LRT Station that may have similar functionality as this park at Ridgedale. It's conceivable that having a subscript at Ridgedale could be beneficial because you might at some point in the future have a Minnetonka Commons in Opus. He thinks these are good ideas and he definitely likes how it is intended to be used. He likes the idea of commons more than park or plaza. He thinks it better connotes what he thinks the programming intention is there.

Durbin likes Ridgedale Commons because he likes to know where the park is and associate it with some geography. He likes Imaretska's idea of getting the public's input. He would like to give a slate of options such as the top five or ten to the public rather than just opening it up wide and getting so many responses. The citizens of Minnetonka are paying for this park so they should get a say in what this park is named. He wouldn't want to make a recommendation to council without getting community engagement. He thinks an online vote would be significantly adequate.

Walick thinks everyone has good points and noted that this is surprisingly a complicated process just like picking out a child's name. He tends to lean more towards consistency and simplicity. This park is one part of that area and it is also a park in Minnetonka. Apart from a preserve, every park in Minnetonka ends in the word park so you know what it is; it doesn't leave anything to the imagination and it is Ridgedale. He knows it is boring and isn't fancy but he leans more towards Ridgedale Park because it is simple. We are proud of our parks and it does carry with that idea that it is a little bit of nature and relaxation and all the things we appreciate with our parks.

Evenrud leans more towards commons. He thinks we need to make sure people know it isn't an extension of Ridgedale Mall. He agrees with Ingraham that once you don't say Ridgedale the park could be anywhere, but if Ridgedale is included, it really tells people exactly where it is. Not everybody is going to agree on the name but getting public input is never a bad thing. He asked if we have to come up with a final recommendation tonight.

HejlStone replied that what they are looking for is an eventual recommendation for city council. If the park board would like staff to get public input and feedback, they are able to do that. She would ask for recommendation on if you want staff to go forward with these four identified names or if you want add or subtract some of those options. If the recommendation is to move forward with names she thinks having a recommendation of which names they should go forward with to the public would be helpful.

Evenrud added that maybe a Twitter poll would be a good way to get engagement. Maybe between now and the November joint meeting with the city council we could see something like that come up and have a little information to work with.

Imaretska likes the format staff currently has and likes the four options. She also likes having other as an option just in case someone has a brilliant idea.

Durbin would support that and willing to make a motion on that.

Walick requested to add what Jacobs suggested. Minnetonka Commons at Ridgedale.

Imaretska liked that.

Walick asked if the potential motion is to recommend adding Minnetonka Commons at Ridgedale, in addition to recommending that staff reaches out with those potential options to citizens prior to bringing it to city council.

Evenrud asked if there are any that could be replaced with the one you were discussing.

Walick replied no.

Evenrud recommends going forward with those four options to the public for engagement and then come back in about a month with the responses.

Durbin wants to add Jacobs' suggestion and add other as an option. Staff can do public engagement how they seem fit and then bring it to council.

Gabler said staff is just looking for something for us to discuss with the council at the November meeting. It looks like our recommended action is just to be a discussion topic with the joint meeting.

HejlStone said staff is looking for a discussion, not a motion. We will discuss further at a future date.

Durbin wants to know if they should come to agreement if staff should engage the public before they talk to the city council because he doesn't want to talk to council without it. City council will want to know what the public has to say.

HejlStone asked if the question is if there is time to include public engagement.

Evenrud said he thinks they are recommending that there be some and what that would look like.

HejlStone thinks there is an opportunity for staff to reach out to residents via social media including Twitter or other avenues or maybe even on the project page. That is certainly something that staff can discuss and move forward with if that is the recommendation of the park board.

Evenrud agrees with Durbin that the city council will want to know about public input.

HejlStone thanked the park board and said the discussion was really good and it was great to hear.

7. Park Board Member Reports

Ingraham commented that he went to Lone Lake Park and checked out the progress. He thinks the work is spectacular. What struck him is that it makes the park much larger than

what it was before. Now you have the ability to navigate inside the wooded areas in a much more scenic way than you could before. He complimented staff and volunteers. He ran into two of the subcontractors working on the trail and they both independently commented on the quality and degree of interaction with the staff and also the sheer number of volunteers that had been pitching in to help with the trail. One of the gentleman has done a lot of these and it's uncommon to have 8-10 people help and he said they had 30-40 people helping in the first portion of the trail when they needed the help. It goes along the commentary earlier about the level of volunteers. It is really shaping up nicely.

Durbin said he was at Lone Lake Park over the weekend and the pickleball courts were packed and they want more, they want lights and they love it. It's the most successful thing that I would've never predicted. You just see a lot of happy people outside playing pickleball.

O'Dea said that typically in October or so we open the indoor courts at Williston and people prefer to play on outdoor courts. Williston Center has had their lines down for about a week or so and they have had hardly anybody, but the outdoor courts are still very busy.

8. Information Items

Lone Lake Park Multi-Use Mountain Bike Trail Update

Woeste reported.

Trail Swap

HejlStone reported.

9. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

O'Dea reported. The joint meeting is at 5:30 p.m. and will be virtual.

Evenrud asked if anyone on the park board that will term out.

O'Dea said we have one that will term-out at the end of January and that will be Evenrud.

10. Adjournment

Jacobs moved, Walick seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kline

Kathy Kline
Recreation Administrative Coordinator



**Minutes
Minnetonka Park Board
Wednesday, November 4, 2020**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Park Board members present: James Durbin, Nelson Evenrud, Chris Gabler, Elena Imaretska, Ben Jacobs and Chris Walick. Student member: Elliot Berman.

City Council members present: Mayor, Brad Wiersum, Deb Calvert, Susan Carter, Kissy Coakley, Brian Kirk, Rebecca Schack and Bradley Schaeppi.

Excused: David Ingraham.

Staff members in attendance: Geralyn Barone, Ann, Davy, Jeff Dulac, Mike Funk, Carol HejlStone, Kathy Kline, Kelly O'Dea, Sara Woeste and Leslie Yetka.

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

3. Business Items

A. MRPA Award Presentation.

Recreation Director, Kelly O'Dea introduced Tracy Petersen from the city of Edina. She is a member of the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association awards committee. Petersen presented the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association's (MRPA) 2019 Award of Excellence to the city of Minnetonka's Recreation Services for the Burwell Spooktacular event. The awards of excellence program is an annual program that recognizes agencies and their staff for an exemplary project that was implemented in 2019. The committee appreciated Minnetonka's unique and fun approach to providing a new fall youth event and utilizing the historic Charles H. Burwell house as a venue. We also were impressed with your collaboration with other departments and with the local Boy Scout Troup in helping raise funds for the scholarship program and your emphasis on making the event free and accessible to all. The awards committee would like to recognize Recreation Superintendent, Ann Davy who nominated this project for an award, Recreation Assistant Director, Sara Woeste as well as the entire recreation services department, park board and city council for continuing to provide meaningful events to your community.

B. Progress Report from the Chair.

Evenrud welcomed the newer council members and gave the report.

O'Dea added that the report shows how busy the park board is.

C. Naming the New Park at Ridgedale.

Park and Trail Planner, Carol HejlStone introduced the new park. She showed them updated renderings for the new park that were also located on the park's project page.

HejlStone said this has been a really exciting project to be a part of. This is meant to be a signature new community level park in the Ridgedale area. Looking at the idea of naming this space is significant as well. Staff conducted a brief survey to the public on the project page and social media. Ridgedale Commons rose to the top and that is what we bringing forward tonight as the recommended name for this space.

Evenrud asked for input.

Imaretska commented that this park continues to be such an exciting project and she thinks it will be an amazing part of our city. She is so excited about the new ideas and details that HejlStone shared today. Imaretska thanked HejlStone for going to the community and getting some extra feedback on the names. Imaretska loves the word commons because she thinks it is a really wonderful word for this specific park. This park has so many different features and is so much more than just a park or plaza; it is a place to gather and to experience Minnetonka. Ridgedale is how that area is known so Ridgedale Commons seems like a very practical name for it which in some ways is part of who Minnetonka is. We are kind of practical in our approaches so she thinks she would support that name.

Carter appreciates Imaretska's comment. However, she wants to offer the group a challenge. That area is known as Ridgedale and it has been affectionately known as Ridgedale all through this project. Minnetonka is so much bigger and more special than a retail operation or shopping center. She encouraged everyone despite the proximity and the familiarity with Ridgedale to think about Crane Lake and to think about our natural resources. When citizens are asked what makes us special and why they move here, natural resources continues to climb to the top of their priorities. Carter encouraged everyone to think about tethering to a natural resource instead of a retail space. She likes commons but encouraged everyone to think about for all-time if we are naming a park. In the future, maybe Ridgedale will be there but maybe it won't. She would offer Crane Lake Commons or Crane Lake Park as options that maybe were quieter in the survey but resonates more.

Schack, appreciated what Carter said about Ridgedale. From her perspective and experience living in that area; she considers Ridgedale as a region and not just a mall. The government center is classified as Ridgedale, the Ridgedale YMCA is there and everything in that region is Ridgedale. Her concern about deviating too far from that is the fact that we really want the park to be a regional draw and also support the full experience of the area. Purgatory Park or Big Willow in her mind is more of a local draw. It does feels simple but she thinks if there are going to be big events than maybe it is ok for it to be tied to the region and she definitely likes commons. She isn't necessarily opposed to Crane Lake Commons but it's not Crane Lake. Crane Lake is going to be a different component of an adjacent park and that might create some confusion.

Calvert struggles with this also and she really appreciates what Carter, Schack and Imaretska said. One thing that struck her as she was going through the packet and the presentation is that we pay homage to the settlers; so kind of the white history of

Minnetonka. One of the things she has been thinking about all week is maybe a Native American name that relates to that area. It would be one more element to tie in that we tend to brush over especially in the metro communities. It is happening in other parks and some of the names are really beautiful. However, when people are making plans, they would just say let's meet at Ridgedale Park. Calvert thinks that is what people are going to call it and that is what it will end up being. She personally doesn't like the name commons. She thinks there were projects in Detroit that used the word commons and to her it has a different connotation. Calvert thinks if we could figure out some of the original Native American names of that area, it might be a really respectful and unique thing to do in our community.

Berman added that with the name Crane Lake that there will be another park going up on the Crane Lake side in the near future. Regarding commons, specifically for the local younger generation they refer to downtown Hopkins as The Commons. If you search The Commons on your phone the map will show downtown Hopkins. So if people want to meet at The Commons and they type that in their phone, it might bring them to downtown Hopkins. That is something to keep in mind.

Coakley explained that when she was looking at the diagram, she thought about circles. The name could be like Ridgedale Circles and that's because of how the park is laid out. When Calvert said the Native American name she thought that might resonate with the circle piece. She kind of likes that idea.

Jacobs thinks he agrees with Ridgedale just because 60 percent of people liked it. If you look through all the names submitted a lot of them included the word ridge in it. He thinks it does highlight the location. As far as commons or park, he doesn't have a strong preference on that. We put it out to the people and it seems pretty clear that Ridgedale something was kind of the front runner by far.

Durbin added that this is an interesting discussion and appreciates the community engagement because you see what everybody is thinking out there. It causes you to think, especially with the council input. For one, he thinks we have time to think about this. He was sold on Ridgedale Commons before this discussion began but he thinks it will have an official name that might be different from an unofficial name. Everybody is going to call this Ridgedale Park no matter what we call this. Durbin thinks we could be creative and can get some historical Native American names and make that a component. This is going to be Ridgedale Park in one fashion or another in his opinion but he thinks we have time to be creative and do more research into a really good permanent name. Durbin doesn't want this name to be changed in 10 years when a different park board and council come and want to revisit this. He thinks we should definitely take the time and get it right. He recommends putting Ridgedale somewhere into the final name because that is what people will call it.

Gabler asked what we want to accomplish with the name. He thinks if we figure out how we want to identify it, then it will lead us to a name from there.

Schaeppi thanked staff for all their work and spending their time in the parks, their openness to Futsal and reimagining possibly some of their uses. He looks forward to the feedback on the new park signage. He thinks Ridgedale Commons is good and doesn't think there is a natural alternative. It sounds like there might be some ideas and he

wouldn't be opposed if there is a consensus going towards an alternative. He thinks it seems to be supported by the community and that sounds good for him.

Kirk has been involved in naming locations and has had several opportunities to name locations. He's learned a few things about naming locations. One thing he has learned is that no matter what you name it, the predominant location is going to end up driving the name. He worked for the YMCA and when they tried naming branches something other than the names of their communities, the vendors, visitors and members all end up tagging that particular location so no matter what we name it, it will end up being followed by at Ridgedale. He appreciates the name commons. For him at the YMCA, they have always struggled with the word camp and what it means. To put it into context for tonight, what does the word park mean. In Minnetonka the word park in his mind brings up a lot of natural resources. We have beautiful parks, a lot of trees and trails. This area is not really what he would identify as a park. If you don't use park, he thinks commons is a great option. Ridgedale Commons in his mind sort of fits the venue and describes it as something greater than a park, which it really is. It's a gathering spot and an area for community and he really supports Ridgedale Commons. Regarding indigenous naming convention, we have done a great job in the last 120 years or so misappropriating Indian language and Indian names and trying to identify back in the 30's and 40's, it was very common. Now we are trying to undo some of that. So the learning for him is to make sure if we try to go down that path of using Native American language that would have to be very deliberate. We would have to make sure that the Native community was involved very heavily in how that was named and why it was named. It would be a very heavy lift to make sure we got it right. Because of that he would maybe steer from that. He loves the idea but it would be a sensitive issue that we would have to be very careful about how we address it.

Calvert addressed Kirk's point, stating that of course she would not bemisappropriating names, if we were to go down that path of course we would be trying to do this appropriately and naming it a name of something that was there before, literally paying homage and reclaiming the space. Just because it is difficult, it's not necessarily something she would shy away from. If it is something that other people just feel more comfortable with and as she said before, she agrees with all the comments. She thinks people are basically going to call this Ridgedale Park or something along those lines but if we have an official name as well it was just a thought.

Wiersum expressed that the conversation has been good and helpful and he appreciates it. When he first heard Ridgedale Commons he thought that's alright but a bit pedestrian. He read the packet and the naming conventions tying it to history and location. Ridgedale is an area in Minnetonka that is well known and it is the primary retail destination within the city. It's the city's closest thing to a downtown and Ridgedale is not just a mall, it is an area. He thinks from a wayfinding and directional understanding, Kirk's point was if we take Ridgedale out we are going to live with Ridgedale anyway. He is good with having Ridgedale in the name. He doesn't have the negative connotations with commons that Calvert has. The word common works well for him but he thinks there could be a number of other words that could equally work as well. He thinks it will be called Ridgedale Park as Calvert said. That is what it will be referred to when people can't think of the name. He thinks for a location such as this and a park where people are not expecting a park, Ridgedale probably makes a lot of sense.

Walick wants to echo what others have commented on and says this has been a fascinating conversation. He thinks having it be either Ridgedale Park or Ridgedale Commons represents the area. A lot of people probably do associate it with the mall but with everything going up around there, having it be Ridgedale Park will be just another factor in the growing area. He thinks it is amazing that so many people were willing to vote on the park name. Walick added that Ridgedale Commons was the clear winner with community engagement. Having the people chose the name may make them feel more invested in this city. If we use that name and highlight the fact that they are the ones that picked it, it will feel more like their park.

Wiersum grew up in Green Bay and they have a football stadium there called Lambeau Field. What they did was sold naming rights to the gates. There is the Verizon Gate, and the Associated Bank Gate, etc... Lambeau Field will never sell their naming rights. He thinks that ties to this conversation because there are elements in the park that could be named. Maybe some of the ideas being discussed in terms of creative naming can be used to name elements within the park. Then a wayfinding convenient name such as Ridgedale Commons can be used to name the park.

Imaretska had the same idea as Wiersum and thinks there are more opportunities for naming elements of the park. She also wanted to bring up and talk about the idea of engaging the Native American community in a larger way. Maybe it isn't necessarily for naming this park but she thinks we should consider how we ask stewards of the parks in Minnetonka. How do we think about that relationship and learning more about it and how can we honor the Native American heritage for future projects? That is a bigger discussion and probably more work has to be done, but potentially a future topic for park board discussion.

Evenrud wanted to share some thoughts from our previous discussion. One of the first things that came up was wanting to separate the park from the mall. We wanted people to know this is a Minnetonka park and not part of Ridgedale Mall. His first feeling on the name Ridgedale Commons was not positive because he didn't want it to be thought of as a Ridgedale Mall park and it's not their park. Then we discussed the location and the history of the malls in Minnesota ending in dale. It is kind of an identification for people in that region. It is more of a function question for him that overrides a lot of the feeling that he had with the name Ridgedale Commons. He kind of changed his mind listening to everyone's comments tonight. He agrees with incorporating some sort of historical notes in there because he really enjoys looking at those types of things. Seeing the aerial view and seeing the rings makes him think that would also be a good aspect of it. Evenrud agrees that no matter what it is called, it will be known as that cool park by Ridgedale for a long time.

Gabler said while they have been talking he decided to google synonyms for the word park because he thinks that it is a little bit more than a park. Three words that stuck out to him were: refuge, promenade and preserve. If you think of all the different things going on there maybe it could be called The Refuge of Ridgedale or The Preserve of Ridgedale because that is more of what it is.

Evenrud mentioned that it is more of a passive park than a soccer field, it's a different sort of park.

Calvert loves the idea of having different elements of the park named. It gives different groups opportunities to take ownership of it or make parts of the park even more special. She thinks it is creative and could even help create new elements to the park so she really likes that idea.

O'Dea appreciates the discussion.

D. Trail Prioritization Criteria and Resident Trail Request Process.

O'Dea introduced this business item and said we want to talk about trails and we want to talk about two different things in regards to our trails. We want to talk about the prioritization criteria and then also a process that we are looking at for the resident request. As many of you are aware, we are getting requests from residents to move these segments up or down depending on whatever reason they may have. O'Dea introduced HejlStone and she gave the report.

Calvert asked how common it is for another governmental jurisdiction to change their prioritization. Calvert questioned if it is common to affect our trail priority list and how staff would incorporate that new set of circumstances into our list.

HejlStone answered that we coordinate pretty closely with Hennepin County staff, Met Council and other partner agencies. A good example is coordination with the Three Rivers Park District around their West Metro Regional Trail study. For instance, Baker Road has risen to the top of our trail improvement plan but using our knowledge of the West Metro Regional Trail study, we slowed down to better collaborate with that partner agency. Generally we coordinate pretty heavily with the county because a number of our segments are along county roads. We do submit what our priorities are to partner agencies and then they submit what their priorities are to us as well. It's looking at where those efficiencies can happen. That is kind of an annual coordination item.

Calvert wondered if sometimes things comes up that are a little out of the ordinary and hard to incorporate.

Schaeppi received an email late in the day from a resident, Luke Van Santen. Van Santen is one of our more active cyclists in the city. He hopes staff can take a look at Van Santen's comments. Schaeppi thinks this is exciting and he appreciates the city coming to the park board and the city council to solicit feedback. He is also excited about the new trails webpage. The more that we can communicate what we are doing is fantastic. Schaeppi explained that Van Santen had comments specifically about increasing points potentially for schools and business connections. His focus would be making transportation a little bit higher than just for recreational use. Van Santen questioned how many users result in a determination of whether a segment would be high use or not. He thinks Van Santen is getting to the point in the criteria of how do we know in that prioritization how much use it will get. For example, in Ward 3 there was just a conversation where we talked about a community lead interest to have a swap within five spaces. Both segments equally had schools so they had equal credit. He thinks that is a fair discussion because what if an elementary school has 800 students and maybe half of them are walking or biking to school then compare that to a charter school that may only have 10 percent biking or walking to school. He thinks Van Santen's point about the potential use should be considered. The last major point Van Santen made was about looking for the priorities to be reviewed more frequently than just five or 10 years. He

mentioned maybe viewing every two to three years but less in depth. Schaeppi suggested that staff reach out to Van Santen because he knows trails, roads and signs probably better than anyone here. Schaeppi also commented that his family went for a run around Cedar Lake in Minneapolis recently. There was a park that was under consideration for review and they had a sign listing that. He recommended if the city is doing some type of trail planning, it would be great if there were community signs near the trail to let people know we would like their feedback so when we have those major review processes, it may make more sense. He thinks Van Santen's point also was is when we do these reviews that there is more of a process. Perhaps an open house or something. His request would be more than the standard Thursday to Monday timeframe of staff reporting a decision.

Durbin has been on the board for several years and every year they review the plan. He thinks the criteria works. He recalls making one change due to a technical issue to reprioritize a trail pathway by Groveland Elementary this year. We are having these conversations and he is looking at the list and we have done four segments and there are still 67 left to do. We are completing about one a year. In 2019, the annual community survey said that 85 percent supported the franchise fee so it was adopted. Now we have a dedicated source of funding to do these trails. The Imagine Minnetonka survey went out a few years ago and people liked the parks and trails system. What Durbin thinks is that we are coming up with residents saying they want the trail by their house or school reprioritized. He thinks the resources they are dealing with aren't large enough to accommodate. At our rate of going one trail a year, it is going to be 67 more years until we are done. He thinks there is enough will in the community to support increasing the funding by whatever means to accelerate the construction of these trails. The priority is great; what he thinks we need to do is half the time. We are a city that doesn't have very many sidewalks and we are in a brand new COVID-19 era where kids are learning from home. More adults are working from home and we are seeing an increase of people walking in neighborhoods, using trails and getting to the parks. He thinks that the priority should be considered to increase all of this and be able to do it in a faster manor.

Schack replied by saying those that made the tough vote to pass the franchise fee, their blood pressure just went up quite a bit with the idea of doubling the fee. Of course we would love to do it but they are feeling the financial pressure particularly due to COVID-19 in a way that is unprecedented. She loves the idea but doesn't know in practice if there is an appetite or ability within the community to take that financial leap. Schack thinks we have shown over the course of the past few years that we are leveraging as a city in every opportunity that we can with partnerships with the county with grants. Staff has done a tremendous job trying to make every dollar stretch as far as possible on the Plymouth Road project and on the Excelsior project. She would love to see it accelerate but at least right now she doesn't see that as a realistic possibility because it would probably result in staff cuts. We just financially can't make it work. Schack added that she thinks much of what was referenced does show up on the criteria such as the nature of use, the connectivity and access or if it is used for passive use or transportation. So we're really trying to quantify and we've done a really good job of that. She can appreciate a review every five to 10 years. It may seem like some things can change such as locations of schools are moving. There are things that happen that maybe influence this more frequently than every 5-10 years and so she doesn't know if there is something that we can do that's like a quick review or something or a review of the next 10 to make sure they are in an accurate priority and do that a little more frequently. The idea that staff would take the time to go through all 70 every two years seems unrealistic to her. The

short of it is, she thinks the priorities now and the criteria is appropriate. She really likes the process outline. She thinks it will be very helpful. She thinks about projects they look at and community will really appreciate having the trail webpage because they'll be able to look and envision what is coming their way and maybe put some things together. She thinks everything that staff has done here is great. She thinks we could maybe add some kind of mini review or something that would take into account some of just the changing demographics or anything that has happened in the more recent past.

Calvert concurs with Schack's comments including the unfortunate fiscal considerations that would make it very difficult for us to raise more funds at this particular time. She feels like 10 years is a long time for reviews but she also feels like it can't be annually or even biannually. She thinks that is what she was getting at when she asked her question earlier about other governments or other pressures that have us re-evaluating the order of some of our trail priorities. With all the development going on at Opus, she thinks a lot of changes are being anticipated and planned for but she thinks there will be some unanticipated changes. To her, 10 years is too long, maybe five years at least to take a look at the next 10 or 20 trail segments. It might end up being more useful because we are growing and she thinks we will have to accommodate some of that. Calvert appreciates this packet and thinks having a trails page is a great idea. She agrees with everything that Schack said about the outline being really good and the priorities being appropriate. Calvert wants to make sure that we are listening very carefully to our residents and if something is really of their concern, we have to take their concerns under consideration. We have to be careful about upending a process and a system and a set of priorities that are there for a reason and have really good criteria to put them in that order. Calvert thinks that we need to listen to our residents but also have to have some amount of consideration for not only staff but just for the processes that we put in place. If you start working around our processes, it just creates a big mess and more work in the end.

Wiersum has been involved with the trail prioritization system for a long time. A number of years ago there was a suggestion to increase the priority of the transit aspect of trails in Minnetonka. That created some concern just because the trail prioritization criteria had been recently updated at no small amount of work. He wants to be mindful that the system we have in place works but it is complex and changing it frequently is going to be a challenge. He agrees with the criteria that we use but he isn't going to say the waiting is perfect but he doesn't have a better recommendation for that. He does agree that maybe every two to three years, we look at the top 10 and see if there are any changes that could be done. That would simplify things but would allow us to keep current. Wiersum also likes a good deal and when we partner the cost of the project goes down. He would like it if we go with the priority list but if a project comes up and there is an opportunity to do the project at 20 percent of the cost, he would like to accelerate that. Let's accelerate that project not because it's at the top of the priority list but because it is a good deal. To Durbin's suggestion, clearly you would like to have more money but another way to getting more trails is to pay less per mile. He is sure staff does that to a certain degree now but he thinks we should have a position on doing that. The rest he agrees with, he thinks the outline looks great and the visibility and importance of trails is something that will invite a lot of input from residents. He asked if there is any chance for us to get our trail projects into a state bonding bill. Minnetonka is a city that doesn't ask the state for much but he does know that we have neighboring communities that asks the state for things. Wiersum is kind of proud of the fact that we don't do it but at the same time our

trails are so vital and so much of a part of who we are that if there is a way to step up and get some state money for our trails, he would like to at least advance that notion.

Imaretska is also a big fan of using partnerships, which staff already does so well to decrease the cost. Part of our criteria is cost effectiveness, so couldn't we include partnership as part of the criteria to do exactly what the Mayor was talking about. That way if there is an opportunity for a partnership, the criteria would show the cost effectiveness of the segment which would allow it to move up. There are a lot of segments and everyone wants a trail next to their house; it makes sense so that's why it would have to be so transparent with the criteria and unbiased with these decisions. The other thing she thinks is not currently reflected in the criteria is safety. There are people using certain segments right now without protection of a trail or barriers. Certain segments are more dangerous than others due to a curve or blind spot. That is not reflected right now but that is something to consider. We want to make sure people are safe and prevent any sort of terrible accidents or tragedies.

Durbin apologized if he raised anyone's blood pressure earlier with his comment about raising the franchise fee. He appreciates just letting everyone know he thinks the will is there but he's not sure on the means of getting it. Durbin has done a little research and he doesn't think that any of our major county arteries are having major construction in the foreseeable future. Durbin thinks the residents would appreciate getting the trail system that he thinks has been designed really well to fruition. He thinks there is the desire from the residents and he leaves it up to city staff and council to figure out how to do that.

Schaeppi added that there would be difficult political climate for costs but perhaps he would suggest a new question in one of the surveys. To the residents he would ask about given our new realities with COVID-19, are you more or less willing to increase funding for walking and biking trails. Some type of gaging the community at large perhaps would be a starting point where we have data to go forward and get it.

O'Dea said they got some great feedback. He thanked the park board and city council because they have made some hard decisions to support parks and trails. He thinks it is really this pandemic that has proven that the parks and trails are important to our residents.

4. Information Items

Lone Lake Park Multi-Use Mountain Bike Trail

Woeste gave the report. She thanked Recreation Program Manager, Jesse Izquierdo. He's been onsite from morning till night managing the contractor, the volunteers and he helped site that trail so thank him if you see him.

O'Dea appreciates the support of the city council and park board. He also thanked staff and volunteers for their dedication.

Calvert commented that we are such a special city. It just seems so par for the course that when we have our first ever online joint meeting that the first thing is an award for our parks and recreation staff. We have such great staff and she is very appreciative of all the work staff did to put the packet together. She is also appreciative of the work of the park board. It's been a really challenging few years for people on our boards and commissions and on

the council for a variety of reasons. Calvert just wanted to thank everyone for their wonderful service and the work they do because it really helps the council make better informed decisions and makes our job a lot easier.

Wiersum also thanked all the park board members and city council. The item that Woeste just reviewed, was challenging for both the council and park board. He wanted to thank them for the hard work they did and let them know he appreciated their courage because it was challenging. He thinks it is an amenity that will benefit our city tremendously and it shows we listen to our residents. We did it in an environmentally sensitive way so that he thinks really everyone wins. Congratulations and thank you for the hard work that everyone did, staff, park board and city council. Challenging issue but we got some place and it's very exciting to see this come to reality.

Evenrud thanked everyone for coming and for all they did.

5. Adjournment

Walick moved, Carter seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kline

Kathy Kline
Recreation Administrative Coordinator

From: Luke Van Santen
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 6:20 PM
To: Bradley Schaeppi
Subject: Fwd: LVS Council park board meeting comments

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Luke Van Santen**
Date: Wed, Nov 4, 2020, 16:42
Subject: Council park board meeting comments
To:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback!

I am happy to hear that a more robust trails webpage / interactive map is being planned. This will significantly help people understand how any planned / proposed segments interact with the existing system and the timeframes associated with any new or proposed segments. I hope the new map will include the ability to toggle layers on and off (planned/programmed segments by year, maintenance / clearing prioritization, trail type (gravel, paved, etc), width, village centers, etc), and will include existing infrastructure? Another great feature would be the ability to subscribe so that any additions or changes could have an automatic announcement based on the users' geographic preferences. A nice corresponding feature would be to see what other requests have been made, especially if there were a method of "voting" for proposed segments.

I hope that outlining of the prioritization process will include more info about how segments are assessed under each of the criteria? For example, how many users result in a determination of whether a segment will be high-use or not? Or, is the perceived level of difficulty of a proposed trail segment (hills) what determines the likelihood of use as a recreational trail? In trying to find examples of this, I did a brief search on the City website for the tabular presentation of all segments in the TIP in one table but was unable to find it. Could any work done as part of prioritization be sure to include this format of output in the future?

In regards to periodically reviewing the TIP, I suggest it be reviewed every 2-3 years but would accept annual minor review with in-depth review every 5 years. Reviewing it every 10 years is way too infrequent, though.

Last general comment - is there a way someone from the public who is very interested in furthering biking in Minnetonka could be more involved with discussions about and evaluation of new criteria and or trail segments? And receive more info, further ahead of time than 3 days before a meeting?

Criteria-Specific Recommendations

- 1) Please increase the prioritization of transportation from 10% to at least 15% and preferably 20% (with the additional "points" coming from the recreational use criteria). I feel this is appropriate because any transportation-focused trail will still be completely usable for recreational purposes, and it will make it easier for more Minnetonkans and other regional trail users to use methods besides automobiles for short (or even longer) trips.
- 2) Please increase the prioritization for whether new segments connect to schools or businesses. This could possibly be accomplished by combining the Business (5 points) / School (5 points) / Place of Worship, Library, or Government Center (5 points) criteria into one criteria worth 15 points where meeting any one of the three results in full points. It seems doing so would more accurately reflect the importance of enabling transportation to and from schools and businesses.
- 3) Please add a criteria that awards points for establishing a more complete network. There is an existing criteria that asks whether the proposed segment "completes a route" that seems to get at this point but maybe doesn't fully recognize the difference between connecting two separate segments and connecting an existing segment to the larger network. Adding this criteria would be in holding with the CROW Manual principles of Directness and Cohesion. A good example of this would be the section of Tonkawood Rd from the Lake Minnetonka Regional trail to Minnetonka Blvd, especially in light of the newly reprioritized segment on Minnetonka Blvd being extended to Tonkawood Rd.
- 4) Please add Mitigation as a "subcriteria" under Degree of Difficulty / Minimal Tree Loss. I completely agree with minimizing tree loss but mitigating any such loss with new plantings would seem an appropriate method of addressing any potential issues around tree loss. Maybe this is already addressed in the Cost Effectiveness criteria though?
- 5) This may actually fall outside the scope of evaluating proposed trail segments, but it seems Maintainability is an important factor that should be considered. For a purely recreational (in the traditional May-September sense) trail, there likely won't be any new maintenance needs. But for a more transportation-focused trail, or a previously recreation-focused trail that has become more of a transportation asset (like the boardwalk at the dam), not having year-round maintenance drastically diminishes its value. And even for some recreation trails, their use could be extended to year-round use (especially important this coming winter!)
- 6) Last - at the risk of making the assessment of new trail segments more complex - does it make sense to have partial scores within criteria?

Non-Criteria Specific Requests / Comments

- 1) Please reconsider the types of trails being designed / built as this could very easily have an impact on other criteria in a manner similar to the discussed "Complementary Projects" item - both could significantly reduce cost. While fully separated trails have definite benefits (and some disbenefits), having a road-adjacent trail (still with separation) could reduce the amount of new impervious surface (leading to full-width trails without running afoul of (or at least minimizing impact due to) watershed rules), could reduce the need for additional easements or right-of-way, and could minimize the need for utility relocation. Several existing planned segments (Minnetonka Blvd, Tonkawood Rd) run along roads that are already signed as bike routes and would seem to readily lend themselves to either paint or delineator separation. In addition, road-adjacent segments lead to more visibility of bicyclists, both from a safety

perspective and from a "hey, that person is biking with panniers full of groceries - maybe I could try that" perspective.

2) Please reconsider (or continue to consider) narrowing adjacent lane widths as part of any trail segments design and construction. I understand there are certain roads where larger vehicles more frequently travel, and that there are roads outside the jurisdiction of City staff where lane width reduction is less achievable, but there are also several roads (Woodland Rd, for example) where there is a very wide shoulder already in place immediately adjacent to two 12 foot wide lanes.

3) Please add wayfinding signage (maybe business supported?) at important junctions in the trail network.

4) Last, and probably outside the scope of this discussion, but could the decision (and the posted signs) forbidding bicycling at various locations be revoked or at least reconsidered? Having the agenda set for a trail by one subset of "valid" (in as much as informal non-maintained trails can have "valid" users) trail users to the exclusion of another, just as "valid", subset of trail users seems exceptionally unfair.

Minnetonka Park Board Item 6A Meeting of December 2, 2020

Subject:	Review of 2020 Farmers Market Operations and Recommendations for 2021
Park Board related goal:	To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities and programs
Park Board related objective:	Offer a full range of programs for people of all ages and ability levels
Brief Description:	Park Board will review the 2020 Farmers Market operations and review staff's recommendations for 2021

Background

The Minnetonka Farmers Market began in the summer of 2009 and was managed by the city's Administration Department from 2009 to 2015. Recreation Services took over management of the market beginning in 2016. Bonnie Hanna-Powers was hired as the Farmers Market Manager in early 2018, and currently manages the farmers market and winter farmers markets.

Summary

2020 Farmers Market season:

- 17 weeks
- Tuesdays, 3-7p.m.
- June 9th - Sept 29th, 2020
- Market Location: Civic Center Campus, Ice Arena B parking lot



Vendors:

- 38 rotating vendors
 - 24 returning vendors
 - 14 new vendors
 - Capacity per day: 25 vendors, allowing for social distance spacing between booths.

- Products overview:
 - Farm Produce: fruits, vegetables, herbs, microgreens, mushrooms, cut flowers, plants, lake-harvested wild rice, maple syrup, honey, free-range pastured eggs
 - Pasture-Raised Meats: organic beef, pork, lamb, goat, rabbit, duck, chicken, goose
 - Value-added: fresh salsas, jams, jellies, pesto, sauces, hot sauces, kombucha, dried spices, elderberry products, cricket flour, gourmet popcorns
 - Baked goods: breads, take-and-bake pretzels, alfajores, meringues, cricket flour cookies, cake rolls, french macarons, scones
 - Ready to eat, to-go. Eating at market was against MN Dept. of Health guidelines: empanadas, soda, water
 - Other: face masks, aprons, garden & pond ornaments, microgreen grow kits, photography, greeting cards, throw pillows, scarves, lanyards, buttons, dish scrubbers, natural self care products, soaps, bird houses, The Landing Shop, The Vintage Loft

Year	Attendance	Weekly Average	Best Day
2020	11,107	653/market (17 markets)	1,005 attended 8/4/2020
2019	7,728	483/market (16 markets)	705 attended 7/30/2019
2018	7,215	481/market (15 markets)	724 attended 7/17/2018
2017	6,890	510/market (13.5 markets)	631 attended 8/15/2017
2016	4,225	338/market (12.5 markets)	

Attendance:

The Farmers Market was an average of 35.2% busier than 2019, drawing an average of an additional 170 people per market day.

Customer and Vendor Feedback

Vendors mentioned that this year was a better sales year than in years past. Several vendors regularly sold out of what they brought to the market.

Customers missed the Power of Produce Club for kids, and other activities. They were split on being required to wear a mask at the farmers market, with more in favor. Throughout the year, customers commented, thanking us for holding the market and adapting to changing pandemic conditions.

Staff Recommendations for 2021

- Remain flexible for 2021 plans, in light of potential changing pandemic conditions
 - If conditions allow: reintroduce live music, Power of Produce Club, food trucks, and community booths
 - Explore a Recreation Box to-go pickup at the farmers market, work with the Recreation Department
 - Continue to expand pre-order options for 2021
- Work with IT to replace EBT/credit card machine connected via phone line with another option. The machine had issues throughout the 2020 season due to poor connection.
- Stretch goal: Seek a sponsor or grant to offer an additional EBT/SNAP match at the farmers market in 2021.

Recommended Park Board Action: Review the 2020 Farmers Market summary of operations and recommendations for 2021 and provide input as needed.

Attachment:

Mitigation guidance: <https://www.mfma.org/Guidance-for-Markets>

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 6B (i)
Meeting of December 2, 2020**

Subject:	2020 Shady Oak Beach Operations Report
Park Board related goal:	To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities
Park Board related objective:	Annually review policies related to the operation and management of parks to determine if changes are required
Brief Description:	The park board will review Shady Oak Beach operational information for the 2020 season

Background

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Shady Oak Beach season began on June 5 without lifeguards. Due to high attendance, lifeguards began staffing the beach on July 18 from 12-6 p.m. daily. The facility remained opened and guarded through Friday, August 14th. The beach spent \$16,000 on lifeguard salaries. Park attendants continued opening the beach until Monday, September 7th for community members to use. Park attendants also assisted with maintenance duties in the facility throughout the season. Due to COVID-19, the concession stand remained closed and rentals were not available. Season and daily passes were not sold this year.

The waterfront was closed from August 14th- August 28th due to high E. coli levels. To combat the high readings, Hopkins Public Works worked with lifeguard staff to clean geese feces twice daily and placed decoys around the beach. Staff are researching additional solutions to prevent this problem next season.

This spring, new Wubit's were purchased for the deep end of the lake. In March 2021, the lifeguard shack will be renovated with a new roof, deck, additional lighting, improved airflow, and built in cabinetry for storage.



Recommended Park Board Action: Informational only.

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 6B (ii)
Meeting of December 2, 2020**

Subject:	2021 Shady Oak Beach Fee Adjustments
Park Board related goal:	To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities
Park Board related objective:	Annually review policies related to the operation and management of parks to determine if changes are required
Brief Description:	The park board will review proposed Shady Oak Beach season pass rates.

Background

Shady Oak Beach passes are available for purchase for both residents and non-residents. The current pricing has been in place since 2017. It includes reduced pricing for residents versus non-residents and a further discount for the purchase of multiple passes.

Summary

In an effort to simplify the pricing structure, staff are proposing the following changes for 2021:

STATUS	DATES	2017-2020		2021 (proposed)
Resident	Pre-season	1-2 passes	\$13/pass	\$13/pass
		3+ passes	\$7/pass	
	Opening Day – July 31	1-2 passes	\$18/pass	
		3+ passes	\$9/pass	
	August 1 – Closing Day	1-2 passes	\$13/pass	
		3+ passes	\$7/pass	
Non-Resident	Pre-season	1-3 passes	\$26/pass	\$26/pass
		4+ passes	\$13/pass	
	Opening Day – July 31	1-3 passes	\$31/pass	
		4+ passes	\$16/pass	
	August 1 – Closing Day	1-3 passes	\$26/pass	
		4+ passes	\$13/pass	

The one-day admission fee would stay the same at \$6/person and \$3/person after 6 p.m.

Discussion Points

- Does the park board approve the proposed changes to the season pass rates for 2021?

Recommended Park Board Action: Make changes as desired and approve the 2021 Shady Oak Beach season pass proposed fee changes.

Minnetonka Park Board Item 8 Meeting of December 2, 2020

Subject:	Information Items
Park Board related goal:	N/A
Park Board related objective:	N/A
Brief Description:	The following are informational items and developments that have occurred since the last park board meeting.

COVID-19 Update

An executive order by Governor Tim Walz increased restrictions for fitness centers, restaurants, bars and gatherings and more for four weeks. Here is how the order impacts recreation facilities and programs through at least Dec. 18, 2020.

- Williston Fitness Center – closed
- Minnetonka Ice Arena – closed
- Community Center – closed
- Recreation Programming – canceled
 - Exceptions: Winter Farmers Market (Dec. 12), senior parking lot bingo and drive-up meal event

Staff continues to explore safe outdoor alternatives during COVID-19 and on Thursday, Nov. 19 offered a Thanksgiving-to-Go meal program. Senior Services staff, along with members of our police department, presented 195 Thanksgiving meals to Minnetonka seniors. While there was a fee associated with the program (\$8), Thanksgiving-to-Go is one of several Veterans Month senior services offerings. All participating veterans and their spouses received their meal free of charge. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event, which normally takes place in the community center banquet room, was held as a drive-thru in the center's parking lot.



**Minnetonka Park Board Item 9
Meeting of December 2, 2020**

Upcoming 6-Month Meeting Schedule				
Day	Date	Meeting Type	Agenda Business Items	Special Notes
Wed	1/6/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of chair and vice-chair 	
Wed	2/3/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of 2021 Park Board Strategic Plan 	
Wed	3/3/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan 	
Wed	4/7/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Wed	5/12/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Board Tour 	5:30 pm start
Wed	6/2/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	

Other meetings and activities to note:

Day	Date	Description	Special Notes

Items to be scheduled: