



**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