



**Addendum**  
**Minnetonka Park Board**  
**Meeting of Wednesday, September 1, 2021**

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**ITEM 7A – Opening of Oric Ave. Right of Way (ROW)**

**ITEM 7B – POST Plan Community Engagement Summary**

- Attached are emails received after distribution of the packet.

**Email Feedback Received: Item 7A – Opening of Oric Ave. Right of Way (ROW)**

**From:** Matt Martin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 12:24 PM  
**To:** Kelly ODea <kodea@minnetonkamn.gov>; Darin Ellingson <dellingson@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Opening of Oric Avenue Right of Way

Hello Kelly and Darin,

Thank you for the Park Board meeting notice. I am unable to attend tomorrow night's meeting and so I'm writing in support of the motion to approve opening the Oric Avenue Right of Way to continue to allow public access to Lake Rose Park. We've lived on Lake Shore Ave. for nearly 10 years and have used the path extensively for family walks, our children walking to visit friends and home from school and we were never aware of any legal issues with using the path. The Lake Rose park area has been refurbished to a healthy woodland and maintained by local residents in a way designed to minimize disruption to native habitat. We are extremely fortunate to have these natural areas in our neighborhood and neighbors that care deeply about preserving our natural surroundings, ultimately increasing property value. This issue has caused a great deal of undue confrontation among neighbors over the past several months. I trust that you will move this on to the City Council for examination of any underlying legal issues and resolve this in a timely manner.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Martin  
15351 Lake Shore Ave.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

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**From:** KRIS O'REILLY  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 12:49 PM  
**To:** Kelly ODea <kodea@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Sept 1 Park Board Meeting

Kelly, I've attached the List of Questions and the accompanying attachments. Let me know if I've missed anything.

What is the format for speaking at a Park Board meeting...will I be seated, come to a podium/microphone...?

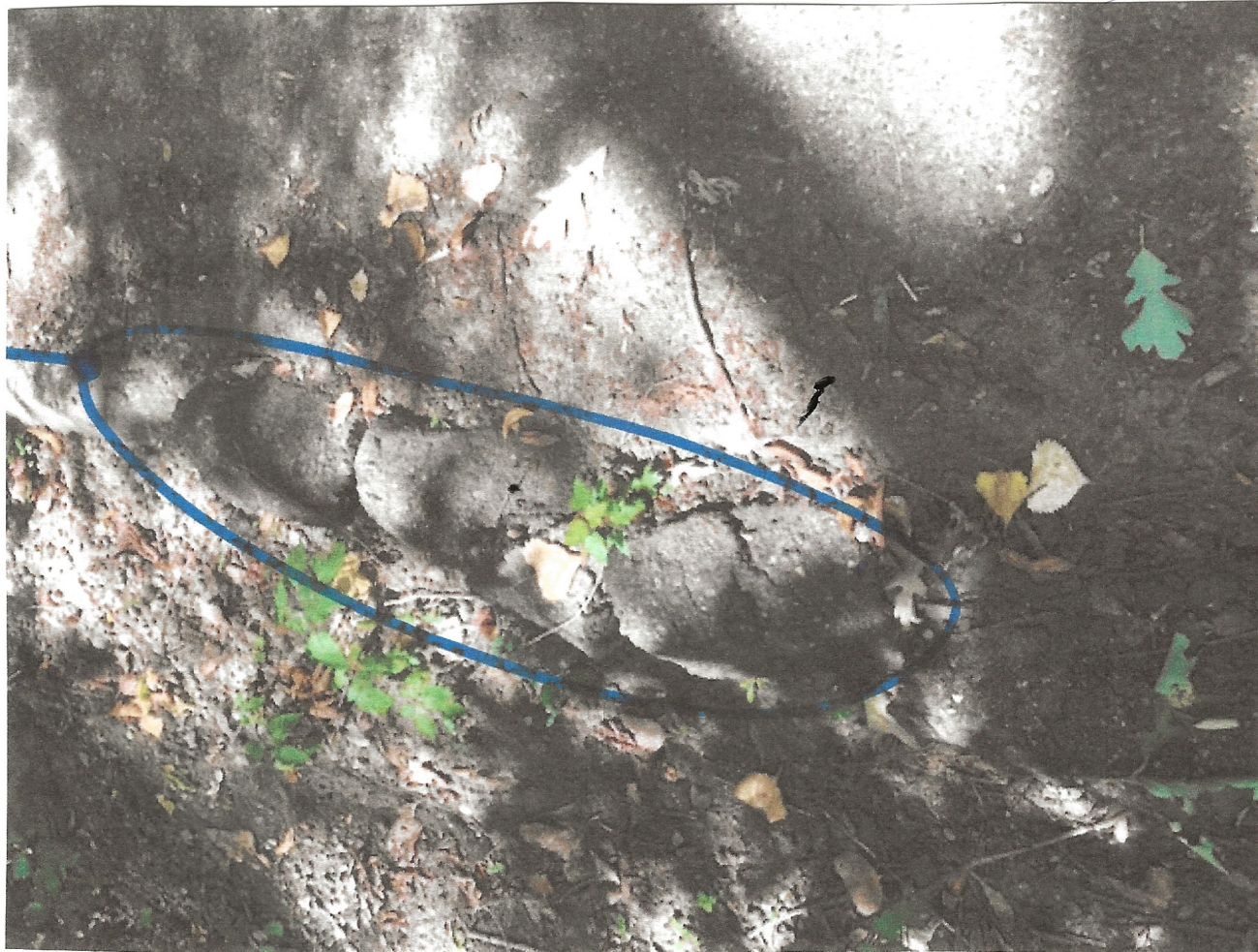
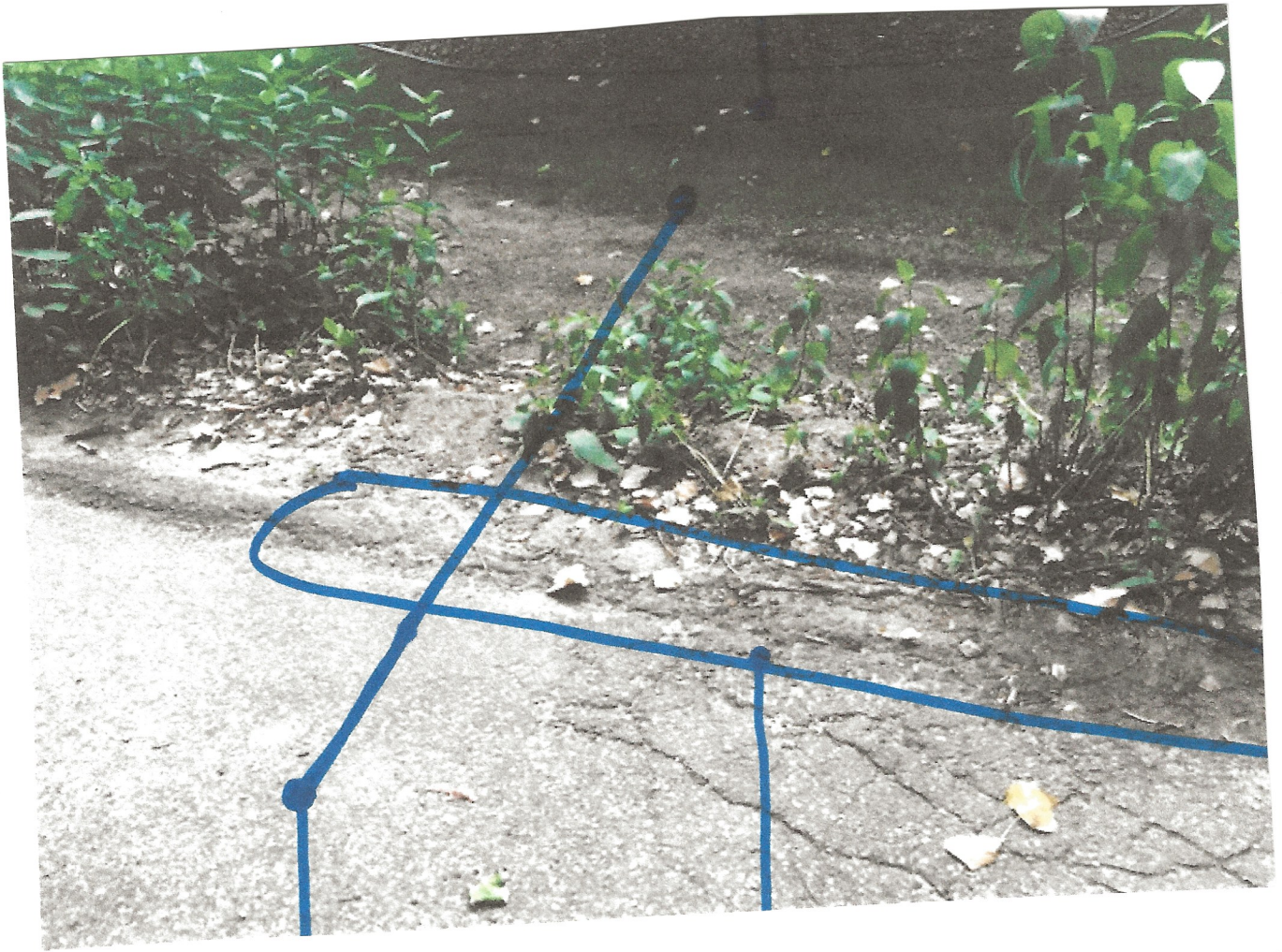
Thanks again...  
Kris

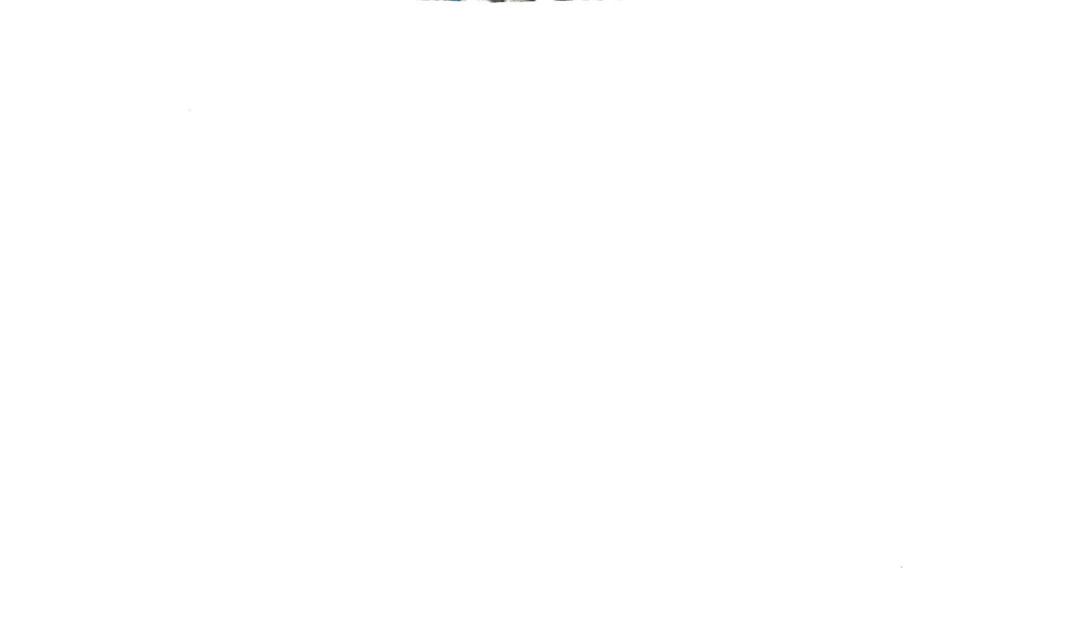
September 1, 2021

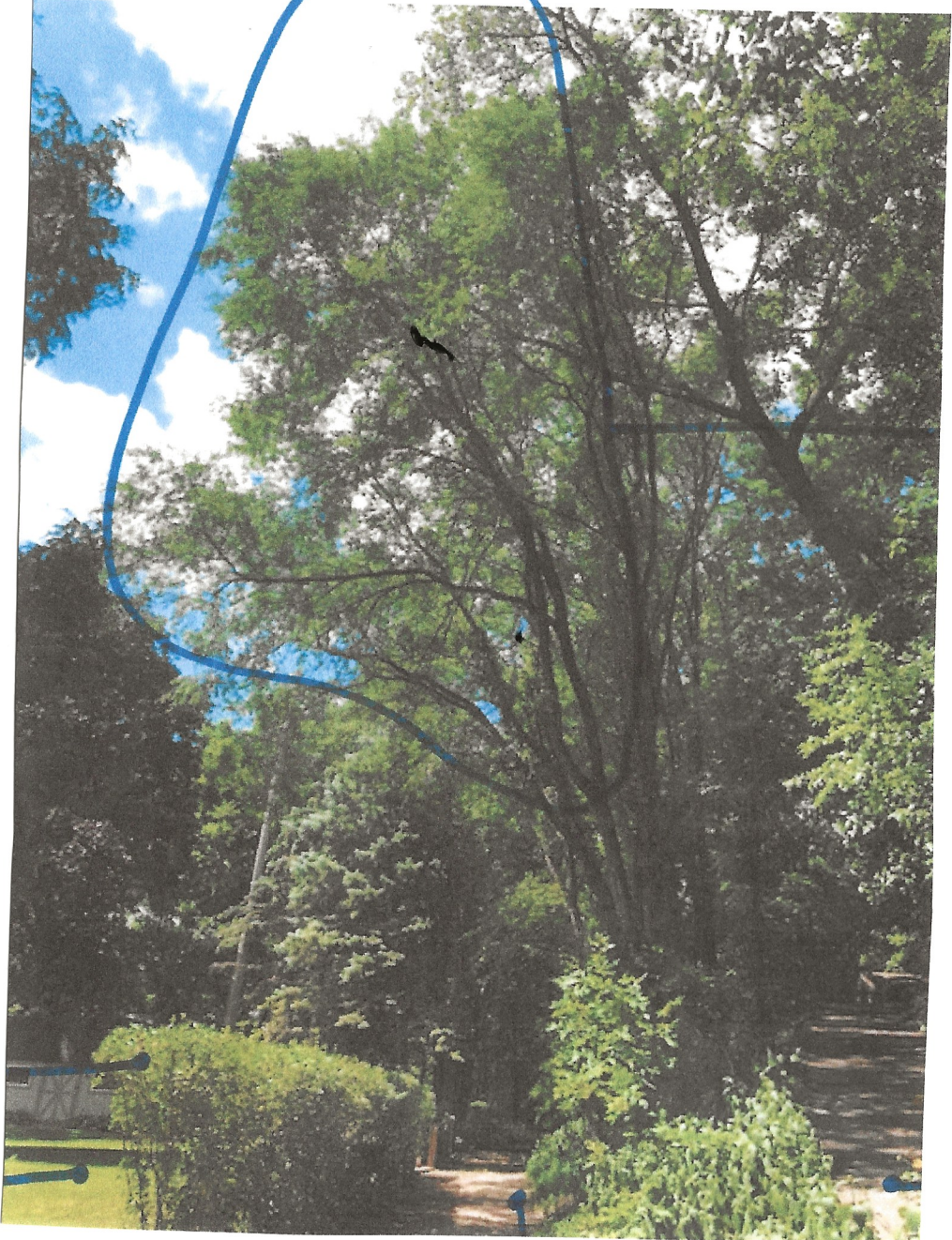
Dear City of Minnetonka Park Board Members:

My name is Kristine O'Reilly and I am the homeowner at 5700 Lake Rose Drive. My property is south of and abuts the Oric Avenue right of way being discussed at the meeting today. I am requesting that the Park Board address the issues below during discussion on the Opening of the Oric Avenue right of way.

1. The existing path extends across my northwest property line by 4.5 feet where it connects to the park path. Is the board willing to include a provision in the resolution asking the city to reroute the path from crossing my property, placing it entirely onto the right of way, to prevent trespasses across my property?
2. The city expressed a willingness to create a buffer between my property and the path to limit trespassing on my property, including the installation of split rail fencing. Is the board willing to include a provision in the resolution asking the city to work with me to create some type of a buffer on certain portions of my property to prevent trespasses or damage to my property?
3. The city holds an easement over the path on the right of way for city repair trucks to access the park's water/sewer system when necessary. The trucks will have to drive across my northwest property line to access the park. Is the board willing to include a provision in the resolution asking the city to install some type of barrier to prevent trucks from driving across my property to access the park?
4. Will the city have responsibility for maintenance of the entire 50 foot right of way once the path opens? Can the resolution include a provision acknowledging that I don't have any responsibility to maintain any part of the 50 foot right of way once the path is open?
5. Who is responsible for repairing the private driveway in the right of way? Given the curbs have washed out in large spots, this appears to be a contributor to erosion on the hill. (See Attachments 1, 2)
6. Large dead limbs and branches continually fall from several trees near the base of the hill that lean over the path (see attachment). They heavily litter the path, posing hazards to path users who often clear them away by throwing them onto the hill (right of way) and/or kicking them aside onto my property. Is the city willing to consider trimming these trees back to minimize hazards and littering on the right of way? (See Attachment 3.)
7. If a tree located in the right of way falls onto my property and causes damage, will the city be responsible for that damage on my property?







## **Email Feedback Received: Item 7B – POST Plan Community Engagement Summary**

**From:** Friends of Minnetonka Parks

**Sent:** Sunday, August 29, 2021 3:17 PM

**To:** Korey Beyersdorf <kbeyersdorf@minnetonkamn.gov>; James Durbin <jdurbin@minnetonkamn.gov>; Chris Gabler <cgabler@minnetonkamn.gov>; David Ingraham <dingraham@minnetonkamn.gov>; Ben Jacobs <bjacobs@minnetonkamn.gov>; Christopher Walick <cwalick@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Cc:** Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>; Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>; Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>; Rebecca Schack <rschack@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kelly ODea <kodea@minnetonkamn.gov>; Will Manchester <wmanchester@minnetonkamn.gov>; Leslie Yetka <lyetka@minnetonkamn.gov>; Mike Funk <mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** POST Plan Engagement Results Summary

I am writing to the Minnetonka Park Board on behalf of the Friends of Minnetonka Parks (FoMP) Board of Directors regarding the POST Plan Engagement Results Summary recently released by the city to the public.

### **Community Engagement Survey Review**

We have studied and discussed the document in detail. We are both pleased and excited that there were so many responses that support the importance of nature-based recreational activities in our parks, interest in the restoration and stewardship of our natural resources and acknowledgement of their inherent value and value to us as a community. Five of the eight highest priority issues identified in engagement results are nature-based ideas.

### **The Community Values Natural Amenities**

It is clear from our experience in the parks as volunteers and visitors that our parks' natural amenities not only draw those seeking solitude and enjoyment of being in nature, but they also draw those who seek more active recreational activities to our parks. Who wants to play pickle ball in an asphalt parking lot when they can play on a plateau at the edge of a steep, forested area over-looking a lake?

The survey responses show us that residents want *both* awesome amenities and resources and state of the art active recreational activities in our parks. The trap to avoid as residents and policy makers is to view the two types of activities as an either/or proposition and the two types of recreation as conflicting. We encourage the Park Board to explore approaches that include *both* awesome natural amenities and state of the art active recreational activities without one adversely affecting the other.

### **Fiscal Responsibility and Taking Care of Existing Amenities**

Another important consideration is how the existing natural, park, and recreational amenities are funded and maintained. We suggest a full evaluation of the maintenance needs of our existing amenities taking into account the recommendations from the Natural Resources Management Plan.

## **Thoughtful Planning to Ensure the Long-term Integrity of the Natural Resources**

A place to start in this discussion is to acknowledge that we are limited in the space we have available for recreational activities. We do not have additional space unless we acquire it. Therefore we should take careful inventory of our natural areas, our vacant spaces, and our underused active recreational amenities, and decide how to (re)develop these areas in a way that integrates the desired amenities into a high quality natural setting. We cannot simply take a vacant space and use it adding more and more fields and play spaces. We caution that the next alternative should not be to simply convert the high quality natural areas and use them for additional courts and athletic fields. This would negatively affect Minnetonka's identity, as many people move here because of the natural amenities. Lastly we should not tear up courts and fields to use as nature-based recreational areas. For example, the city might replace unused amenities (ice rinks) with a new (skate board park) thereby reusing the current developed footprint.

## **The Solution**

The solution is more nuanced than this.

We believe that the solution lies in identifying what areas of parks are most valuable to us as a community. These are the key natural amenities of each park, and restoring them should be a key priority and funded in line with other recreational amenities. These are the awe-inspiring natural resources that draw people to our parks as well as enhance the experience of other park activities. They also help us mitigate the effects of climate change and seek sustainability and resiliency as a community. These should be used for activities that are more focused on using the natural amenities for walking, hiking, nature observation and educational and research activities. Additional active recreational activities get people into the parks as well and also provide opportunities for exercise and camaraderie. Those that need a natural setting should be planned and developed with minimal disturbance to the natural resources around them. Those active recreational activities that do not depend on a natural area should be treated accordingly and placed in a less valuable area that has a low ecological value. We believe that it is better for our community that the activities that depend less on an awesome natural setting are better suited to an area of lesser natural value. A skate park or a year-round aquatic center do not need to be placed in the most valuable natural spaces.

The POST Plan and Natural Resources Plan will guide our community's park and open space for a decade or more. We need a clear path, plan, and vision that provides for both awe inspiring natural areas and state of the art recreational amenities. This will require imagination and a both/and solution.

John Mirocha, President  
Friends of Minnetonka Parks (FoMP)  
Maple Ridge CT, Minnetonka

FoMP is a non-profit Minnesota corporation dedicated to working with the City of Minnetonka to ensure that all park visitors can experience high quality, biodiverse places that provide a multitude of positive nature-based interactions, thereby improving the quality of life and the



sustainability and ecological resiliency of our parks, park system and community. We represent 10 parks and a base of 350 residents who are interested in the preservation of the key natural amenities in our parks that differentiate us from many other local cities such as remnants of big woods, lakes, streams, steep slopes and vistas, meadows, prairies and wetlands and the biodiversity they contain.

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**From:** Thomas Stockert

**Sent:** Saturday, August 28, 2021 4:10 PM

**To:** Kelly ODea <kodea@minnetonkamn.gov>; Corey Beyersdorf <kbeyersdorf@minnetonkamn.gov>; James Durbin <jdurbin@minnetonkamn.gov>; Chris Gabler <cgabler@minnetonkamn.gov>; David Ingraham <dingraham@minnetonkamn.gov>; Ben Jacobs <bjacobs@minnetonkamn.gov>; Katie Semersky <ksemersky@minnetonkamn.gov>; Christopher Walick <cwalick@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Cc:** Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>; Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>; Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>; Susan Carter <scarter@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>; Rebecca Schack <rschack@minnetonkamn.gov>; Will Manchester <wmanchester@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** POST Plan and LLP Pollinator Project

Good afternoon,

I thought I'd write briefly about a few of the agenda items for Wednesday's Park Board Meeting.

**POST Plan Engagement results:**

I wasn't surprised to see the wide support for Trails and Connections as well as Natural Areas for Passive Recreation.

50 percent most enjoy spending time in nature and 47 percent enjoy exercising in the parks.

46 percent want protection focused and 43 percent want an equal balance.

51 percent want environmental sustainability and resilience, 45 percent want high quality natural areas and 34 percent want connections to parks and trails.

Each of these points demonstrate the need for a balanced approach (with nature balancing the scale).

Five of the eight priorities identified in the POST plan survey specifically relate to maintenance, restoration, improvement, accessibility, or education about our natural environment.

I'm encouraged by these findings and look forward to a robust community engagement in formulating the POST Plan.

**Project Request - Pollinator Planting and Public Engagement Process**

With the results of the Post Plan Engagement Results in mind, and as a Friend of Lone Lake Park, I'd like to throw my full support behind a new pollinator meadow habitat and public engagement at Lone Lake Park (Option B).

The Pollinator habitat "or lawn" referenced in the CBD agreement was prefaced by "...the City shall have developed a plan and implemented the conversion of one acre of turf at Lone Lake Park into pollinator lawn and/or pollinator meadow habitat to create **new floral resources for the RPBB** (emphasis added)...".

With regard to the "approximate" Initial Installation and "approximate" Yearly Maintenance Increased Costs accompanying the proposal, these approximate costs pale in comparison to the **millions of dollars** appropriated (and reappropriated) for the Ridgedale project. Can we get some crumbs for restoration?

Option A (non-native honeybee), as mentioned above, is not within the spirit of the CBD settlement agreement. I, personally, believe Option B is within the spirit of the CBD settlement agreement and is the right course of action to take with regard to the RPBB. The RPBB (rather than honeybees) was spelled out in the agreement...in black and white). The RPBB was negatively impacted by the mountain bike trail. The mountain bike trail has been well received, let's finish the project by protecting the RPBB.

I would like to thank staff for meeting with FLLP (several times) as well as their recommendation to collaborate with FLLP and proceeding with Option B. We look forward to such an opportunity.

Thanks for your service, I look forward to Wednesday's meeting.

Tom Stockert  
5524 Dominick Drive