

FINAL MINUTES
WYOMING PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 3, 2020
7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Spangler called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Park Advisory Commission for August 3, 2020 to order at 7:00PM

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Park Advisory Commission met via electronic means.

CALL OF ROLL:

On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming Park Advisory Commission were present: Members Barb Williams, Bruce Spangler, Bret Ohnstad, Amy Buccanero, and Claire Luger, Council Liaison

Absent: Monica Wick

Also Present: Kelly Dumais, Assistant City Administrator and Chuck Almhjeld, Public Works Superintendent

Visitors: None

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

Chair Spangler determined a Quorum was present.

OPEN FORUM: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA: NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS, TO APPROVE THE PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES FROM THE JULY 6, 2020 MEETING.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Aye: Ohnstad, Spangler, Williams, and Buccanero

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Lions Park Plaque

Assistant City Administrator Dumais explained that Public Works had planted a tree in memory of Alan Geisenkotter a boy who has tragically killed by a drunk driver in 2018. She stated that there has been discussion of adding a plaque in his honor and asked for feedback from the PAC regarding what they would like to see on the plaque. She noted that following this incident there is an updated law in Alan Geisenkotter's name which has expanded the penalties for drunk driver to include recreational vehicles, including snowmobiles.

Mayor Iverson asked if the plaque will come out of the PAC or from the Fire Relief Fund.

Assistant City Administrator Dumais stated that she is not sure about the funding, but noted that beyond funding, staff wanted to get feedback from the PAC on the language included on the plaque.

Commissioner Buccanero asked if there was a way to get input from the family to see if there is anything specific about Alan that they would like to see included on the plaque.

Commissioner Ohnstad stated that he lives near the father of Alan Geisenkotter and volunteered to reach out to him and find out if there is anything special that they would like to see included on the plaque.

Mayor Iverson offered to work with Commissioner Ohnstad and find a way to personalize the plaque.

Commissioner Ohnstad stated that he will plan to have information by the next meeting for the PAC to discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Member Update – Resignation of Monica Wick from Park Advisory Commission
4. Member Update – Sherry Christiansen applicant for Park Advisory Commission

Assistant City Administrator Dumais explained that Commissioner Monica Wick has submitted a letter of resignation and Sherry Christiansen has submitted a letter expressing her interest in serving on the PAC. She explained that Ms. Christiansen was present on the call if the PAC had any questions for her. She noted that the PAC recommendation will be brought to the City Council at their August 4, 2020 meeting.

Ms. Christiansen stated that one thing she is unsure about is that they are planning to put their home on the market soon and she is not sure where they are going to land after it sells.

Assistant City Administrator Dumais stated that this position is a 2-year term, so that would be what Ms. Christiansen would be signing up for. She stated that if she moves out of the City, she would have to submit a letter of resignation and the City would look for an alternative member, similar to what is happening right now with the vacancy left by Monica Wick.

Ms. Christiansen stated that they are hoping to stay in the area, but she cannot say for sure that they will.

Chair Spangler stated that from his perspective he would like to have Ms. Christiansen on the PAC as long as she is able.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER SPANGLER, SECONDED BY MEMBER BUCCANERO, TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONER MONICA WICK.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Aye: Ohnstad, Spangler, Williams, and Buccanero

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS, TO RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL APPOINT SHERRY CHRISTIANSEN TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Aye: Ohnstad, Spangler, Williams, and Buccanero

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

5. City of Wyoming Parcel 21.00012.30 and its Potential Future Uses

Assistant City Administrator Dumais explained that the City Council will be discussing this item at their meeting on August 4, 2020. She asked if the PAC had any comments or feedback that they would like shared as part of the larger discussion by the Council. She gave a brief overview of the parcel and its location in the City and the interest from a developer that would like to maintain it as a wetland. She stated that staff has noticed that this parcel may have some characteristics that would make it amenable to becoming a dog park.

Commissioner Ohnstad stated that he has been advocating for the City to have a dog park for about 1.5 years. He stated that he believes the nearest dog park is in Lindstrom and it is very small. He stated that he thinks this parcel would be a fantastic spot for a dog park because it is not near any neighborhoods and feels this will give people a reason to come to Wyoming from the surrounding communities.

Chair Spangler asked if the land would be accessible for a dog park because it is wetland.

Assistant City Administrator Dumais stated that there is a trench going through the middle of the property and the preliminary idea would be to split the acre parcel in half with one half for parking and then a bridge to the other half which would be the park location. She stated that the soils would support a dog park in the area.

Chair Spangler stated that he thinks this idea sounds great and he supports this location over others that have been considered in the past.

Commissioner Buccanero confirmed the location of the parcel and stated that she also feels that it may be an attraction for people on road trips that may be driving through and can stop and let their dog run for a bit since it is near the highway. She stated that would hope that the travelers would also spend money locally at a restaurant or store. She noted that she is on Next Door and has heard a lot of conversation from people wishing the City had a dog park.

Ms. Christiansen stated that according to Google Maps the closest dog parks to the City are located in Chisago/Lindstrom, Hugo and Stillwater.

Commissioner Williams stated that she has been on the PAC for about 2.5 years and she thinks that the desire for a dog park has been one of the biggest issues that has been raised by the residents. She stated that the only issue that has come up in the past was that people wanted a dog park, but nobody wanted it in their neighborhood. She stated that problem would be taken care of with this location and noted that she believes it is a great idea.

Council Liaison Luger stated that she does have a concern about traffic and how dusty the road may get in the area. She stated that she would be in favor of this if it is really what the community wants. She stated that she would like to make sure that the City has looked into these issues and can reassure residents that the road will not deteriorate or be overwhelmingly dusty as a result of traffic to the dog park. She noted that the dog park in Chisago/Lindstrom has baggies available so people can clean up after their dogs and asked if that is something that the City would be providing. She stated that if the City will be providing those baggies, she would like to know whose budget it will come out of.

Assistant City Administrator Dumais stated that those are good questions and noted that there may be grant monies available to help with some of these costs. She stated that if the PAC and Council supports this use for the parcel, staff can start looking into some of those details.

Mayor Iverson stated that there is a large developer looking at that parcel of land and asked if the deal

is contingent on them getting this piece of property or not.

Assistant City Administrator Dumais stated that her understanding is that it is not contingent upon this piece of property, but noted that they are highly interested in this specific parcel. She stated that there will be more details covered at the City Council meeting on August 4, 2020.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY MEMBER SPANGLER, TO RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL PURSUE A DOG PARK TO BE LOCATED ON PARCEL 21.00012.30.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Aye: Ohnstad, Spangler, Williams, and Buccanero

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

6. Tree Update

Public Works Superintendent Almhjeld stated that Public Works has been working to remove dead and problem trees out of the right-of-way and will use a contractor, Rich Tree Service, to take down the trees because they have liability insurance. He stated that then Public Works will follow up and pick up and ship the trees, as necessary. He stated that there has been a resident on Comfort Lake that has requested that the City build a fence to keep frisbees out of his yard. He stated that rather than a fence, he plans to plant a row of trees in this area to provide this protection. He stated that this would be part of the 2020 tree program and noted that the resident has volunteered to keep the new trees watered.

Assistant City Administrator Dumais noted that this is just an update and does not need action by the PAC/Tree Advisory Board.

There was consensus of the Board to support both of these tree projects as presented.

7. Swenson Park WSB Proposal

Assistant City Administrator Dumais gave a brief update on the Swenson Park proposal from WSB. She stated that this contract for the design and bidding will be presented to the Council at the August 4, 2020 meeting. She asked for comments and feedback from the PAC.

There were no comments from the PAC.

8. Railroad Park Community Engagement Planning

Assistant City Administrator Dumais asked if the PAC had any input on the best ways to engage the public in the Railroad Park plans, especially considering the constraints of COVID-19. She reviewed the ideas that were included in the packet on ways to engage the community.

Commissioner Ohnstad cautioned that the information shared is just an idea of how the park will look and not “this is how it will look”. He noted that if people think the decisions have already been made, it will not elicit feedback. He stated that he thinks a video is a good idea if it can be tied in to the bulletin board in order to get people involved. He stated that he believes people will get involved in whatever way will involve the least amount of effort.

Chair Spangler stated that he agrees and would like to see the City do a combination of options A and B. He stated that he thinks it could be made clear on the signs that it is a proposal and people can

have input in the final design. He stated that he is not sure how well a Zoom open house meeting would work and would prefer the other options.

Ms. Christiansen stated that the City could also try a Facebook Live video on the City's page which may bring some involvement by different people. She suggested that the City could do a survey or use some component of the Next Door app.

Council Liaison Luger suggested that the City could use the **Flickered** platform and explained that the school system uses it pretty regularly.

Commissioner Buccanero stated that she likes the idea of having an on-site project proposal sign for people to look at as long as it is clear that is a proposal and not a final design. She asked if there is a way to use a QR code that will link to a survey. She stated that if it was linked to the sign, people could give feedback in real time while they are seeing the proposed layout and design. She stated that she also loved the idea of doing some sort of social media video and even having the police department page share it because they have a large audience.

Chair Spangler stated that, because of the centralized location of this park, he wants to make sure the survey or communication gets out to the entire City.

Assistant City Administrator Dumais thanked the PAC for their feedback and reviewed the ideas that had been shared.

COMMUNICATIONS:

9. HK Grange Introduction

Council Liaison Luger explained that this is an organization that has taken root in the City and for several weeks now has hosted a Farmer's Market. He introduced T.J. Molasky and asked him to provide an overview of what this organization does. She stated that she is hopeful that there may be a way to develop a partnership between this organization and the City.

T.J. Molasky, gave an overview of the The Grange and noted that he is the head of the local chapter called, OHK Grange. He gave some background information regarding their recent move from Edina to Wyoming. He explained that the group has its roots in agriculture and community building and feels it can contribute to a better world and community. He noted that the local chapter currently has about 50 adult members and most of them reside in Chisago County, western Anoka County, or northern Washington County. He stated that they also have 12 Junior Grangers and gave an overview of some of the projects and things they have taken on around town, such as the Green Lot Heritage and Experimental Gardens.

Commissioner Ohnstad stated that he has been out to their gardens a few times and believes it is a very neat program.

Chair Spangler asked about potential ideas The Grange has for a partnership with the PAC.

Mr. Molasky stated that many of the people in leadership at The Grange come out of museums or other educational backgrounds. He stated that they would like to see signage that can educate in the parks whether it be natural, historical, or agricultural education. He stated that he thinks this could be a unique highlight to the City.

Commissioner Buccanero supports a partnership because of the long agricultural history in the City.

Mayor Iverson stated she agrees that this is something very exciting to have in the City.

Commissioner Williams stated that she has always supported the City parks having a different feel to them and not just being the traditional swings and slides. She stated that she feels that this could be a good opportunity for the City to learn about some different opportunities available for the land that is not so traditional.

10. Railroad Park Bike Spur Update

Assistant City Administrator Dumais shared pictures of the recent work that has been completed on the Railroad Park Bike Spur.

Member Reports:

Member Williams – Noted that at the last meeting the PAC had talked about the signs at Fireside Park from the Scout troop. She stated that she received an e-mail from Monica Wick that stated she was sure the signs were already in place.

Public Works Superintendent Almhjeld confirmed that the signs are in place.

ADJOURN:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER OHNSTAD, SECONDED BY MEMBER WILLIAMS TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 3, 2020 MEETING OF THE WYOMING, PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION AT 7:45 PM

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Aye: Ohnstad, Spangler, Williams, and Buccanero

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

NEXT MEETING:
SEPTEMBER 7, 2020
7:00PM