

CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA

MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, May 16, 2022

7:00 PM

Prairie Ridge Park, 2023 Essler Drive

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City of Saint Peter Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was conducted at the Prairie Ride Park, 2023 Essler Drive.

A quorum present, Barb Regner, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The following Board Members were present: Trish Hiscock-Austin, Al Christensen, K. Angelique Dwyer, Rachelle Fuller, Samuel Mendoza, Darrell Pettis, Barb Regner, Hayley Russell, and Dustin Sharstrom. The following Board Members were absent Brian Fremo and Ceceli Polzin. The following ex-officios were present: Pete Moulton, Director of Public Works and Joey Schugel, Director of Recreation and Leisure.

Visitors – Joel Schmidt, Maintenance Superintendent and Angie Glassel, Administrative Secretary.

Approval of Agenda – Christensen made a motion, seconded by Fuller, to approve the agenda as submitted. With all in favor, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes – Christensen made a motion, seconded by Russell, to approve the April 18, 2022, minutes. With all in favor, the minutes were approved.

Unfinished Business

- A. Traverse des Sioux – Bike Trails – Schmidt discussed the attached draft trailhead signage that would be posted at the entrances of the trail. The Advisory Board agreed this should move forward before the bicycle season kicks off. Schmidt will begin sign preparation.
- B. Warren Park – The Advisory Board visited Warren Park. Moulton shared that there is a growing number of dead trees and branches that need to be cleaned up or removed from the tree line on the west side of Warren Park. There are safety concerns for children and occupants of the park if the trees are not addressed. Notification has been mailed to all residents in the subdivision that maintenance activities will begin soon.
- C. McGill Natural Resource Area and McGill Park – Schmidt shared with the Advisory Board the existing McGill Park has neighborhood playgrounds on the north and south ends with an urban forest in-between. The City is preparing to install sidewalk on the east side of Church Street funded by a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant in 2023. Clearing deadfall trees on the internal walking path is needed and future maintenance will help connect children walking to and from North Elementary. Planning to improve safety and provide a more visible route to school. The Board recommended that City staff survey the neighborhood to identify ways to upgrade this native Natural Resource Area of the park. A suggestion was made to increase the survey area to include residential areas up to 1,000 feet from the park. The Advisory Board reviewed the survey and made suggestions, staff will update and move forward with the survey.

New Business

- A. Donation – Traverse des Sioux Nature Area – Nicollet County Trail Association proposes to complete \$15,000 worth of improvements to the bridge and drainageways of the Traverse des Sioux Nature Area. The Advisory Board accepted this donation and will be recommending acceptance of this donation to the City Council on May 23rd.
- B. Donation – Jefferson Park – Adult Softball Association and Saint Peter Girls Fastpitch Softball are both donating \$10,000 each toward the materials for dugout roofs at Jefferson Park, currently there are just sunshades on the dugouts. City staff will install the donate materials. The Advisory Board accepted this donation and will be recommending acceptance of this donation to the City Council on May 23rd.


- C. Prairie Ridge Park – Advisory Board met at the park and was impressed with the newer playground equipment, the recently installed mulch base for safety and where the shelter will be built.
- D. Warren Park – The Advisory Board traveled to Warren Park and viewed the deadfall trees that city crews will be removing. The plan would be to drop the wood within the park and not to immediately remove. The Advisory Board also walked through the park and saw the playground equipment and where the shelter will be built.

Reports

- A. Chairs Report (Barb)
 - 1. No report for this month.
- B. Department of Recreation and Leisure Services Updates (Joey)
 - 1. April Activity Report (attached) – Schugel shared with the Advisory Board that all leagues have started their season.
 - 2. Pool Report – Schugel shared crews are working, and the Pool Open date is set for Saturday, May 28. The schedule has changed to accommodate working families and swim lessons.
 - 3. Special Events – Schugel shared that the Summer Kickoff will be on Monday, June 6 at Gorman Park. This will coincide with the Summer Reading Program
 - 4. Scholarship Process – Schugel shared with the Advisory Board the process of applying for a scholarship and what the amounts would be if awarded.
 - 5. Youth Voice – Advisory Board members shared their thoughts of having a “Youth Perspective” and how the Advisory Board could work with our younger park users to be more inclusive and to receive feedback on park improvements.
- C. Department of Public Works (Pete/Joel)
 - 1. Minnesota Square Park Construction (verbal)
 - Mason’s Picnic Shelter – the framework is installed, and concrete has been poured. Roof to be installed in the upcoming weeks.
 - DNR Outdoor Recreational Grant – Contractors have been selected with a completion date of July 1. Installation of sidewalk from Hwy 169 to the Pavilion, circular walk-in front of Pavilion and Saint Peter Area Veterans Memorial to the existing circular sidewalk have been completed. City crews are working on backfill, grass seed and plantings.
 - North Plaza Phase 2 – A contractor has been selected and will begin after July 4 and be completed before the first of September.
 - 2. Thompson Dog Park Shelter Timeline – construction will begin the week of May 16 and the small dog area will be closed for construction.
 - 3. Gorman Park Improvements – Damon Farber has supplied a quote to design improvements at Gorman Park. Parks advisory Board agrees with the proposal, and it is planned to bring this issue to the City Council on May 23.
 - 4. A donation of a tree and plaque for Richard Gardner will be placed at Minnesota Square Park near the Elm Street parking lot.

Adjournment- Christensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM, seconded by Mendoza. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Next scheduled meeting **Monday, June 20 at 7:00 PM.**



Brian Fremo, Secretary



Barb Regner, Chair