Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 19, 2023
Wayzata City Hall Community Room

Attendees: Chair Tory Schalkle, Sarah Randolph, Sarah Showalter, Bianca Jensen, Jon Erickson, Merrily Borg Babcock, and Council Member Molly MacDonald

Staff: Aurora Yager, Deputy City Manager and Parks Planner, Nick Kieser

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Chair Schalkle.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was approved with the following additions: Babcock wanted to discuss refreshing the bulbs at the Post Office Park, discuss Bell Courts Cabana improvements, specifically, replanting shrubs in front of building and replacing drinking fountain. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Chair Schalkle, seconded by Showalter. Approved 6-0.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chair Schalkle, seconded by Randolph. Approved 5-0. Babcock abstained.

4. **Public Comments:** No public comments.

5. **Old Business:** No old business to discuss.

6. **New Business**

    a. **Discuss Updates to 2023 – 2032 CIP:** Deputy Manager Yager distributed updated information about the Parks and Trails CIP. It was noted that on Dec. 31 of 2024 the negative fund balance will be ($295,687) and in 2025 ($1,007,423). When asked about the sales (food and drink) tax on restaurants the city had proposed to address the shortfall in the P&T CIP Fund it was stated by Yager that it had not been approved by the State Legislature and this proposal could not be submitted for another 2 years.

    Staff and Board aligned on the following changes to proposed 2024 CIP:

    - Staff would add more revenue from Tree Fee-in-Lieu fund to offset the cost of Emerald Ash Borer management.
    - Staff noted that the Klapprich Park improvements will need to be delayed until 2025. This will also delay the Shaver Park design phase and construction phase to 2026 and 2027 respectively.
    - Staff noted that the best place for the miscellaneous budget item would be in the general budget. Approximately $10,000 will be proposed in this budget.

- Delay the Nature Center feasibility study to a later year, possibly 2027.
- The City Hall gate and sidewalk are important to the Board and should be put back in CIP.
- Staff will also look into possible state bonding funds for Klapprich Park and Shaver Park improvements.

b. Klapprich Park Design Development Discussion and Open House Recap: Approximately 20 people, including staff and consultants, attended the Open House on Tuesday, July 11 at 5:00 pm. After looking over the two concept plans, the Board voted on specific items to be included in an updated final preferred concept plan:

- No gravel trail on the east side of the park (or other surface that would harm root system of mature trees).
- Keep the enclosed dog park in hockey rink space for summer months as is.
- Add a sidewalk on the west side of Minnetonka Avenue.
- Path around park was preferred.
- Keep a back stop on the field but try to get creative with this item. Possibly a movable backstop.
- The playground size can be smaller than proposed. Proposed size could be approximately 4,500 s.f.
- Utilize mulch or rubber surfacing as a playground surface.
- Keep the sidewalk/path higher than the open lawn to help with flooding the ice rink during the winter months.
- Add location of the lockers/cubbies in the warming house to the floor plans.
- Keep the parking configuration with more parking spots.
- Idea: have a slide that utilizes the existing topography near the slide or playground area.
- Put in more picnic tables in the plaza space.
- Idea: create a path going through the wooded area on hill after buckthorn and poison ivy have been removed. Put in plans to clean up the wooded area on the north side of the park.

c. Refreshing Spring Bulbs at the Post Office Park: Babcock handed out a selected group of new bulbs for the park to be approved by the Board. Babcock had a group of citizens (3 not including herself) select their recommendations from the Scheeper's catalogue. The cost would be between approximately $700 - $800. with Babcock noting that new bulbs had not been purchased/planted since 2019. Babcock also stated that many times new volunteers were

solicited at James J. Hill Days, but since the Board chose not to participate in 2023, volunteers would need to be called to come out between mid to late October to help plant. A motion to approve the spring bulb purchase up to $1,000 was made by Randolph, seconded by Jensen. Approved 6-0. Approved with the order form going to Director Kelly for the final approval.

d. **Sunday Music in the Park Series:** A short discussion was held by Babcock about the upcoming concerts and who could help talk to the band members and announce them plus take a count of approximately how many people were in attendance.

- August 6 – Ipso Facto: Babcock
- August 13 – Westwind Swing Band: Showalter
- August 20 – Ditchweed from Power Balladz: Schalkle
- August 27 – Salsa Del Soul: Erickson

7. **Other Business**

a. **Staff update:** Schalkle brought up prior conversation about noise concern for the new proposed pickleball courts at Bell Courts. Staff confirmed that only one neighbor had brought up the concern about noise levels during community outreach phase. Staff confirmed that ideas were already being discussed if the noise levels did become an issue. The Ideas noted were limited play hours, netting/matting around the pickleball fence, and potential for additional landscaping on the west side of the courts. All these items can be done after construction and do not alter the construction plans. Babcock noted that pickleball is already occurring at these courts without complaints or concern.

b. **QR Code Signs:** Babcock suggested these signs be removed as the city was receiving little feedback and they were becoming an eyesore. The P&T Board agreed to remove the signs. Staff will work to remove the signs as soon as they can.

8. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16 at 6:30 pm.