Wayzata Parks & Trails Board
Meeting Minutes
March18, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair, Dan Baasen, at Wayzata City Hall on March 18, 2015.

Present: Dan Baasen as Chair, Merrily Borg Babcock, Sarah Randolph, Jim McWethy, Holly Evans, Sarah Showalter and David Dudinsky (staff).
Absent: Tyler Purdy and Joanie Cunningham.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as amended (page 3 was corrected to indicate "bare root") by motion of Jim McWethy, seconded by Holly Evans and unanimous vote of board.

Old Business:
1. Chair Baasen raised that Joanie Cunningham had talked to City engineer Mike Kelly, and learned there is no bike connector planned at Bushaway/Eastman Lane on the northside. The decision was made apparently because more trees would need to be removed. The Board discussed how a continuous trail was raised and discussed in the earlier phase of the Lake Effect. Members were unanimously in agreement that the trail connection would be highly preferred and it should be addressed while the road work is being completed. Dudinsky questioned whether it could be included now as the heavy equipment was already in place. Borg Babcock, who attended the Bushaway meetings, observed that omission of the trail connection was never included in the plans or discussed at the meetings. Borg Babcock also suggested that an underground passage for bicyclers would be a preferable design to cross the 5 lanes. She will contact Jack Amdahl to discuss when it was decided to eliminate the trail connection. Borg Babcock suggested, and all members agreed, Chair Baasen would draft a letter to the City Council raising the issue prior to the meeting on April 20th.

2. Baasen reported with more information on designing 2 bocceball courts near the library. The ideas to have space for groups of 4-12 to play. 4 sets of balls could be kept at the library. Borg Babcock suggested that the 2 potential courts by the tennis courts could possibly make use of the cabana currently being used for telecom equipment. Members discussed that the court material should include a hard material edge with sand material in the court. Randolph will research local examples of bocce courts to determine what materials should be used. Evans will provide Dudinsky photographs of courts for concept. Bassen shared rules for bocce.

3. Website design changes were reviewed and discussed. Randolph commented it was difficult to navigate. Borg Babcock expressed concern with the appearance, content and navigation. Evans requested someone from communication board be available to meet with Board to discuss concerns. Borg Babcock observed CivicsPlus also did Maplewood's website but felt that site is more pleasing and user friendly. Dudinsky will bring concerns to the City Manager and will invite someone from Communications Board to come to P&T meeting and members will be prepared with comments and suggests to improve navigation.

New Business:

1. 2015 Parks & Trails Board organization. Baasen suggested that a strategic plan be developed with all members contributing and goal being a 5 yr plan that would provide focus and consistency. McWethy shared experiences learned in working through the process with the Chamber and suggested giving sometime during each meeting to develop a strategic plan. Dudinsky commented the City staff & Council work on strategic plan annually. Members agreed exploring integrating into the City's strategic plan.

Baasen suggested and requested commitment from members as to areas and duties within the Board.
Tyler (prior to meeting) suggested to Baasen operations or activities or revenue.
Joanie requested (prior to meeting) website and trails.
Jim - strategic plan.
Merrily - natural sustainability.
Holly - brochure coordinator along with Merrily.
Sarah R. and Sarah S. - Activities. Baasen suggested pickleball, storytime.... and suggested just picking a few to focus on initially.
Holly - James J. Hill.
Dan - will coordinate with all and strategic plan and continue with James J. Hill.
Secretary roll could be shared until someone is identified to take it on.

2. Tree Planting. Borg Babcock has talked to Kurt Klapprich about trees for Shaver Park and ideas for trees that would do well in shade and wet areas. There is $4200 budgeted for trees. She reported there have been many trees lost in the Post Office Pocket Park. Borg Babcock suggested two pear and one plum tree be planted in the POPP and cherry trees at Klapprich Park (eastside). There is a general need for tree replacement (approx. 100). Evans questioned whether we could use trees from the Plymouth bareroot program. Dudinsky recommended if we use more substantial trees and the City could coordinate locating service and use the auger to pre-dig holes for volunteers to plant into. Dudinsky indicated that the budget allowed for a continued planting and removal. Board supported fruits trees suggested.
Borg Babcock wanted to plan on April 24 but didn't feel it would likely happen then. Borg Babcock commented that Shaver Park and Klapprich Park need a better mix of trees in case disease were to threaten one the existing sugar maples. Baasen suggested we be sensitive to the demands already on the public works and assured that we could help provide volunteers. Shaver, POPP and the beach were agreed to be the areas of focus for tree planting for this year.
Baasen questioned whether there was milkweed for the monarch butterflies. Babcock suggested that Great River Greenway could help with broadcasting milkweed seed and noted that there is marsh milkweed by the rain garden at the Dakota Trail head.

3. Borg Babcock reported on the first maple tree tapping in the Big Woods. Members Baasen, Randolph, and Showalter were present for the event. 25 people participated and there was good media coverage and positive comments from those participating. Jack Amdahl and his wife were of great assistance to Borg Babcock.

4. Dudinsky reported the City Council is asking for mid-year and end of year reports from the Board and mid-year would be a good time to announce new projects. Goal is to report prior to

Council starts discussing Capital Improvement Plans. Baasen plans to communicate to Council sooner rather than later. $10,000-11,000 was provided first year. Last year $90,000 projects were approved. This year it is expected that the parking ramp will be a funding priority for the Council. Borg Babcock asked if park dedication fees could be used for other projects such as the parking ramp and Dudinsky confirmed they would not. Baasen raised that there is an unresolved issue on the Westwwod projects will result in park dedication fees.

Evans indicated as a Board we should continue to watch closely the Lake Effect work going forward.

Randolph brought up that she has shared the name of an artist for the artwork for the roundabout. She works with bronze. Baasen suggested we may want to suggest to City Council that the entrances to the city are poorly marked.

Baasen reported that Heidi Nelson said that the recommendation to the LMCD will be to put temporary docks to the west of Broadway docks. He will also suggest a "pick-up" spot for delivery and drop off at the dock.

Dudinsky will send out examples of the Australian shades for the dog park for members to vote on.

Dudinsky reported Tim McCormick was encouraged to get material over to inspection for review. Beach chairs have arrived and beach should be open the first week in June. Due to an insurance claim for sewer pipes the broke, there will be some funds available to improve the beach bathroom. The LCMD transit dock application will seek approval for H dock but it will initially be a U dock. Both are out for bid. He is also looking into improving the public bathroom at the Depot.

McWethy suggested to 2 processes for strategic plan. 1) brain storm a list of projects, prioritize and budget out over 5 yrs. or 2) start with vision and mission statement and establish some goals and fill in projects that achieve goal. Dudinsky will give McWethy a copy of the strategic plan. Board agreed 5 yr plan makes better sense than 3 yr. and would start with mission, goals, projects and budget. Board reviewed mission statement and agreed it captured mission. McWethy requested members think about what they would like parks and trails to look like in 5 yrs. Baasen suggested we need a vision statement.

Evan raised that the communities like Mound are considering bringing interesting new musical instruments in their park. Baasen recounted that there was some discussion about putting in exercise equipment at each park through City and Council seemed to like the idea.

Borg Babcock read a letter that came from Council member McCarthy with an idea of people donating old skates to be used at Klapprich Park and that there could be better access from the east neighborhood. Borg Babcock also suggested approaching the Middle School to see if land could be used as gardens for community members to use, or use the area where victory gardens use to be on Pigtail Alley.

Borg Babcock moved to adjourn. McWethy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.