



Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 29, 2024
Wayzata City Hall Community Room

Attendees: Chair Tory Schalkle, Vice Chair Merrily Borg Babcock, Sarah Randolph, Sarah Showalter, Bianca Jensen, Blake Cameron, and JP Yorro.

City Council: Councilmember Molly MacDonald.

Staff: Parks and Environment Planner, Nick Kieser.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chair Schalkle.
 - a. **Introduction of New Parks and Trails Board Members.** Blake Cameron and JP Yorro were introduced to the Parks and Trails Board as new members.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda with an addition for a discussion on the farmers market in Panoway. Unanimously approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the November 15, 2023 Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes. Unanimously approved.
4. **Public Comment:** No public comments provided.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Klapprich Park Design Development Update.** Staff provided an update on the Klapprich Park design process. Staff reviewed the specific proposed site improvements on the proposed design plans, the Bell Courts reconstruction process, and the overall timeline. The Board provided additional context on the background of Klapprich Park and the Parks and Trails Master Plan which led to the reasoning of the current design plans.

The Board discussed the two design options that were created by WSB and provided the following comments to pass along to WSB:

- Add a landing pad and a bench on the bottom of the east stairway to allow the option for people to stay on this side of the park instead of walking to the warming house. Especially, for users that are just utilizing the ice rink during the winter, so they have a place to put on/off skates.

- Explore options to have the slides longer with possibly curved slides.
 - The stairways could potentially be straighter to allow for longer slides.
- The Board would like to keep a slide on the west side of the park, but do not want stairs up to Park Street at this end. The eastern stairs should stay to connect Bell Courts to Klapprich Park.
 - An idea was noted that a hillside slide near the playground could stay, but without the stairs if possible. For example, the 42' slide near the playground could stay, but remove the stairway at the top of the slide.
- The Board noted that it would be beneficial to have a better turnaround in the parking lot along with a loading/unloading zone for parents dropping off their children. This comment should be sent to WSB for them to explore potential options.
 - Are there options to put in a loading/unloading zone on Wayzata Blvd?
- The Board also noted the importance of receiving cost estimates in the next phase of plans. The costs could potentially influence the type of materials, equipment, etc.

b. Maple Tree Tapping Discussion. Board Member Babcock noted that trees are running with sap right now with the recent warm weather. Anytime the weather goes above 40-45 degrees then the sap starts running on the trees. The Board discussed the best option for this year is to implement a DIY tree tapping program. Babcock can send out an email with the information on the DIY version to all the past participants. For the DIY version, the deposit should be increased to \$60 plus a \$10 participation fee. Staff can start working to setup this program to allow residents to start picking up equipment soon.

The Board decided that this year a DIY version can start right away, equipment to be picked up at Public Works with instructions, with a deposit of \$60 with a \$10 participation fee. Unanimously approved.

c. Family Skate Day. Motion to cancel Family Skate Day this year due to weather restrictions. Unanimously approved.

d. Big Woods. Staff and Board Member Babcock provided an update on the Big Woods concerns. The next step is to conduct a survey of the property to determine the property line between The Retreat and the City's property. Lot line markers would be placed on the property to ensure that the maintenance of the Big Woods is conducted correctly on each parcel. Staff will work with The Retreat and the MN Land Trust to determine how the survey would be paid.

6. New Business:

a. Sunday Music in the Park Discussion. Staff noted that for the 2024 Sunday Music in the Park concerts, a list of all the artists that have reached out to staff was compiled and attached for the Board to review. The Board could review the

potential artists so staff can invite them to the concert series. The Board noted that Salsa Del Soul, Ipso Facto, and Ditchweed were all great concerts in years prior that could be worth inviting back. Staff will send an email to the Board with the list of potential artists so the Board can send a priority list of artists that staff can review to determine which artists to contact.

The Board noted that a food truck might not be the best idea since people can go to Red Cow, The Landing, and other restaurants after the concerts. The restaurants could be contacted before the concerts to notify them of the program and possibly allow them to have specials during the concerts.

- b. Rental Revenue.** Both agreements with Wai Nani and McCormick's are valid for multiple years so there is not any reason to review the agreement terms at this point. Future review and comment would be beneficial when the agreement periods expire.
- c. Arbor Month Event.** Staff provided an update that Forester Myhran is creating an Arbor Day/Arbor Month event in May which will include a tree giveaway. The Board noted that they would like to focus on an Arbor Day event and potentially partner with the Energy and Environment Committee on an Earth Day event. Staff will check with the E&E Committee to determine their interest in holding an Earth Day event. Board Member Babcock expressed interest in helping staff with an Arbor Day event.
- d. Farmers Market.** Randolph brought up the idea of having an event that is held in Panoway every Sunday so the users can get a coffee and relax in Panoway. A coffee cart could work well as a temporary station in the space. New options to close down the street with more aesthetically pleasing barriers is desirable. Staff noted that to close the street every Sunday would require a significant amount of organization, time, and money to implement. A grant with Hennepin County was secured to help determine possibilities to close Lake Street for various types of activities that will be worked on with the Panoway District Committee.

7. Other Business

- a. Election of Officers.** Motion to elect Chair Schalkle as Chair and Vice-Chair Babcock as Vice-Chair. Approved Unanimously.
- b. Communications Recap:** The items that will need future communications sent out are Maple Tree Tapping, Klapprich Park engagement, and Sunday Music in the Park.
- c. Staff Updates.** Staff asked for any interest in serving on the Panoway District Committee. There was no interest at this time, but if any of the Board Members are interested, they will contact staff.
- d. Future Agenda Items:**
 - Klapprich Park Designs, Cost Estimates, Building Plans
 - Maple Tree Tapping Update
 - SMIP Update

- Arbor Day/Earth Day
- Duffy Boat Discussion Update
- Community Ed Update

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:00 pm.