



Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Wayzata City Hall Community Room

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

Staff: Parks and Environment Planner, Nick Kieser.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by Chair Schalkle.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion on a Bell Courts opening day event. Unanimously approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the January 29, 2024 Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes with the following changes:
 - The stairs and slide located by the playground were both requested to be shortened (so they did not go up the full hill, but the stairs and slide would be same length).
 - Correct spelling of “Babcock”.
 - Clarify that we wanted the eastern stairs to be created with more natural stairs and with potentially curved or multiple slides. Whereas the western slide would be one straight slide.

Amended minutes were unanimously approved.

4. **Public Comment:** No public comments provided.

5. Old Business

- a. **Klapprich Park Design Development Update.** Staff provided a summary of the updated building design plans for the Bell Courts cabana and the Klapprich Park warming house. The Board discussed the updates and provided the following comments:

- Bell Courts Cabana
 - Comments were made that there could be the potential pickleball equipment rental space. This space could be locked and unlocked via a code, similar to the curling station in Panoway. This space could be in the existing room or have some type of storage box.

- The Board agreed that the relocation of the western wall was not necessary due to the significant cost.
- The Board also discussed the potential for a kitchenette at the Cabana that could be used for rental purposes.
- Warming House
 - Board agreed that the bathrooms should be accessible from the outside during times that the rest of the warming house is not open. For example, summer users of the playground could utilize the bathrooms without having to open the rest of the warming house space.
 - Umbrellas should be added to picnic tables.
 - The outside plaza area should have *portable* fireplaces and Adirondack chairs.
 - In the covered seating area, it was agreed that the hard surface benches should be turned to face the rink.
 - The warming house benches should all have cubbies along the bottom, with all benches facing north-south (so they are parallel to rink) and a bench (with cubbies) along the eastern and western walls.
 - It was discussed that there could be a seated ledge along the exterior eastern wall for people to sit on, and/or do more full-length windows.

b. Maple Tree Tapping Discussion. The Board discussed how maple tree tapping can continue as a community event that can promote tree tapping/syrup, create a communal experience, and promote our wooded spaces. The Board aligned that compensating Merrily as organizer at or below market rate, as proposed and approved by City Staff, was more sensible than cancelling or continuing as DIY in the future. The Board agreed 6-0 to approve \$3,000 for ~30 resident families to get:

- An introductory tree tapping tutorial in Big Woods.
- Use of tree tapping equipment.
- Boiling the sap on the outdoor stove.

City staff will work to incorporate this additional cost into the 2025 budget process.

c. Sunday Music in the Park Discussion. Staff noted that the Great Lawn has been reserved, Twin Cities Sounds have been reserved to operate the sound system, and bands have been contacted. Buffalo Galaxy, Salsa Del Soul, and Wailing Loons have all noted they are interested in playing. Staff will reach out to Ipso Facto to fill the last opening. Staff will work with the artists to keep the costs within the budget.

d. Arbor Month Event. Staff noted that Forester Myrhan was planning the Arbor Month Event on Saturday, May 18 following Dig it Day. Any Board Members interested in helping plan the event can contact staff.

The Board also brought up the idea of a Memorial Tree Grove to the south of the Nature Center. Staff noted that a request from the Board to the Council would be the best way to bring this forward for discussion.

6. New Business

- a. **Bell Courts Opening Day Event.** The Board agreed to do an Opening Day/“Intro to Pickleball” event to commemorate opening of Bell Courts with snacks/refreshments, lessons on pickleball and etiquette, etc.
- b. **Community Education.** Summer classes for Wayzata are being offered by Wayzata Community Ed which are listed online and will be sent out in the catalog in March. The Board noted that there needs to be better coordination and communication regarding the classes they propose to offer before they are sent out. Staff will continue to promote the summer classes in City media outlets.

7. Other business

- a. **Communications Recap.** Staff will continue to communicate Maple Tree Tapping and the start of the Community Ed summer classes.
- b. **Staff Update.** Staff noted that the Council discussed the potential to have a boat rental options on the new dock system. Council agreed that there should not be a boat rental company on the new docks for at least the first year the docks are open. This will allow the city to understand use and operations of the new dock system before adding any additional amenities.
- c. **Future Agenda Items.**
 - Maple Tree Tapping
 - Klapprich Park Design
 - Sunday Music in the Park
 - Bell Courts
 - Klapprich Park/Bell Courts Site Visit

The Board noted that additional site visits to the parks can be held before each Board meeting this spring/summer.

- 8. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20 starting at 5:30 pm.