



Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 20, 2024
Wayzata City Hall - Community Room

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

Staff: Parks and Environment Planner, Nick Kieser.

Additional Attendees: Leif Kjorness and James Ganimo from Excelsior Sauna. Robert Slipka, Senior Professional Landscape Architect II from WSB.

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM by Chair Schalke.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda by Chair Schalke, seconded by Babcock. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** Showalter made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Cameron. Approved unanimously.
- 4. Public Comments:**
 - a. Excelsior Sauna Proposal:** Representatives from Excelsior Sauna, Leif Kjorness and James Ganimo, presented a proposal for a sauna and cold plunge experience proposed at the Wayzata Beach. Sauna sessions would be available for purchase. The proposed dates would be from January to May for a pilot season then reevaluate the project at the end of the season. A profit share is proposed that would go into the Parks and Trails Fund.

The Board discussed the proposal and noted the following benefits for allowing Excelsior Sauna to be located at the Beach:

- This would provide a unique activity during the winter season in Wayzata parks.
- Allows for an evaluation of the activity after one season to determine if this should continue for additional seasons.
- Overall, the sauna is a low impact use.

- Additional revenue could be gained for the Parks and Trails Fund.

Babcock motioned to recommend piloting a season with Excelsior Sauna at the Wayzata Beach, seconded by Cameron. Approved unanimously.

5. Old Business:

a. Klapprich Park Review:

- i. Playground Design:** Robert Slipka from WSB and staff provided a summary of the playground RFP that was sent out to various playground vendors. Seven vendors responded to the RFP with design options for the Klapprich Park playground that were attached to the packet for review. The goal for the Board is to recommend a playground vendor that they would like to move forward with in the design process.

Motion by Schalkle to recommend Midwest Playscapes to advance the design plans for the Klapprich Park playground, seconded by Randolph. Approved unanimously.

- ii. Warming House Plaza:** Architect Slipka summarized the proposed plans for the plaza area outside of the warming house. The area is proposed as a gathering space with seating, landscaping, and firepit. The Board discussed some potential changes to the layout of the seating area to be more directed towards the open space. The landscaped container could also be moved to accommodate the new seating arrangement. Movable firepits or heating sources could be placed around the patio in the colder months and the goal is to also provide shading in the space during the warmer months. Slipka will work on updated plans that will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.
- iii. Bell Courts Cabana ADA Walkway:** Staff noted that there are several options for an ADA walkway to the Bell Courts Cabana. Overall, the Board noted that an ADA walkway is not needed or practical for this Cabana since it will be lengthy and unlikely to be used significantly.

Chair Schalkle made a motion to recommend not putting in an ADA walkway, seconded by Randolph. Motion approved unanimously with Babcock abstaining.

The Board then discussed if staff and the City Council would like to put in an ADA walkway, then option 1 in the attached options was the

preferred route. This is the route that would be on the north side of the Cabana and connect to the Cabana on the western wall.

Babcock made a motion to recommend approval of Option 1 for the ADA walkway if a sidewalk is required or desired, seconded by Cameron. Approved unanimously.

- iv. **Bell Courts Cabana Drinking Fountain:** Staff outlined options to provide a drinking fountain and water bottle filler at the Bell Courts Cabana. First option is to add a drinking fountain near the restroom entrance, but this would be the most costly and impactful to the Cabana. The second option is to replace the existing drinking fountain on the south side of the Cabana, but this would not allow for ADA access unless a new ADA walkway was added to the project to the south side of the Cabana. The third option would be to add a drinking fountain near the start of the stairs going up to the Cabana. This option would reduce costs and still allow ADA access.

Cameron made a motion to recommend the third option for the drinking fountain/water bottle filler, Jensen seconded. Approved unanimously.

6. New Business:

- a. **Wayzata Community Ed Summer Review and Winter Programming:** Staff noted that Wayzata Community Ed created a summary of the summer classes that was attached for review along with a list of proposed winter classes. Staff will forward any comments or feedback from the Board to Wayzata Community Ed regarding the classes. Staff will determine if Wayzata Community Ed can attend a future meeting to present their data and prepare for the winter season.

7. Other Business:

a. Communications Recap

b. Staff Updates:

- i. Two Parks and Trails Board Members spots will be open for applications in 2025. Applications are now available on the City's website and are due on November 22.
- ii. City Council approved the Great River Greening Grant on October 8 which will allow for restoration work of the Nature Center to start in the winter.
- iii. Staff has met with several companies that could provide reservation systems. A summary of these options will be added to a future Board meeting for review.

c. Future Agenda Items:

- i. Klapprich Park/Playground Workshop
- ii. Reservation System
- iii. Wayzata Community Ed
- iv. Rental Boat Discussion
- v. Family Skate Day
- vi. Sunday Music in the Park

8. Adjourn

- a. Motion made by Schalkle to adjourn; seconded by Babcock. Approved unanimously.