



Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 15
Wayzata City Hall - Community Room

Attendees: Chair Tory Schalke, Bianca Jensen, Christian Erard, Sarah Showalter, and Blake Cameron.

Staff: Nick Kieser, Parks and Environment Planner.

Additional Attendees: Jenni Ebert, Director of Community Ed, Katie Lee, Youth Engagement Specialist, and Owen Showalter, Boy Scout.

- 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 with addition by Chair Schalke, seconded by Yorro. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes by Chair Schalke, seconded by Cameron. Approved unanimously.
- 4. Public Comments**
 - a. Presentation by Boy Scout:** Owen Showalter presented that he is looking to complete a Boy Scout project. Owen Showalter asked the Board if there are any projects within the parks system that they could help with. There would be a team of 10-20 people that could help with this project. The Board brought up possible options of helping with buckthorn removal at Klapprich Park or help with various projects at Little Woods. Staff will get in contact with Mr. Showalter to discuss these possible options in more detail.
 - b. Presentation by Wayzata Community Ed:** Jenni Ebert and Katie Lee provided an update on the winter classes and proposed summer classes. Ice fishing, hike with a naturalist, barrel sauna, snowgga, etc. Dogsledding is most likely going to get canceled because of the lack of snow. Community Ed does a significant amount of marketing with the catalog, emails, flyers, and social media.

In 2024, the summer class registration went up significantly. The construction of Klapprich Park will impact the location of the classes and possibly the number of registrations. Shaver Park will be utilized for the smaller class offerings.

5. Old Business

- a. **Klapprich Park Update and Playground Design Review:** The Board discussed the updated construction documents for the Klapprich Park project. For the playground, the songbird could be painted the same color as the rest of the playground for \$4,000 more.

Motion made by Schackle to paint the songbird a similar color as the rest of the playground equipment, seconded by Erard. Approved unanimously.

The Board then discussed the option for adding a zipline in between the playground area and the eastern stairway. Board noted that they would like to add a placeholder for a zipline in this location for a future phase of work. Staff will work with Midwest Playscapes and WSB to show a concept for this zipline area for the next meeting.

These plans will be presented to the City Council at their workshop on January 28. All Board Members are encouraged to attend the workshop.

6. New Business

- a. **Sunday Music in the Park:** Board discussed possible options for Sunday Music in the Park artists. Since there are five Sundays in August, the Board recommended only holding four concerts instead of five. Staff noted that Salsa Del Soul is interested in participating again. Board Members will send any other artists that could play at the concert series to staff.

- b. **Discuss Reservation Systems:** The Board discussed the four options for reservation systems for the parks system. From the Board's review and discussion, SportsPlus would work best.

Shackle made a motion to recommend approval of SportsPlus, seconded by Showalter. Approved unanimously.

- c. **Family Skate Day:** The Board discussed the option to reschedule Family Skate Day to Sunday, January 26 due to weather conditions forecasted for Sunday, January 19.

Schackle made a motion to reschedule Family Skate Day to Sunday, January 26 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Approved unanimously.

Thirsty Whale was not able to help with refreshments and snacks. Staff will contact the Muni to determine if they are able to help.

- d. **2025 Workplan:** Staff noted that an example of the 2024 workplan was included in the agenda packet and a 2025 workplan will need to be created for this year. Board

discussed possible projects that could be moved to 2025, but none are high priorities to push for that with Council. Staff will put together a 2025 work plan together for review.

- e. **Merrily Plaque Discussion:** Former Board Member Merrily Borg Babock had a significant impact on the community, so the Board discussed potential options to recognize her for her work. Board discussed a possible option to dedicate a tree planting in one of the parks with a plaque.

Schalkle made a motion to recommend approval of a small plaque at a dedicated tree, seconded by Cameron. Approved unanimously.

7. Other Business

- a. **Communications Recap:** Staff will promote the change in the Family Skate Day date.
- b. **Staff Updates:** Staff provided one update that the grant with Great River Greening for the Nature Center restoration is still underway and the RFP for the work will be sent out shortly to solicit bids from contractors.

- c. **Future Agenda Items:**

- i. Eastern Hillside slides and stairs/Klapprich Update
- ii. Family Skate Day Review
- iii. Sunday Music in the Park
- iv. Updating Master Plan
- v. Boy Scout Update

- d. **Election of Officers:** Chair Schalkle was nominated to be Chair in 2025. Schalkle made a motion to approve Schalkle as Chair, seconded by Cameron. Approved unanimously.

Schalkle made a motion to approve Erard as Vice Chair, seconded by Showalter. Approved unanimously.

8. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn by Schalkle, seconded by Cameron. Adjourned at 7:36 pm.