



Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 19
Wayzata City Hall - Community Room

Attendees: Chair Tory Schalkle, Bianca Jensen, Sarah Showalter, and Blake Cameron

Staff: Nick Kieser, Parks and Environment Planner

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM by Chair Schalkle.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda by Schalkle, seconded by Showalter.
Approved unanimously.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes by Schalkle, seconded by Showalter.
Approved unanimously.
- 4. Public Comments:**

Tom Schwalbe attended the meeting and noted the following two items:

- The staircase by Library/ City Hall is not shoveled in winter, but some residents suggested it should be shoveled regularly so people can use it. In previous years, the staircase was blocked off entirely in the winter.
- Mr. Schwalbe shared that the area between the beach concession and the parking lot is always muddy in summer because grass cannot grow well because it is a high traffic area.

Staff noted that these comments will be passed along for further discussion and review.

- 5. Old Business:**
 - a. Klapprich Park Update and Plan Review:** Board reviewed two concepts for hillside embankment slide/ stairs from WSB. Concept 2 was viewed as not doable because of the number of trees needing to be removed. The board needs to decide if there is still a desire to have the play equipment included near hillside stairs. When adding a slide and play features, there is a requirement to also include similar equipment that is ADA compliant.

Suggestions were made to move the stairs/embankment slide to the west side of the park, above the new playground. Have the stairs going to Park Street. The board noted that they would remove the embankment climbing equipment and just do the slide and stairs. This should save money since we will need significantly less stairs than Concepts 1 & 2.

Staff will send these comments to the consultants to create new plans for the Board to review. Since the construction documents need to be completed by mid-March, staff will schedule a workshop to discuss and finalize this portion of the overall project.

- b. Sunday Music in the Park Artists:** Staff has confirmed three bands for the concert series but still needs to find one more band. The current bands are Jimmi and the Band of Souls, Salsa del Soul, and Potluck String Band

The Board discussed options for the last concert opening and noted that Westwind Swing Band is the first choice. Ditchweed would be the second choice if Westwind is not able to play. Staff will work to schedule the last concert series and get the agreements on a future Council meeting.

- c. Family Skate Day Review:** The Board discussed the success of the Family Skate Day event. The event was well attended. Board noted that the speakers did not amplify the music well, so in the future, the Board can bring their own speakers. A positive addition this year was having hot chocolate available. A Board Member could work inside the warming house to help with hot chocolate, skate rental, etc. Adding a hockey stick holder outside the warming house and possibly adding a vending machine inside the warming house could both be beneficial items to consider for future events.

6. New Business:

- a. Maple Tree Tapping:** Board discussed ideas for the tree tapping program 2025 and future years. Ideas for this year are to partner with Three Rivers, have former Board Member Babcock run the program, or make it a DIY experience with a rental option for equipment. Babcock has agreed to lead the program again for 2025 if she is compensated for her time. Board noted that they should try to partner with Babcock in 2025 and look at different options with Three Rivers in 2026.

If Council approves to compensate Babcock for her time, the City will move forward with partnering with her for 2025, if Council does not approve the agreement, then staff will work on a DIY version of the program.

- b. Discuss P&T Master Plan Update:** Board wishes to look at the current Master Plan to and see what it wants to revise and the vision for each park in the future. A goal is to look at each park and categorize it as a neighborhood or city park and review the needs of each one and make a list of priorities. The Board agreed that the first two parks to review should be Shaver Park and City Hall Park.

Board also wanted to discuss the options for a more reliable and consistent funding source for park projects.

7. Other Business

a. Communications Recap:

- i. A reservation system should be operational for tennis and perhaps warming house in the next couple of months.
- ii. A sign at Bell Courts to inform pickleball and tennis players they can use the Middle School courts would be a good addition when the season starts.

b. Staff Updates:

- i. Chair Schalkle reached out to Lions Club to determine potential financial support for the Wayzata Parks.
- ii. Tonka Boat Rental is moving forward to present in front of Council soon. Duffy Boats will most likely not be happening this year due to the upgrades needed for the electric infrastructure.
- iii. Excelsior Sauna is still going through some legal issues within their own company so they will not be operational this year. There is still an option to offer this in 2026.
- iv. Great River Greening will start work on buckthorn removal in the Nature Center soon.

c. Future Agenda Items

- i. Master Plan – Shaver Park and City Hall Park
- ii. Maple Tree Tapping
- iii. Sunday Music in the Park Update
- iv. Klapprich Park Updates

8. Adjourn

- a.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM by Chair Schalkle, seconded by Sarah Showalter.