



Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Wayzata City Hall - Community Room

Attendees: Chair Tory Schalkle, Sarah Showalter, Bianca Jensen, and Christian Erard.

Staff: Community Development Director, Alex Sharpe and Parks and Environment Planner, Nick Kieser.

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting was called to order at 6:16 PM by Chair Schalkle.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda by Showalter, seconded by Erard. Motion approved unanimously.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes with one revision to correct Chair Schalkle's name by Showalter, seconded by Erard. Motion approved unanimously.
- 4. Public Comments:** No public comments were provided.
- 5. Old Business:**
 - a. Klapprich Park:** Staff presented the Klapprich Park update and noted that the solicitation of bid process will be presented to Council on March 25, 2025. Staff stated that the Council will not be making a decision on whether specific park elements will proceed, rather that the City solicit for bids on the park elements with alternates for each park element to ensure the project can stay within budget. Staff will propose to solicit bids for all elements of the park improvement project.

Chair Schalkle noted that he could attend Council if specific items would be discussed, but if this Council will only be discussing the solicitation then he attend the Council meeting where decisions are made.

- b. Sunday Music in the Park Update:** Staff provided an update the previous sound company that the city normally works with, Twin Cities Sound, is going out of business. Staff has received a couple of proposals from other sound companies that can help with the concert series this year. The Board noted that they are comfortable moving forward with the company, VSI, to provide sound services for the concerts. Staff will finalize contracts with the artists and sound company to be placed on a future Council meeting for approval.

6. New Business:

- a. Shaver Park and City Hall Park Master Plan Discussion:** Planner Kieser presented the history and current information on the Parks and Trails Master Plan.

Chair Schalkle noted that he would like to have yearly updates on the plan and yearly budget review for each budgeted item in the Master Plan. He also noted that the Board noted that they would like to reevaluate the Master Plan park by park. The first two parks to be reviewed were Shaver Park and City Hall Park. Board member Erard echoed this sentiment and stated that he felt the full plan should be reevaluated.

Planner Kieser stated that each park is being presented to the Board to determine if the full plan needed to be updated or if specific parks were a priority. He also noted that the act of significantly altering the adopted parks plan would require public outreach and engagement.

Chair Schalkle noted he felt the full Master Plan should be updated for each park and that the changes could be minor enough that public outreach may not be necessary.

Director Sharpe stated that some level of public outreach is a best practice when an adopted plan is amended. The extent of the changes would dictate the outreach but if a significant number of parks in the plan are proposed to be updated public outreach would be a requirement. He also noted that the update could occur as part of the 2050 Comprehensive Plan, which has built in outreach and may be an efficient use of resources and funds available.

Director Sharpe noted that unfortunately park planning is not an item where TIF funds can be allocated and that the Comprehensive Plan budget is underfunded at this time. Planner Kieser presented the adopted park plan for Shaver Park.

The board discussed the park and had the following comments:

- Desire for more natural passive park vs. activities, structures, and active recreation.
- Picnic area needs improvements and funding to improve the area.
- The sand volleyball courts are not utilized, in a low area, and either need significant improvement, to be moved to a new location in the park, or removed entirely.

Planner Kieser then presented on the upcoming projects at City Hall Park with a new sidewalk. Planner Kieser also noted that items such as this sidewalk are in the current Master Plan and if the Board were to propose changes that most CIP projects for parks would be held until the new plan was adopted.

Planner Kieser and Chair Schalkle will touch base to discuss how to bring this discussion to the Board in the future.

- b. Spring Splash Participation:** Board Member Showalter provided an update for Spring Splash and provided past experience on the Board's attendance at the event. Spring Splash is scheduled to be on Saturday, May 17 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Chair Schalkle and Board member Erard volunteered to attend the event for 2025. Staff can help with any tabling materials and cornhole.

7. Other Business

- a. Communication Recap:** No updates for communications.

b. Staff Updates:

- i. Chair Schalkle noted that a tree should be planted and a sign installed to honor former Board Member Babcock her service to the City.
- ii. Planner Kieser presented an update on the Great River Greening grant to remove buckthorn at the Nature Center. Great River Greening have finished most of the buckthorn removal and will return over the next two years to ensure the invasive species are removed.

- 8. Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:17 PM by Showalter, seconded by Erard. Approved unanimously.

