

**MINUTES  
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 8, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mary Auger, Tom Anderson, Don Heinonen, Annette Meyer, and Wendy Kvale

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tina Kaney and Tonya Prim

**COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:**

**CITY STAFF & OTHERS:** Richard Lehmann, Steve Johnson, Marcia Larson and Lolly Randall

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mary Auger called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 12, 2017 MINUTES:**

**Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Kvale, to approve the December 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Richard Lehmann and Steve Johnson of the South Lake Irving Association attended the meeting to ask the Parks & Trails Commission to consider the following requests for Roger Lehmann Park:

1. Remove the fallen and dead trees in the wooded area in the park. They asked if the neighbors would be allowed to help City staff clean it up on a volunteer basis. They would like a small trail developed in this wooded area.
2. They would also like to have a small shed located somewhere in the park. They would like to store some of the things their association uses when they do a neighborhood cleanup of the park. They would also store things they use at their National Night Out such as horse shoes. They are willing to assist in the costs for the shed with money they receive from association fees and their annual fish fry. They understand that Park's staff would also have a key for the shed.
3. They also would like the pea rock around the playground equipment replaced with wood chips or shredded rubber.

Marcia suggested the Commissioners consider adding these items to the 2018 park project priority list that will be discussed at next month's meeting. Marcia will work with Richard Lehmann regarding the shed and have her staff look at the wooded area within the next couple of months and get a cost to replace the pea rock.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE/SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

Joe Czapiewski would like to meet with the Parks & Trails Commission to give a summary of all the meetings and to review the Vision, Mission, and Core Values. The plan is to process the stakeholder's meetings and eventually get to goal settings. This will be about a two hour meeting. Everyone agreed on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 for this meeting. The final meeting with Joe will be decided upon at the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Marcia and Joe had their final strategic planning meeting with the Bemidji Softball Association representatives. They expressed concerns about the pricing and conditions of the softball fields. They are losing players and feel they should get a reduction of fees, especially for their tournaments.

### **#ONLY IN MINNESOTA MONUMENT – PAUL BUNYAN PARK**

Susan Goude of Visit Bemidji has asked to put the Explore MN Tourism #Only In Minnesota monument at Paul Bunyan Park from June 25<sup>th</sup> until July 16<sup>th</sup>. The illuminated monument is 4 feet high and 40 feet long. They want to have the monument in the park at the same time as the Bemidji Best Minnesota Town party June 27<sup>th</sup>. Marcia has selected a couple of locations in the park where the monument could be placed and is working with VisitBemidji on this.

**Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Anderson, to allow the #OnlyinMinnesota monument and event to take place at the waterfront from June 25<sup>th</sup> until July 16<sup>th</sup> as long as they coordinate dates and times with other large events being held at the waterfront during this time frame.**

### **COMMISSIONER UPDATE**

Tom suggested allowing citizens to use dogs to keep the geese out of the waterfront area. Wendy mentioned that Lake Bemidji State Park is looking at putting in a natural playground.

### **DIRECTOR UPDATE**

Parks Superintendent – received applications for the open Superintendent position. The plan is to have them hired by February.

Outdoor Rinks/Warming Houses are open and busy. There is a cold weather policy that the city follows to determine when to close the warming houses. Concessions at City Park are doing well.

Neilson Reise Arena – the discussions about the Sanford Wellness Center has prompted the City Council to consider the arena. There has been discussion about a second sheet of ice at the Sanford Center. The subsidy to the Neilson Reise Arena is about \$127,000.

Marcia encouraged the Commissioners to start thinking of projects to add to the 2018 park priority lists. There are some projects from 2017 that did not get finished and will be moved to 2018. The tennis courts at Gordon Falls was mentioned. There is a concern of people driving all over that park so this will have to be addressed this season.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Kvale, to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall  
Administrative Assistant