

MINUTES

City of Lake Elmo Parks Commission October 21, 2019

Members Present: Commissioners- Ames, Nightingale, Schumacher, Weeks and Zeno
Absent: Mayek and Olinger

Staff Present: City Planner- Prchal, Public Works Director- Powers

The meeting was called to order by Weeks at 6:30 PM.

Announcements

No announcements

Approval of Agenda

Weeks moved to amend the agenda adding item 4.A- Public Comments and switched items 5 and 6 to accommodate the speakers and recommended agenda for approval.

Amendments were accepted and the agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

a) August 19, 2019

No changes were made.

Minutes were accepted as presented.

Public Comments

Bill Wacker, 3603 Laverne Avenue North. He asked the commission what other projects are planned for Lion's Park because he lives right across the street. Mr. Wacker is hoping for a more family oriented park in the future and not so heavily focused on sports. The commission was unaware of any plans, but referred Mr. Wacker to Director Powers who said nothing is set in stone yet. Then he asked where the skating rink would be located this year and Weeks said it will be on top of the pickleball court. Director Powers clarified that is the hockey one and if they choose to have a second rink for pleasure skating it would be closer to the warming house, but it has not been decided if a second rink would be opened this year. Overall, Mr. Wacker said Lion's Park is not very family friendly right now and he wants to see improvements in the future.

Tony Manzara, 5050 Kirkwood Avenue North. Mr. Manzara extended an invitation to commissioners and the public to attend the 2nd annual Buckthorn Removal Festival on October 26th 10-1. He stated the event went really well last year and this year is expected to be very successful again.

Susan Dunn, 11018 Upper 33rd Street North. Ms. Dunn expressed concerns at Lion's Park in regards to there being no shade and agrees it is not family friendly right now. She asked for an update on mountain bike trails in Reid Park. The commission was unsure of any updates, but think with the wet year the work will continue into next year. She stated

the proposed bike trails in Sunfish Lake Park is against the plans in the 2030 Comp Plan. She requested to see the updated maps of Sunfish Lake Park. Ms. Dunn is asking the commission to review their past decisions and reconsider not allowing these bike trails in Sunfish Lake Park because they are going against the 2030 Comp Plan.

Development of Inwood Park

Prchal presented that in the CIP the Parks Commission set aside \$150,000 to develop the park in Inwood. The park has 2 acres of usable space to develop. He brought items to consider as: parking, user demographics, proximity to other parks and the amount of homes in the neighborhood. Ames asked for clarification if there were any restrictions on tying Stonegate into Inwood like a connecting trail between the two parks. Prchal did not think so and said that it could be possible in the future. The presentation had several maps to show the land that is available for the park and proposed ideas such as: trails, trees and pickleball courts. Prchal is asking the commission to create a list of amenities they would like to see in the park to allocate the \$150,000.

Ames liked that this was presented as a park for all city residents. He said he likes the idea of pickleball courts and a pavilion. Weeks agreed that this park would be heavily used by all residents. The one concern the commission had was figuring out the best option for parking, whether it would be adding street parking or creating a new lot.

Mark Rubbert, 8740 9th Place North. Presented on behalf of the residents of Inwood and what they would like to see happen in the park. He said their development created a task force to work with the city to help with the design and development of the park. They would like to see: outdoor exercise stations, native plantings and new trees, paths to a pavilion, open playfield, picnic area, pickleball, bocce ball and basketball courts, and connecting path to Stonegate Park. He provided several questions for the commission, such as: timing, criteria, meeting and review schedule, and what else can their task force do to help the process.

Ames said the task force can help if they keep coming to the Parks Commission meetings and voicing their opinions.

Weeks asked Mr. Rubbert what amenities are most important to the residents considering the budget constraints. Mr. Rubbert said that they really would like to see the native planting, the outdoor exercise stations, a pavilion, and pickleball courts.

Schumacher asked for clarification on the funding. Prchal stated that the money comes out of the park dedication fund and is not a set amount every year. Ames like the idea of bocce ball and said a court would be very cheap to build. The commission wants to make sure the park will be inclusive to all residents' not just residents of Inwood and pushed for trail connectivity between Inwood and Stonegate.

Zeno asked if the task force has any interest in becoming adopt a park group. Mr. Rubbert said they would be open to that so they can help in any way possible.

Cheryl Olstad, 729 Ivywood Circle North. She borders the north end of Inwood Park. Her concerns are about a natural drainage that runs diagonally all the way through the 2 acres of land. She brought this up to help map out the land better for positioning of proposed amenities. She suggested a rain garden would be great to help the drainage as well as planting more trees. She wants the park to stay as natural and maintenance free

as possible. Schumacher asked for clarification on the proposed location of the pickleball courts and that they would not work in the propose location due to drainage issues. Ms. Olstad confirmed that is correct and she wants them in a location where the drainage won't affect the area.

Zeno asked to formally generate a list of proposed amenities that they would like to see in the park. Prchal listed off: Bike rack, pavilion, electricity/water, pickleball, bocce ball, exercise equipment, and garbage. Prchal also said he would get a cost for running a trail between Inwood and Stonegate. The trail would lead to the loss of trees, Weeks proposed looking into a new location for the path to run to limit the loss of trees.

Ames wanted to make sure the trails consist of the same material, noting that Stonegate is crushed gravel, but the commission leaned more toward pavement for accessibility reasons.

Director Powers wanted to bring up the popularity of Frisbee golf and that could be considered for the park.

Zeno encouraged the task force to stay in touch with the commissioners and city staff to help move this process forward.

The commission recommended city staff to gather pricing options for the proposed amenities and to present findings at a future meeting.

Naming Savona Park

Prchal presented on some proposed names for the commission to look at. He highlighted the policies for selecting a name. In the packet there are some proposed names provided with some names that are Native American, historical people and random names. These names came from the public who were interested in submitting names. Prchal is hoping the commission can decide on one name, if not picking three and bringing them to council would be good as well.

Weeks likes the idea of naming parks after people, but the Shiltgen farm was not located close to Savona. So he pulled out old plat maps of the area to find historical names of people that lived there. The name Hammes stood out to him because they had been in the area the longest. Weeks recommended Hammes, Mitigomin, Goose Lake and Prairie Pond Park.

Zeno recommend Hammes and Mitigomin Park.

Nightingale recommended Mitigomin and Acorn Park. Prchal clarified that Mitigomin means acorn.

Ames recommended Mitigomin and Acorn Park.

Schumacher recommended Mitigomin and Reflection Park.

Weeks motioned to recommend Hammes and Mitigomin Park as park names for the Savona development to the City Council, with notations as to why they liked the names.

Seconded by Ames.

Motion passed unanimously.

November 18, 2019 Meeting Agenda

- 1.) Inwood Park discussion
- 2.) Potential new development that might need park dedication fees

Communications

Zeno stated that he has missed a few meetings and wanted an update on the Sunfish Lake Park mountain bike trails. Prchal stated that it cannot be approved until the updated Comprehensive Plan has been approved, but once that is approved those trails will head to the City Council.

Prchal did say that the City received an EAW request from an environmental quality board, but the stance for the assessment did not warrant the request and it was denied by the City Council.

Ames asked where the potential new development will be located. Prchal said that it will be located near Inwood.

Weeks attended the City Council Workshop presentation from the Urban Land Institute a few weeks ago and he thought it was a very helpful meeting. He was impressed that these developers emphasized that parks and trail connections are very important for development.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Alex Saxe, Deputy Clerk**