

## MINUTES

### City of Lake Elmo Parks Commission

May 21, 2018

**Members Present:** Commissioners Ames, Frick, Mayek, Nelson, Olinger, Weeks and Zeno

**Members Absent:** Commissioners Nuenfeldt and Steele

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Handt, Public Works Director Weldon, City Planner Prchal

**The meeting was called to order by Chair Nelson at 6:30 PM.**

#### Approval of Agenda

Ames made a motion to approve the agenda with the exclusion of the minutes since they were not included in the packet, seconded by Frick and Mayek. Motion passed.

#### Approval of Minutes

Minutes were absent from the packet.

#### Savona Park – Zip Line

Weldon reported that since the Commission recommendation and Council approval of Savona Park Construction several obstacles have risen with the size and topography of the park parcel along with orientation and installation of park amenities, including the proposed basketball court.

Staff feels it will be difficult to install a basketball court without significant grading and tree removal. Even then, the way the property drains, the water would run across the playing surface, making it slippery and would degrade the surface faster.

After review of the initial survey of the Savona residents and more recent contact, staff feels the addition of a zip line in place of the basketball court will meet the needs of area residents. The zip line would be similar to the one in Pebble Park.

Ames made a motion to approve the staff recommendation for the zip line in Savonna Park, seconded by Zeno. Motion passed.

#### Parks Capitol Improvement Plan (CIP)

Handt gave a presentation. She reported that Pebble Park was increased by about \$40,000 for the resurfacing of the basketball and tennis courts. For Reid Park, staff is recommending moving the trail expenditures to 2020, after the completion of the Mountain Bike trails. Tablyn Park is currently budgeted at \$45,000 but it could move up to \$145,000 if the Parks Commission is interested in making the rink at the bottom of the hill into a hockey rink.

A new park development expenditure of \$150,000. The two areas that have park land dedicated and could be developed would be Inwood and Wildflower/Village Preserve.

Handt explained that the reason there was expenditure for the library parking lot, was that one third of the expense came from the Parks budget since the decision was made not to expand that parking at Lions Park, but to utilize the library parking lot.

The public speaking portion was opened up.

Mark Rubert spoke about Inwood. He spoke about park design and usage, making it multi-generational and work with the community to include their interests. He requested that there be something small added such as a picnic table in the short term if the budget does not allow for more.

Weeks asked if there was access to an existing park like Stonegate would work instead of building out another park that would also require maintenance. Weeks also asked about the number of residents that leave for the winter.

Ames commented that the Stonegate neighborhood did not have any interest in other residents having access to their neighborhood by connecting to a trail system.

Rubert responded that he believes it is around 40 percent of the existing 200 homes that are gone in the winter.

Ruth Haller, 11404 Blazingstar, discussed how the developer sold the idea of a park to the residents. She talked about the number of kids in the neighborhood that would utilize the park. She talked about having her grandchildren to have somewhere to play. The parks within walking distance will be torn out, both at Lions Park and Lake Elmo Elementary school. She understands that there will be a park in North Star on the other side of Lake Elmo Avenue, but also knows that crossing would be difficult with children.

Drew Cavellero, 11336 Blazingstar, also mentioned that he purchased his home due to the builder saying that there would be a park. He is looking to find out the process to know when the neighborhood reaches a build out stage and how residents will know when the park will be coming. He is wondering what he can do to help accelerate the process. From talking to neighbors, he said most people were interested in green space and play equipment. Residents did not want the noise of a pickleball court.

Frick said that residents in Inwood have been asking her for a park for the last year. She said that a number of residents have mentioned that they have grandchildren and a park would allow a place to play.

Weeks made a motion to set aside \$25,000 toward a dog park for a site to be determined in the future, seconded by Ames. Motion passed.

### **June Meeting Agenda**

2019-2023 CIP

Tablyn Park

45<sup>th</sup> Parallel

### **Communications**

Handt stated that the signs for the business sponsors are starting to be put up at Lions Park and the new field is in. The deadline is Friday for this year, otherwise they will advertise again in the fall for the 2019 season.

Weldon reported that they are trying to wrap up Savonna Park and bring the zip line portion to Council.

Weldon also reported that in Lions Park the trash receptacles are ordered and volunteers are working on the dugouts.

Frick mentioned that the Nature Center is scheduled to open on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Tanya Nuss**