

City of Lake Elmo Parks Commission Minutes
December 16, 2024

Members Present: Commissioners Kastler, Barret, Elam, Hoelscher, Sturtz and Esch

Absent: None

Staff Present: Assistant Public Works Director Swanepoel

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

Approval of Agenda

Barret motioned to approve the agenda as presented, Elam provided a second; no discussion. Motion approved 6-0.

Approval of Minutes

Esch motioned to approve the October 21, 2024 Parks Commission Minutes, Barrett provided a second; no discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Comments

None

Kleis Playground

Assistant Public Works Director Swanepoel presented survey results regarding replacement of the playground equipment at Kleis Park, noting it was installed in 1993 and has exceeded its lifespan. Swanepoel also presented proposed park improvements to relocate the playground set to the east of its current location, provide benches, a shade structure, and an asphalt trail to provide accessibility to the play area. Discussion held regarding location of the amenities, accessible play equipment, and ball field usage. Swanepoel requested Commission input on the age range the play structure should be designed for and budget for the improvements. Consensus reached to request quotes for a play structure designed for children 5-12 years old and a budget of \$65,000 with optional add-ons.

Goal Setting Representative

Assistant Public Works Director Swanepoel requested the Commission select a representative to attend the City Council goal setting meeting on January 15, 2025. Discussion was held regarding goals and challenges the Commission has identified. Three primary goals identified were:

- 1) Following the 2024 Parks Master Plan's top recommendation, explore adding a Parks Director to staff.
- 2) Consider the financial sustainability of the parks funding model, and, in particular, a future where land or cash dedications associated with new development will play a smaller role.
- 3) Encourage the adoption of a proactive mentality to planning with the concern that opportunities to acquire parcels for high value additions or add connectivity to the park and trail system may be disappear as the City continues to be developed.

Hoelscher motioned to nominate Commissioner Esch as the Parks Commission representative for the City Council goal setting session; Elam provided a second. Motion passed 6-0.

Communications

- a) Joint meeting with City Council in February
- b) January meeting moved to Wednesday, January 22nd due to the holiday
- c) Ice rink is open in Lion's Park
- d) Demontreville Park is complete

Esch motioned to adjourn the meeting; Barrett provided a second. Motion passed 6-0.

Kastler adjourned the meeting at 7:16 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Julie Johnson, City Clerk