

City of Lake Elmo Parks Commission Minutes October 17, 2022

Members Present: Commissioners Ames, Hoelscher, Kastler, Rivera-Reyes, Bloyer, and Barrett
Staff Present: Assistant Public Works Director Swanepoel and City Planner Hetzel

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

Approval of Agenda

Ames requested an addition to the agenda regarding Open Meeting Laws. Barrett requested the addition of a new member welcome packet. (Approved by consensus.)

Rivera-Reyes motioned to approve the agenda, Hoelscher provided a second; no discussion. Unanimously approved 6-0.

Approval of Minutes

Discussion regarding corrections to the September minutes: Schiltgen East to Schiltgen Farmstead, Kastler voted yes on that topic and it would change voting to 4-0, and a spelling error under Inwood.

Barrett motioned to accept the September 19th, 2022 Parks Commission Minutes as amended, Hoelscher provided a second; no discussion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

Public Comments

Tony Manzara at 550 Kirkwood, representative of the Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center, thanked the commission for their service to the city; the parks commission members are all volunteers. The second thank you is for your recommendation to council to support the request for the second grant. The first grant helped us clear about 40 acres of buckthorn at Sunfish Lake Park. Tony invited the commission to the buckthorn festival on Saturday.

DeMontreville Park Improvements

Assistant Public Works Director Swanepoel provided a presentation to the commission. Discussion regarding CIP funds, park equipment, and a ball field.

Hoelscher made a motion to recommend to replace the DeMontreville playset scheduled in the CIP, calendar year 2024, Rivera-Reyes provided a second; discussion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

Tablyn Park improvements

Swanepoel provided a presentation to the commission. Discussion regarding the tennis court resurfacing and use, the basketball court, parking, lighting, CIP, rebound wall, and playground equipment. Bloyer motioned to get a new rebound wall, resurface tennis court with the pickleball lines, new parking, push off the playset until 2026, and the basketball court leave as is, Ames restated the motion for clarification – recommend approving replacement of the playset in 2026, refurbishing the tennis court to include pickleball courts, not refurbishing the basketball court, recommending replacing the rebound wall and recommending adding the additional parking per staff recommendation; Bloyer confirmed the clarification. Hoelscher provided a second; discussion regarding the motion having all items together. Bloyer withdrew the motion.

Hoelscher motioned to recommend future replacement of the playset in 2026, Rivera-Reyes provided a second; motion passed unanimously 6-0.

Barrett motioned to refurbish the current tennis ball court with pickleball and tennis for 2023, Kastler provided a second; discussion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

Bloyer motioned to replace the rebound wall in 2024, Hoelscher provided a second. Ames friendly amended to 2023, Hoelscher provided a second; Discussion. Kastler friendly amended to relocate the rebound wall to the inside of the court, Bloyer provided a second; discussion regarding anything over \$2500 goes on the CIP. Motions passed unanimously 6-0.

Hoelscher moved to add additional parking for a cost of approximately \$90,000 in the calendar year 2024, Ames seconded; discussion. Passed 5-1; Kastler dissenting.

Pebble Park Improvements

Swanepoel provided a presentation to the commission. Discussion regarding the courts, disc golf, trees, and current amenities.

Hoelscher moved to replace the playset for the CIP, calendar year 2024, Bloyer provided a second; discussion. Friendly amend to revise the motion to 2023, Bloyer seconded. Motions passed unanimously 6-0.

Barrett moved that the tennis courts are resurfaced and modified for both pickleball and tennis in 2023, Hoelscher provided a second; includes tree removal. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

Discussion regarding adding items to the CIP and lighting.

Ames motioned to add to the CIP two sand volleyball courts not to exceed \$30,000 in 2024 with a non-specified location, Bloyer provided a second; discussion. Passed unanimously 6-0.

Kleis Park Improvements

Swanepoel provided a presentation to the commission.

Hoelscher motioned to replace the playset in 2026, Ames provided a second; discussion. Passed 5-1; Bloyer dissenting.

Discussion regarding ADA compliance.

Barrett moved that the swing set be replaced in 2023, Rivera-Reyes provided a second; discussion. Barrett friendly amended not to exceed \$20,000, Rivera-Reyes seconded; discussion. Kastler friendly amended the amount to \$25,000 with the idea of adding any amenity, Rivera-Reyes seconded; motions passed unanimously 6-0.

Ball field Survey Results

City Planner Hetzel provided a presentation. Discussion regarding ball fields and parkland.

Ames motioned to direct city staff to explore the possibility of upgrading existing recreational ball fields in city parks, Rivera-Reyes provided a second; motion passed unanimously 6-0.

New Member Welcome (Approved by consensus.)

Discussion regarding procedures, especially the Open Meeting Laws.

Communications

- a) Water treatment going up in Tablyn. It will remain there for several months.

- b) Staff has been working on trails in Reid Park.
- c) Extension of the ski grant. Discussion regarding railway crossings.
- d) City Planner Hetzel updated the commission on Schiltgen Farmstead; discussion followed.

Ames adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM

**Respectfully Submitted,
Rebecca McGuire, Deputy Clerk**