

City of Lake Elmo Parks Commission Minutes September 19, 2022

Members Present: Commissioners Ames, 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

Kastler requested the addition of Schiltgen Preliminary Plat/PUD to the agenda. (Approved by consensus to be added to agenda.)

Barrett motioned to approve the agenda as presented, Kastler provided a second; unanimously approved 5-0.

Welcomed student Vito Bloyer to the Parks Commission.

Approval of Minutes

Rivera-Reyes motioned to approve the July 19th, 2022 Parks Commission Minutes as presented, Bloyer provided a second; Ames abstained. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Comments

Carol Sellner at 784 Ivywood Cir provided her perspective on the street parking situation around Ivywood Park.

Kleis Park Site Visit

City Planner Hetzel presented public comments to the commission. Assistant Director Swanepoel commented about the trail condition and answered water accessibility questions. Commission discussion on park and trail accessibility, park condition, port-a-potty requests, ADA compliance, CIP, and park amenity utilization.

Pebble Park Site Visit

City Planner Hetzel provided public comments. Commission discussed security, a gate, dual tennis/pickle ball courts, modern playground amenities, water accessibility, sand volleyball courts, disk golf, and parking.

Ivywood Park Parking

City Planner Hetzel presented information regarding the parking situation at the park. There were public comments at the October City Council meeting. Commission discussed options and cost.

Rivera-Reyes motioned to recommend not altering the current parking situation at this time, Barrett second; discussion regarding placing a courtesy sign. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Schiltgen Farmstead – Preliminary Plat/PUD (approved by consensus)

Commission revisited the agenda item from the July Parks meeting. The committee's original motion was to accept land in lieu of cash. After the City Council meeting it was made clear that none of the open space land will be available for public use. The commission received more clarification from City Planner Hetzel. Kastler would like to rescind the previous vote. Ames is

not supportive of private trail networks, the goal is to connect neighborhoods and get somewhere. Commission discussion continued on the best course of action.

Ames motioned to recommend we rescind our approval of the Preliminary Plat for Schiltgen Farmstead pending sufficient information and detail to clarify what the outlot is to be designated for park land dedication and what the trail connectivity would be to existing Lake Elmo trails, Rivera-Reyes provided a second; discussion. Kastler friendly amends motion to include that the parks commission still recommends accepting land for parkland dedication but withdraws the original recommendation, Ames seconded the amendment; discussion. Ames, Rivera-Reyes, Barrett, and Kastler aye; Bloyer abstains. Motion passed 4-0.

Communications

- a) Swing was removed at Kleis Park. Drainage issues corrected by Public Works staff at Pilot and DeMontreville Parks. Seeding will start this fall at Firefly and Lions Park.
- b) CIP is next month. Kastler would like to see the full Parks budget, not just the CIP.
- c) Park Reservation concerns about outside groups reserving courts and residents not being able to access volleyball courts. We should make sure we have clarity on how the process is done by city staff, specifically for volleyball.
- d) Twin Cities Outdoors mentioned Sunfish as one of the gems for hiking.
- e) Stonegate trails have been moved to 2023. They are working with the residents to construct that.

Ames adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM

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