

***PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – APRIL 1, 2021
MINUTES***

The Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Andover Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Lindahl on April 1, 2021, 7:00 p.m., at the Andover City Hall, 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover, Minnesota.

Commissioners Present: Chair Jim Lindahl, Commissioners Jake Widmyer, Tracy Strombeck, Sophia Newton, Shane Stenzel, Mark Miskowiec, and Scott Roth

Commissioners Absent: None

Also Present: Assistant Public Works Director, Todd Haas
Interim Parks Supervisor, Terry Seeger

RESIDENT FORUM

Merle Prochniak, 2941-141st Avenue, came forward and stated the City has too much debt. He explained that the City cannot continue to acquire debt. He requested the debt reduced and asked why a tennis court is not being replaced at the City Hall Campus.

Bud Holst, 4276-165th Avenue NW, came forward and stated he heard about a need for pickleball courts. He said he read the US Constitution and did not see anything about pickleball courts being a right. He indicated pickleball may be a want, but it is not a need.

Hope Luedtke, 16932 Jivaro Street, came forward and encouraged the Park Commission to look at building something for the majority of the people and not just for a few. She asked why they were focusing on wants when there are so many needs. She said the majority of Andover does not want pickleball courts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 4, 2021 Regular Meeting

Motion by Newton, seconded by Strombeck, to approve the March 4, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

March 4, 2021 Workshop Meeting

Strombeck asked for the following corrections:

- Page 2, paragraph 4: changing the word “sued” to “used”.
- Page 3, paragraph 1: change the word “Commission” to “Council”.
- Page 3, paragraph 1: “She would like the Commission to receive financial reporting and updates...”
- Page 3, last paragraph: “Commissioner Strombeck stated that quarterly reports and updates twice per month...”

Motion by Miskowiec, seconded by Newton, to approve the March 4, 2021 Workshop Meeting minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Strombeck, seconded by Miskowiec, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMEND ACCEPTING DONATION FROM ANDOVER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION FOR TWO NEW BLEACHERS

Chris Hagestuen, Andover Baseball Association President, came forward and stated ABA is donating two bleachers in honor of Jeff Ditch and Anders Flaa. Assistant Public Works Director Haas stated one bleacher will be placed at Timber Trails Park and the other at Andover Lions Park.

Motion by Stenzel, seconded by Widmyer, to recommend accepting the donation of two bleachers from Andover Baseball Association. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER 2021 SPRING/SUMMER SOFTBALL/BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Assistant Public Works Director Haas said two applications were received for ball fields and staff recommends approval.

Motion by Strombeck, seconded by Newton, to approve the 2021 Spring/Summer Softball/Baseball schedules. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER 2021 SPRING/SUMMER SOCCER/LACROSSE SCHEDULE

Assistant Public Works Director Haas said four applications were received for soccer/lacrosse fields and staff recommends approval. Mr. Haas noted Andover Lacrosse will use an additional field at Sunshine Park and rotate between fields to reduce wear and tear.

Chris Randall, Boreal Futbol Club, came forward and thanked the Commission for use of the fields.

Nick Kopp, Coon Rapids United Soccer Club, came forward and stated he is looking forward to the soccer season.

Motion by Newton, seconded by Stenzel, to approve the 2021 Spring/Summer Soccer/Lacrosse schedules. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER ANDOVER VILLAGE PRELIMINARY PLAT PARK DEDICATION REQUIREMENTS

Assistant Public Works Director Haas stated the Park and Recreation Commission is requested to review the preliminary plat for Andover Village and recommend park dedication requirements.

Tom Bakritges, Capstone Homes, came forward and reviewed the Andover Village detached townhomes. Mr. Bakritges displayed the site plan, landscaping, and trail plan.

Commissioner Miskowiec noted there is no connection to the south. Mr. Bakritges stated the City of Anoka has a resolution that prohibits Andover from connecting to 41st Avenue.

Motion by Strombeck, seconded by Miskowiec, to recommend cash in lieu of land for Andover Village park dedication fees. Motion passed unanimously.

HOLD PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING/WILD IRIS PARK/21-31

The Park and Recreation Commission is requested to review survey results and hold a public information meeting for improvements at Wild Iris Park. Assistant Public Works Director Haas showed the park map and existing playground structure. Mr. Haas explained staff sent out 185 surveys and received 7 back.

Jim Traver, 3873-139th Lane NW, came forward and recommended playground equipment for all age groups. He asked that a light be added to the trail going west to the neighborhood. He asked if there was space for a 12'x12' shelter.

Chair Lindahl asked what the makeup of the neighborhood is. Mr. Traver said he sees lots of families with young kids.

Mr. Haas stated he received an email from a resident providing input on Wild Iris Park.

Commissioner Stenzel asked if there was a previous plan that included a shelter. Mr. Haas stated there is room for a smaller shelter.

Commissioner Widmyer stated he went to Wild Iris and agrees that the playground needs to be replaced. He stated there is a tree root that has grown into the playground.

Chair Lindahl recommended one play structure for ages 2-12.

Commissioner Widmyer asked if Wild Iris is going to be a community build. Mr. Haas replied that it can be if the neighborhood is interested.

Commissioner Strombeck asked what the turf looks like where there is proposed irrigation extension. Interim Parks Maintenance Supervisor Seeger stated the turf is rough and mostly weeds.

Commissioner Miskowiec asked where a good spot would be for a trail light and stated he would like to go look at it.

Chair Lindahl mentioned neighbors typically do not like park lights close to their homes.

Commissioner Strombeck asked if the light needs to come from Connexus Energy or if they could be smaller ground lights.

Chair Lindahl replied the lights would get beat up and vandalized if they were smaller.

Jim Traver, 3873-139th Lane NW, came forward and suggested trenching in lighting all along the path and add a half a dozen LED lights.

Chair Lindahl recommended the Commission visit the park and look at adding lighting in the CIP.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS

1. **Andover Community Center Advisory Committee Update:** Commissioner Strombeck attended the City Council Workshop and gave a summary of the meeting. Pickleball was discussed and the Council was split on keeping it in the CIP. Commissioner Strombeck also stated the Council discussion leaned to providing information to the both the City Council and Park and Recreation Commission regarding the Community Center.
2. **Completed Projects:** nothing new to report
3. **On-going Projects:** Mr. Haas reviewed the remaining on-going items. Mr. Haas stated there was a bid opening for Prairie Knoll Park and the bids were good. Mr. Haas stated Council reviewed the 2021 Park Dedication Study and had very few comments. Hawkridge Park community build is May 15th and Woodland Meadows Park community build is May 8th.
4. **On-Hold Projects** – nothing new to report.
5. **Other Items of Interest** – Mr. Haas provided an update on pedestrian trails.

6. **Parks Maintenance Update:** Mr. Seeger reviewed the weekly park maintenance report. Staff are in the process of moving the Community Garden to the north of Public Works north of Veterans Memorial Blvd NW.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Commissioner Strombeck reported the trail across from Rum River Elementary has two big buckles in the asphalt. Public Works staff will follow up on this.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Miskowiec, seconded by Newton, to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shari Kunza, Recording Secretary
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.

***PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
APRIL 1, 2021
MINUTES***

The Workshop Meeting of the Andover Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Lindahl on April 1, 2021, 7:50 p.m., at the Andover City Hall, 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover, Minnesota.

Commissioners Present: Chair Jim Lindahl, Commissioners Jake Widmyer, Tracy Strombeck, Sophia Newton, Shane Stenzel, Mark Miskowiec, and Scott Roth

Commissioners Absent: None

Also Present: Assistant Public Works Director, Todd Haas
Interim Parks Maintenance Supervisor, Terry Seeger

UPDATE OF 2022-2026 PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PLAN

Mr. Haas gave an update on the proposed 2022-2026 playground equipment replacement plan. The playgrounds that are scheduled for replacement in 2022 is Prairie Knoll Park and Rose Park. Mr. Haas to the Commission that proposed budget for 2022 and 2023 is \$100,000. The proposed budget for playground equipment replacement for each year from 2024 through 2026 is \$150,000. Each of those years is proposed to increase the number of playground replacements from 2 a year to 3 a year so as not fall behind in the replacement of the equipment. No additional action was necessary regarding this item as this for information purposes only.

DISCUSS 2022-2026 PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Haas reported to the Commission that it is that time of the year to start discussions regarding the 2022-2026 Park Capital Improvement (CIP). Mr. Haas identify the current projects currently identified in the CIP which included paving of the Pine Hills North parking lot and constructing of a new outdoor pickleball facility. As far as the new pickleball facility, Mr. Haas indicated the City Council based on their March 23, 2021 workshop meeting has directed the Commission to specifically consider if a new outdoor pickleball facility should continue to be included in the 5-year CIP or not. After some discussion by the Commission, Chairman Lindahl allowed input from the residents on both sides of the issue. Merle Prochniak, resident of Andover, raised concern regarding the debt of the Andover Community Center and that the focus of the City should be is to pay off the debt before any outdoor pickleball facility is considered by the City. Bud Holst, also a resident of Andover, talked about tennis courts growing up in Minneapolis as a kid and that if you wanted to play there a number of times that they would have to get on their bikes and ride to a tennis court facility and some cases it can take up to 45 minutes to get there just so they could play. Mr. Holst also raised the same concern with moving forward with a new outdoor pickleball facility and since there are other outdoor pickleball facilities are available nearby in other communities that the pickleball players should use those facilities before new facility is constructed in Andover. Hope Luedtke, also a resident of Andover, also expressed the same concerns that were raised from Mr. Prochniak and Mr. Holst.

Jim and Toni Peden, longtime residents of Andover and avid pickleball players, mentioned how busy the other pickleball facilities are in other communities nearby and maybe now the time to build a new outdoor facility here in Andover. The Peden's indicated the courts would be used by all age groups from March through October as long as the weather allowed them to play. The other 4 months of the year would be indoors at the Community Center.

After further discussion by the Park and Recreation Commission whether if the pickleball should remain in the CIP, Chairman Lindahl suggested that maybe the Commission should consider lowering the amount identified in the CIP from \$450,000 to \$300,000 and continue keeping the facility identified in the CIP for 2025. The Commissioners did discuss

that there have been several park projects that have been identified in the Comprehensive Plan for a few years and that the focus should be on those projects first so that some of these parks can finally be completed.

Chairman Lindahl, based on request from the City Council, ask each Commissioner if they would like to remove the outdoor pickleball facility from the CIP. The position of each of the Commissioners were as follows: 5 indicated they would remove it from the CIP (Miskowiec, Strombeck, Stenzel, Roth and Widmyer); 2 indicated to leave in the CIP (Lindahl and Newton).

The position of the Commissioners regarding the outdoor pickleball court will be presented to the City Council on April 6, 2021 for further discussion.

UPDATE OF 2022-2026 PARK TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Mr. Haas gave an update on the proposed 2022-2026 Park Trail Reconstruction Improvement Project list. As of right now there is only one project that will need to be reconstructed within the next 5 years. The existing trail and boardwalk across the wetland at Kelsey Round Lake Park were built several years ago and most likely will need to be replaced within the next 2-5 years. Mr. Haas also mentioned that if the existing trail and boardwalk is determined to be beyond normal maintenance, the City would be eligible to apply for a Minnesota DNR grant. It was also mentioned by Mr. Haas that the process to apply for grant can take up to 6 months before the City receives notification if they are successful or not. So, it is best to make sure the grant is applied for 1 year in advance of when the project is scheduled to be reconstructed.

No additional action was necessary regarding this item as this for information purposes only.

DISCUSS 2022-2026 TRAIL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Park and Recreation Commission is requested to begin discussing the 2022 – 2026 Trail Capital Improvement Plan.

The target date for the draft CIP is Friday, June 4th.

The Commission is requested to review the 2022 – 2026 New Pedestrian Trail and Sidewalk Segments with descriptions, most of which were identified from the existing CIP. A separate map provided by staff is in the side pocket of the packet. The segments are as follows:

Segment 1. Trail along Crosstown Blvd from Xeon Street to Prairie Road and then north to 159th Avenue (\$800,000) Note: Identified in the current CIP for construction in 2022.

Segment 2. Trail along Station Parkway from Thrush Street to Partridge Circle (west leg) and from Partridge Circle (east leg) to Hanson Blvd (\$259,000) Note: Not currently identified in the CIP.

Segment 3. Trail along Verdin Street from 161st Avenue to 163rd Lane (\$705,000) Note: Identified in the current CIP for construction in 2024.

Segment 4. Trail along Coon Creek from Prairie Road going east to the existing trail in the Shadowbrook development. Note: This segment would most likely be eligible for MN DNR funding. There is one property that has not developed yet so until there is development, the City will not be able to construct the trail until the necessary easements are dedicated. Note: Not currently identified in the CIP.

Segment 5. Trail from the west side of the railroad tracks to the east side of the of the tracks to the new development called Fields of Winslow Cove which will require

The funding for the trails/sidewalk improvements have been using a combination of DNR Grants, general funds and trail funds that have been received from new developments. Funding of improvements for 2022 – 2026 have not been identified and will need to be determined by the City Council either with general funds and/or trails funds.

Mr. Haas showed the Commission a larger scaled map where additional trail connections are needed. This will come back to the Commission as a workshop item in early May for one last review before it is scheduled for the regular scheduled portion of the May 20, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission meeting for a final recommendation.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Widmyer, seconded by Miskowiec, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd J. Haas, Recording Secretary