

***PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – JUNE 3, 2021
MINUTES***

The Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Andover Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Lindahl on June 3, 2021, 7:00 p.m., at the Andover City Hall, 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover, Minnesota.

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

Commissioners Absent:

Also Present: Assistant Public Works Director, Todd Haas
Parks & Streets Operations Manager, Jason Baumunk

RESIDENT FORUM

No one appeared before the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 6, 2021 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Strombeck requested a change on page 2 where Commissioner Stenzel made a motion. She stated Commissioner Stenzel was absent from that meeting.

Commissioner Strombeck requested the following changes in Outstanding Items: add: “with the disbandment of the ACC Advisory Commission, there is no Park and Recreation Liaison role. There is no need for the paragraph to be in there.”

Motion by Widmyer, seconded by Miskowiec, to approve the May 6, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as amended. Motion passed 5 ayes, 2 present (Newton and Stenzel).

May 6, 2021 Workshop Meeting

Commissioner Newton noted that Commissioner Miskowiec’s name is missing from present.

Commissioner Strombeck requested a change on page 2, adding the following text: “She is not in recommendation of spending on projects because costs are too high for supplies and equipment, so she is erring on the side of caution before spending on big ticket items.”

Motion by Miskowiec, seconded by Widmyer, to approve the May 6, 2021 Workshop Meeting minutes as amended. Motion passed 5 ayes, 2 present (Newton and Stenzel).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

CONSIDER OAKVIEW ACRES PRELIMINARY PLAT PARK DEDICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Park and Recreation Commission is asked to review the Oakview Acres Preliminary Plat and make a recommendation to the City Council for Park Dedication Requirements. Assistant Public Works Director Haas identified the location of the development and named the parks that are closest to it.

Brian Theis, Tamarack Land, came forward and stated they are proposing 22 lots on this parcel. They are working through the preliminary plat process. They would like to begin grading late summer and ready for construction by November.

Commissioner Miskowiec asked what kind of units are going in. Mr. Theis stated the units are single family with a variety of home styles beginning at the mid \$400,000s.

Chair Lindahl asked about trail connections from the east. Mr. Haas replied they did not discuss trail connections and the neighborhood can access the park by streets. Chair Lindahl stated it would be nice to have the park connected by a trail.

Commissioner Strombeck stated the Park Commission had previously recommended accepting cash in lieu of land and asked if they need to make a new decision. Mr. Haas replied the Commission should make a decision based on this preliminary plat.

Commissioner Miskowiec stated he would like to see some access to Oakview Park. Mr. Haas stated when the neighboring property develops, access will be easier.

Commissioner Strombeck asked if there are any mini parks near this development. Chair Lindahl replied the City does not want any more mini parks as there are too many of them.

Motion by Stenzel, seconded by Newton, to recommend cash in lieu of land for Oakview Acres. Motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMEND 2022-2026 PARK EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PLAN

The Park and Recreation Commission is requested to review the 2022-2026 Park Equipment Replacement Plan and make a recommendation to the City Council. Assistant Public Works Director Haas stated staff has identified playground replacements for the next two years. In 2022, Prairie Knoll Park, Rose Park, and Strootman Park will get replacements. He explained Prairie Knoll and Strootman Parks will be replaced using the General Fund and Rose Park will be replaced using cell tower funds. In 2023, Hills of Bunker Lake West and Hidden Creek East Parks will get new playground replacements.

Commissioner Stenzel asked why the City built 5 playgrounds in 2006. Mr. Haas replied there was probably a lot of funds available in the Park Dedication Fund and neighborhoods were asking for improvements to their parks. Commissioner Miskowiec stated it was the boom before the bust and there were a lot of new homes being built.

Commissioner Roth said he is not clear on how playground replacements are determined. Parks & Streets Operations Manager Baumunk stated the City has certified playground inspectors on staff and they inspect playgrounds annually and come up with a list of repairs. When playgrounds get old, it is harder to get parts and more repairs are needed. Commissioner Roth stated the playgrounds looked fine to him. He asked if the City has looked at natural playgrounds. Mr. Haas replied natural playgrounds are more expensive than a regular playground structure. He said the neighborhoods always provide input and they want the basic playground. Mr. Haas stated Kelsey Round Lake Park may be a good location for a natural type of playground.

Mr. Haas stated the budget for 2022 and 2023 is \$100,000 for playground replacements. Beyond that year, the budget is increased to \$150,000 to meet the goal of replacing three playgrounds per year.

Commissioner Newton asked if the City is going to go through a drought where there won't be a lot of playgrounds built. Chair Lindahl stated from 2008-2012 there weren't many playgrounds built. Commissioner Miskowiec asked if there would be many playgrounds replaced in 2028-2030. Mr. Haas replied there would be playgrounds, fencing, and many other items that need replacement. Mr. Baumunk stated there are 42 playgrounds in the City and replacing 3 a year will keep the replacement schedule on a 15–20 year cycle.

Commissioner Miskowiec stated in 2027-2029 there should be a gap in playground replacements because there weren't any playgrounds built. Mr. Haas stated there is no gap. Chair Lindahl pointed out there were replacement playgrounds from 1990 – 1995 that were replaced in 2007-2009.

Commissioner Strombeck stated she would like to make a motion to include a playground replacement notice in the City newsletter. Chair Lindahl stated this is a different topic than the current topic. He suggested it be brought up at the end of the meeting. Mr. Haas

recommended adding the notification policy as a future workshop agenda item. He explained putting a notice in the newsletter will slow down the process.

Commissioner Stenzel suggested adding the list of playgrounds, date they were installed, and when they are scheduled for replacement to the Park Commission Book. Mr. Haas recommended updating the Commissioner books with current information.

Motion by Stenzel, seconded by Newton, to recommend approval of the 2022-2026 Park Playground Equipment Replacement Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMEND 2022-2026 PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Park and Recreation Commission is requested to review the 2022-2026 Park Capital Improvement Plan and make a recommendation to the City Council. Assistant Public Works Director Haas presented three scenarios in the Commission packet. He explained Spreadsheet A shows paying off the Andover Community Center (ACC) debt in 2022; Spreadsheet B identifies paying off the ACC debt over 5 years; and Spreadsheet C shows paying off \$500,000 in 2022 if the Commission requests a cap on the contribution to the ACC. Mr. Haas identified the projects in the 5-year capital plan as presented in the staff report. He stated there are no new playground equipment projects identified in the proposed CIP.

Commissioner Strombeck asked if there has ever been playground equipment at Lunds North Park. Mr. Haas replied there never has been equipment there.

Megan Vosco, 16651 Zion Street, came forward and stated she is a lifelong resident of Andover. She is representing her neighborhood and asking for a playground at Lunds North Park. She stated the neighborhood has young kids; the playground would be well used by siblings of baseball players; and the park serves as a gathering place for National Night Out. Ms. Vosco indicated the neighborhood would participate in a community build. She feels a sense of community and a place for kids to play is important.

Commissioner Strombeck stated the park does serve a large portion of large acreage lots and she agrees with Ms. Vosco. Chair Lindahl said they planned for the neighborhood to use the elementary school. Commissioner Strombeck stated the school playground is used by A-Plus and the neighborhood kids can't use it during that time.

Commissioner Strombeck suggested using the funds set aside for paving the parking lot towards playground equipment. Mr. Haas explained the funds for paving the parking lot was already taken out of the Future Park Facilities Chart since the ball field is used only about 2 months during the spring-summer months.

Commissioner Strombeck stated she is advocating for residents outside of the MUSA. She said the kids in the rural areas don't have a place to go. Chair Lindahl replied they are only talking about paving the parking lot.

Commissioner Strombeck asked how much a new playground would be if the labor was a community build. Mr. Haas stated the cost of the playground would be around \$30,000-\$40,000 and a community build would save \$6,000-\$8,000.

Commissioner Stenzel thanked Ms. Vosco for coming in and recommended she get signatures from the neighborhood. He said it will help the Commission prioritize community need.

Chair Lindahl asked Ms. Vosco to include the number and ages of kids in the neighborhood. He stated it helps determine what amenities to bring to the neighborhood for their feedback and decide on a budget.

Commissioner Newton asked to add items to Spreadsheet C to justify why the Commission wants to cap the payment to the Community Center at \$500,000. Chair Lindahl explained the proposal to only pay \$500,000 was not received well. Commissioner Stenzel asked where the Commission's oversight was for the \$500,000 they have already contributed to the Community Center. He stated they should have oversight and are trying to pay for this stuff. Commissioner Stenzel stated he will support Spreadsheet C and keep saying C because they have no oversight for Park Dedication Funds to go towards parks. He said every dollar comes through this Commission except for the Community Center contribution and that is not right. He recommends capping the contribution at \$500,000 and put stuff in there that is park related unless they get them in the building. Commissioner Stenzel stated the Commission cannot build a playground at Lund's North Park because there is \$500,000 stuck in the Community Center that they cannot use.

The Commission added \$50,000 for Lunds North Park playground. Commissioner Newton recommended adding items to Oakview Park. Commissioner Stenzel requested the Parks Miscellaneous be increased to \$50,000. Commissioner Newton suggested completing Pine Hills North Facility. Commissioner Stenzel asked for usage numbers for Pine Hills North Park. He agrees with Commissioner Newton to complete parks.

Commissioner Stenzel asked if the Commission would consider pickleball in Spreadsheet C if half of the money was raised by the pickleball community. Chair Lindahl recommended 35%. Commissioner Stenzel recommended placing \$200,000 in the CIP from the Park Dedication Funds for pickleball and having the pickleball community work on raising additional \$100,000 by 2026 for a total of \$300,000. Mr. Haas stated he can add a line item that shows the pickleball community contribution at \$100,000. Commissioner Strombeck asked what happens if the pickleball community cannot raise \$100,000. Chair Lindahl stated the project will be pushed back until they have the funds.

Motion by Stenzel, seconded by Miskowiec, to recommend CIP Spreadsheet C, adding \$50,000 for Lunds North Park playground in 2023, increase the Park Miscellaneous Fund to \$50,000 and adding \$200,000 (from Park Dedication Funds) for pickleball courts in 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMEND 2022-2026 TRAIL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Park and Recreation Commission is requested to review the 2022-2026 Trail Capital Improvement Plan and make a recommendation to the City Council. Assistant Public Works Director Haas stated projects in the Trail CIP will be delayed due to lack of funds. Mr. Haas reported he added the trail along Coon Creek (between Crosstown Blvd NW and Hanson Blvd NW) as previously requested by the Commission.

Commissioners Miskowiec and Strombeck stated they support the addition of the trail along Coon Creek. Chair Lindahl said the trail should be in the long-range plan. He recommended keeping it on the list and working with the 5 homeowners for the easement needed for the trail.

Commissioner Strombeck asked where the trail would be placed on the timeline. Mr. Haas indicated it is up to the Park Commission on where to place it. Commissioner Stenzel recommended adding the trail to the list without a date.

Motion by Strombeck, seconded by Miskowiec, to add a trail along Coon Creek (between Crosstown Blvd NW and Hanson Blvd NW) as Segment 6. Motion passed unanimously.

OUTSTANDING ITEMS

- 1. Completed Projects:** nothing new to report.
- 2. On-going Projects:** Mr. Haas reviewed the remaining on-going items. Hawkrige and Woodland Meadows Parks playgrounds equipment installs are complete. Mr. Haas stated Prairie Knoll Park parking lot is under construction. Sunshine Park playground equipment replacement will be done later this summer. The playground equipment has been ordered for Wild Iris Park. The Bike/Youth Trail is open and ready for use by the public and signs are in process of being installed.
- 3. On-Hold Projects** – nothing new to report.
- 4. Other Items of Interest** –The Commission will meet at Wild Iris Park at their next meeting, June 17, 2021, and the public is invited.
- 5. Parks Maintenance Update:** Mr. Baumunk reviewed the weekly park maintenance report.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Haas asked for items for the joint meeting with the City Council and suggested adding the request for information from the Andover Community Center, park user fees from Athletic Associations, and programming activities in parks. The Commission suggested adding movies in the park and food trucks with music. Chair Lindahl suggested having park information and surveys at these events. The Park Commission will have a table at Fun Fest and a Commissioner will be present.

The Commission discussed items to put on a survey. Commissioner Stenzel said he would

like to see a question about what type of programming residents would like to see in the parks. The Commission will bring forward questions at the next meeting.

Mr. Haas stated he will place the playground replacement policy on a future workshop agenda. He stressed the importance of hearing from the neighborhood. Mr. Haas explained the process for completing a neighborhood survey. The Commission discussed different ways of contacting the neighborhoods to gather input on new playgrounds.

Commissioner Newton saw that there was graffiti at Kelsey Round Lake Park. Mr. Baumunk stated it was taken care of.

Commissioner Widmyer asked to see an example of a playground inspection report at a work session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Miskowiec, seconded by Stenzel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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