

***PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2, 2021  
MINUTES***

The Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Andover Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Lindahl on September 2, 2021, 7:00 p.m., at the Andover City Hall, 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover, Minnesota.

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Also Present: Assistant Public Works Director, Todd Haas  
Josh Metzger, Lennar (Virtual)

***RESIDENT FORUM***

No one appeared before the Commission.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

August 12, 2021 Regular Meeting

***Motion*** by Stenzel, seconded by Strombeck, to approve the August 12, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

August 12, 2021 Workshop Meeting

***Motion*** by Stenzel, seconded by Widmyer, to approve the August 12, 2021 Workshop Meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

***APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA***

***Motion*** by Stenzel, seconded by Newton, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

***CONSIDER THE FIELDS AT WINSLOW COVE PARK DEDICATION REQUIREMENTS***

The Park and Recreation Commission is requested to review a preliminary plat and provide direction on the park dedication requirements for the Fields of Winslow Cove. Assistant Public Works Director Haas identified the location of the development and stated 383 units are proposed. Mr. Haas explained City Council wanted a park on each side of Prairie Road. Mr. Haas pointed out the proposed parks and trails within the development. He stated the developer will only get credit on upland that is available for the park locations.

Commissioner Miskowiec asked if they needed the small park on the west side of Prairie Road. Mr. Haas stated the Council provided direction to have a park on each side of Prairie Road.

Josh Metzger, Lennar Homes, came forward and stated the sketch plan did not show any parks, however, the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council preferred a park on each side of Prairie Road. He explained the railroad underpass is unlikely to happen which led to the decision to include parks in the proposed development.

Chair Lindahl explained the Commission previously recommended cash in lieu of land due to instructions per the park dedication study that they should not be adding more tot lots to the park system.

Commissioner Miskowiec understands the park on the east side of Prairie Road but feels the park on the west side is duplicating services.

Commissioner Strombeck would like to see a comprehensive park plan the Commission can refer to. She likes the park on the east side but is not sure what she wants to do with it yet. She said it would be nice to get a larger parcel on the east side of Prairie Road. She is concerned about the overabundance of small parks.

Commissioner Newton would like to see the amenities they can have in the park. She wonders what could fit in the mini park on the west side.

Chair Lindahl said a park would be beneficial for the area, but the City has a lot of mini parks.

Commissioner Roth agreed with Chair Lindahl and likes both parks, but is concerned about the stress on Parks Maintenance.

Commissioner Strombeck is not advocating for a community park in this neighborhood but would like a neighborhood park on the east side. She is not convinced of the mini park due the number of mini parks in Andover and additional maintenance costs.

Chair Lindahl noted that Prairie Knoll Park is three to four blocks from the development.

Commissioner Miskowiec asked if the eastern park would qualify as a neighborhood park. Mr. Haas said probably not because there is not enough space for a ball field. Commissioner Miskowiec stated the park does not meet the City's needs. Commissioner Newton stated that is the reason why the Commission decided cash in lieu of land.

Commissioner Stenzel stated he does not like the trail running behind the houses and it doesn't make sense. He does not like the small park that is already so close to Prairie Knoll Park. He agrees not crossing Prairie Road to get to Prairie Knoll Park. He is concerned about the roundabout and the trails. He is leery about the safety of crossing at the roundabout. Commissioner Stenzel explained the east side is taken care of by the trail connecting the neighborhood to Prairie Knoll Park. He said he is not interested in taking wetland as City property. He thinks it is a waste. Commissioner Stenzel is open to the park on the east side and is a firm no on the park on the west side. He would rather put the money on a good trail.

Chair Lindahl stated that a park on the west side of Prairie Road is a terrible decision. He agreed that a park is needed on the east side and doesn't see the wetland area included in the park as a benefit to the park.

Mr. Haas stated the Park and Recreation Commission can change the lot line configuration of the eastern park and include the wetland with Lot #2 (which would be west of the proposed park). Commissioners Stenzel and Strombeck approved of that suggestion.

Commissioner Stenzel asked if the trail along Prairie Road goes in when the development is constructed. Mr. Haas said the trail will be graded but not paved until later. Commissioner Stenzel stated it would make sense to pave it at the same time the roads are being paved. Mr. Haas said the Commission can make that recommendation to the City Council.

Mr. Metzger asked for clarification on what trail Commissioner Stenzel was referring to. Commissioner Stenzel was referring to the trail on the west side of Prairie Road. Mr. Metzger stated the trail will be a City improvement and it is his understanding that the trail will be installed when Prairie Road roadway improvements are scheduled.

Commissioner Miskowiec asked why there is a trail going through people's back yard. Mr. Metzger stated the trail has always been proposed and is planned to go around the proposed stormwater pond.

Commissioner Stenzel stated there is no need for a trail if there is no park to connect it to. He noted it would be more to maintain and goes nowhere.

Chair Lindahl summarized the Commission's discussion that they do not support the west park, west trail, and taking the wetland as park property.

Mr. Haas said the developer will get credit for the park land but will still need to pay Park Dedication fees for the remainder. He explained there is a formula the City uses to determine Park Dedication fees that will be due.

**Motion** by Lindahl, seconded by Widmyer, to recommend accepting the park on the east side of Prairie Road without the wetland and deny accepting the park on the east side of Prairie Road along with the trail. Motion passed unanimously.

***OUTSTANDING ITEMS***

1. **Completed Projects:** Hawkridge Park shelter has been installed.
2. **On-going Projects:** Mr. Haas reviewed the remaining on-going items. Wild Iris Park equipment has been delivered and will be installed by the City in September. Staff are working on notifying the neighborhood for Rose Park and Prairie Knoll Park playground improvements.
3. **On-Hold Projects** – none at this time
4. **Other Items of Interest** – nothing new to report.
5. **Parks Maintenance Update:** Movie in the Park was cancelled due to rain and can be rescheduled to September if the Commission desires. The Commission reached consensus to reschedule the Movie in the Park to Saturday, September 18.

***CHAIR'S REPORT***

Commissioner Strombeck stated she attended the Council workshop, and they supported an additional Movie in the Park, did not support music in the parks, and supported a lit Christmas Tree. Commissioner Strombeck would like to see a bonfire and hot chocolate at the Christmas Tree Lighting. She recommended adding an amphitheater to future facilities for music in the parks.

Commissioner Miskowiec recalled the Master Plan for the City Hall complex included an amphitheater. Mr. Haas said there will be green space where it could possibly be located.

Commissioner Newton commented the overlay on the trail on Nightingale Street and on Crosstown Boulevard and Hanson Boulevard was needed and looks nice.

***ADJOURNMENT***

**Motion** by Widmyer, seconded by Miskowiec, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shari Kunza, Recording Secretary  
*TimeSaver OffSite Secretarial, Inc.*