

***PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – OCTOBER 7, 2021  
MINUTES***

The Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Andover Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Lindahl on October 7, 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, Scott Roth, Tracy Strombeck and Shane Stenzel

Commissioners Absent: None.

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

***RESIDENT FORUM***

No one appeared before the Commission.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

September 2, 2021 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Strombeck noted on page two, paragraph six, it should state, “...~~leery~~ expressed a concern...”

***Motion*** by Widmyer, seconded by Miskowiec, to approve the September 2, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

***APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA***

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

***UPDATE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY/ROSE PARK/22-12***

The Park and Recreation Commission is requested to review the survey results regarding possible improvements to Rose Park and direct staff on how to proceed. Assistant Public Works Director Haas stated 260 surveys were sent out and 53 responses were received. He provided a summary of the survey results.

Parks and Streets Operation Manager Baumunk displayed photos of the existing playground and some of the preferences noted from the survey results. He explained that they will review whether or not the library would remain and also discussed the trails.

Chair Lindahl commented that perhaps additional trail markings would help to notify the general public that it is a trail connection to the park.

Assistant Public Works Director Haas stated that there was a comment related to parking, noting that when the parking lot is full, parking occurs on both sides of the street. He noted that he advised the resident they should submit a petition requesting that parking only occur on one side of the street. He noted that there would be room for another parking lot on the north end and stated that if trails are going to be put in, it would make sense to do the parking and trails at the same time.

Commissioner Miskowiec believed that there had been previous discussion about that and noted that there was concern over foul balls onto the trail and parking.

Chair Lindahl referenced the paved path, which was noted as a driveway for the water tower. He stated that perhaps parking for ten vehicles is added adjacent to that area.

Commissioner Strombeck asked if there are any laws related to proximity between parking and a water tower. It was confirmed there are not such regulations.

Chair Lindahl stated that perhaps 20 feet of width be added to that paved area in order to support parking for ten vehicles. He stated that perhaps that is added to the long-term vision for the park.

Assistant Public Works Director Haas provided an update on the available funding from the Verizon Tower revenue.

Chair Lindahl stated that there were some requests for equipment for older children, noting that perhaps those would be ninja type course items.

Parks and Streets Operation Manager Baumunk stated that he has focused on the equipment for ages two through 12 and it not familiar with equipment for older children.

Commissioner Miskowiec stated that there are comments about a zipline and asked for clarification.

Parks and Streets Operation Manager Baumunk stated that the only feasible option would be for the type that is within the playground itself.

Commissioner Newton asked if there is liability to a merry go round type piece of equipment.

Chair Lindahl noted the request for a grill but believed there is one available at the park.

Parks and Streets Operation Manager Baumunk confirmed there currently is not a grill near the new shelter.

Chair Lindal suggested that planning begin for additional parking on the north end with trail planning, placing those items on the five-year capital improvement plan. He noted that the trail should remain around the perimeter in order to maintain the greenspace.

Commissioner Strombeck stated that a resident reached out to her about parking concerns as well. She commented that a parking lot would provide benefit and asked if the cost should be reviewed.

Commissioner Miskowiec agreed that the park would benefit from a parking lot and believed that should be placed on the future facilities needs list.

Commissioner Widmyer commented that he would agree to focus on a larger playground at this time as that provides benefit to the residents that live in that area. He stated that he would not be against a parking lot and trail but believed that could come at a later time.

Commissioner Stenzel commented that this is the most input they have received from residents and parking was not a priority. He believed the focus should remain on the desires of the residents that live in that area.

Commissioner Roth stated that there is a park in Coon Rapids that has a zipline that is a desired feature. He noted that his children always loved the zipline features. He asked if there is a rink at this location. It was noted that there is not a rink at this location. He referenced the rinks that are up all year and asked if those could be multi-purpose, using the area for basketball or pickleball in the summer months.

Commissioner Newton stated that she would like to look into rock climbing and ziplining activities.

Chair Lindahl agreed that would be geared towards older children, which was a desire from the survey as well.

Commissioner Strombeck asked how fields are assigned.

Assistant Public Works Director Haas explained how fields are reserved and then allocated by the athletic associations.

Parks and Street Operations Manager Baumunk commented that the road is curved near the park which makes on street parking seem to be a worse issue than it may be.

Chair Lindahl asked if temporary parking could be marked to use as overflow on specific nights when more parking is anticipated. He stated that would alleviate the on-street parking issue on those nights and would avoid having to pave additional space at this time.

Commissioner Strombeck agreed that seems to be a great solution.

Commissioner Stenzel agreed that the Commission could work with the association, which is the biggest user of the park/fields, to determine when overflow parking would be helpful.

Assistant Public Works Director Haas stated that staff will begin to work with the neighbors on desired playground equipment.

Chair Lindahl stated that he would also like staff to do some research on what equipment is popular with children 13 to 18.

#### ***UPDATE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY/PRAIRIE KNOLL PARK/22-13***

The Park and Recreation Commission is requested to review the survey results regarding possible improvements to Prairie Knoll Park and direct staff on how to proceed. Assistant Public Works Director Haas stated 60 surveys were sent out and 21 responses were received. He reviewed some of the comments received from the survey.

Commissioner Stenzel asked the biggest user of the park. It was confirmed to be football and lacrosse. He stated that this park gets the most use from younger siblings while their older sibling is playing sports.

Chair Lindahl asked and received confirmation that the north parking lot was finished with lighting. It was noted that additional lighting was added near the playground and walking trail.

Commissioner Newton asked if there is a dog waste station at the park.

Assistant Public Works Director Haas stated that the bag station often does not provide the desired result. He noted that signs have been installed stating that people must clean up after their dogs.

Commissioner Roth agreed that the area is well signed. He stated that the people that are not cleaning up, additional signage or other elements would most likely not help the situation.

Chair Lindahl referenced the comments related to the sledding hill.

Parks and Streets Operations Manager Baumunk replied that he is unsure the hill could be made bigger because of the guidelines that must be followed.

Chair Lindahl referenced commented related to a desire for shade and asked if additional tree planting would be helpful.

Parks and Street Operations Manager Baumunk noted that there is not much space for trees in that area.

Assistant Public Works Director Haas noted that if the desire is to add shading near the playground, there are shade sails available that would be installed in the spring and removed in the fall.

Commissioner Strombeck asked for cost details on interactive features within the park, such as the feature installed at Hawk Ridge.

Parks and Streets Operations Manager Baumunk stated that he could investigate the cost.

Commissioner Strombeck noted that the interactive features would cater to a large age group.

Chair Lindahl asked if there were neighbors willing to participate in the equipment selection for the park.

Parks and Streets Operations Manager Baumunk confirmed that there are seven residents interested in participating.

Chair Lindahl suggested that the equipment be targeted for children two to 12.

### ***OUTSTANDING ITEMS***

1. **Completed Projects:** Mr. Baumunk provided an update on a recently completed project.
2. **On-Going Projects:** Mr. Baumunk provided an update on ongoing projects.
3. **Quarterly Report:** Scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> agenda.
4. **On-Hold Projects:** none at this time
5. **Other Items of Interest:** no comments
6. **Parks Maintenance Update:** Mr. Baumunk reviewed the weekly park maintenance report as presented in the staff report.

### ***CHAIR'S REPORT***

Commissioner Stenzel congratulated Mr. Haas on his upcoming retirement.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

***Motion*** by Miskowiec, seconded by Strombeck, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Staple, Recording Secretary

*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*