



City of Blaine

Park Advisory Board

April 25, 2023 | 7:00 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Blaine Park Advisory Board met in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, April 25, 2023. Chair Lester called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Boardmembers Ford, Keraka, Lizakowski, Paulseth, Neubert, and Chair Lester.

Members Absent: Boardmember VanBuren.

Staff Present: Jerome Krieger, Senior Parks and Recreation Manager and City Clerk Cathy Sorensen.

Guest: None.

2. Approval of Minutes

- 2.1.** 2023-151 Approval of the February 28, 2023 Park Board meeting minutes.
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Motion by Boardmember Ford to approve the minutes of February 28, 2023 as amended. Motion seconded by Boardmember Keraka. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Chair Lester opened the Open Forum at 7:02PM.

No one appeared to address the Board.

Chair Lester closed Open Forum at 7:02PM.

4. New Business

- 4.1.** 2023-152 Oaths of Office to: Amanda Neubert, Hellen Keraka
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

City Clerk Sorensen administered the oath of office to Amanda Neubert and Hellen Keraka. Chair Lester welcomed Amanda Neubert to the Park Advisory Board. A round of applause was offered by all in attendance.

4.2. 2023-153 Aquatore Bandshell Bid Results

Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Senior Parks and Recreation Manager Krieger provided the board with a history on the Aquatore bandshell which has been a project the city was working on in conjunction with the Blaine Festival Committee. He reported the project has been in the works for the past two years and was ready to be bid in April. It was noted the bandshell would include a stage, flex space, restrooms and storage. Staff reviewed the floor plan for the bandshell in further detail with the board. He stated the bid opening for the Aquatore bandshell was on Tuesday, April 18 at 10 am. The city received five bids with a base bid and an alternate bid to build two garages below the structure instead of one. Bids for both the base bid and the alternate bid ranged from \$3,529,000 to \$4,377,000.

Mr. Krieger stated funding sources for the project would be a combination of donations from the Festival Committee, park dedication fees and tax levy money. The total approved project budget for the bandshell and associated improvements was \$3,775,000. The base bid plus 5% contingency, the consulting fees and the other charges (cameras, AV equipment lights, testing and canopy wiring) totals \$3,775,950. The price for the alternate bid was \$232,000.

Mr. Krieger reported the lowest bidder was BCI Construction Inc. from Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. The City of Blaine has not worked with BCI Construction in the past and have visited some of their projects in the area, such as Coon Rapids and Anoka High School additions. Staff was checking on references for other projects the contractor has completed. It was noted the Blaine Festival Committee has given a verbal commitment of donating \$1,000,000 towards the project and would like to see both the base bid and the alternate bid be recommended. Staff would also be looking at adding a 10% contingency to the project to cover any unforeseen issues with the project.

Boardmember Paulseth asked how big the garage would be if the alternate bid were to move forward. Mr. Krieger explained the basement would only be under the entire bandshell structure if the alternate would be approved.

Boardmember Paulseth questioned how much a garage of that size would cost if built as a stand alone structure. Steve Kanoff, Blaine Festival Committee member, estimated this would cost the city six times more than if the storage were built under the bandshell. Mr. Krieger explained the majority of the project costs for this project was for the concrete and steel beams.

Boardmember Keraka inquired if the city had designated picnic tables for the bandshell. Mr. Krieger stated the city had picnic tables stacked at the storage area at public works. He noted these picnic tables can be brought to certain parks if they are requested for a special event.

Boardmember Llzakowski questioned if the bonus room would be rented out for events.

Mr. Krieger reported this space could be rented out for meeting or event space.

Boardmember Keraka left the meeting at 7:30PM.

Chair Lester thanked Mr. Kanoff for his contributions to this project. He asked for further information regarding the picnic tables at this park. Mr. Krieger reported the city did not leave excess picnic tables out on the grass in this park because it needed to be mowed. He reported all extra picnic tables for this park were stored at public works. He indicated the new storage space under the bandshell would provide a space for picnic tables to be stored.

Chair Lester questioned if the storage space, with the alternate bid would be large enough. Mr. Krieger discussed how the storage space would greatly improve the maintenance and storage needs at Aquatore Park.

Chair Lester inquired if the City saw a need for the additional storage. Mr. Krieger reported he was working to keep the project close to budget. However, he did understand the benefit of installing the additional storage space now. He stated, at a minimum, he needed a recommendation for the base bid with the contingency for the council.

Boardmember Neubert questioned if additional fundraising or other resources could be pursued to assist with covering the project costs. Mr. Krieger the city could reach out to different charitable gambling organizations to see if additional funds were available to assist with this project.

Further discussion ensued regarding how the storage space would be shared between the Blaine Festival and the city of Blaine.

Boardmember Ford stated he supported the project moving forward with the alternate bid including the second garage. He appreciated the fact the bids came in so close to what staff had budgeted for this project.

Motion by Boardmember Ford to recommend the bid of \$4,007,950, which includes the alternate bid from BCI Construction, plus a 5% contingency for the Aquatore Bandshell to the city council. Motion seconded by Boardmember Paulseth.

Chair Lester commented on the liability issue that would be in place because this would be a shared space with the Blaine Festival Committee. He encouraged staff to consider how this should be managed. He agreed that now was the time to build an adequate amount of storage, noting the city would spend more later if another garage had to be added. He questioned how the 2023 budget would be impacted by the \$240,000 overage. Mr. Krieger discussed how the overage would be covered, noting there were several projects from 2023 that would get pushed to 2024.

Chair Lester asked if this project would begin in 2023, if approved by the city council. Mr. Krieger reported this was his hope. He noted the contractor would have just over one year to complete the project, and could not work on the project during the Blaine Festival. He commented further on how payments would be made to the contractor over the next two years.

Chair Lester inquired if the flex space would be used year round. Mr. Krieger stated he did believe this space would be used year round.

Motion approved unanimously.

4.3. 2023-157 Playground Equipment for 2024

Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Mr. Krieger stated staff was informed by Flagship Recreation of a cost savings on a piece of playground equipment for 2024. Flagship Recreation, along with Landscape Structures incorporated, is manufacturing a new piece of equipment called Kiwanis A.2 for a show in June. It is a new line of equipment that Landscape Structures is rolling out this year. The retail cost of the equipment is around \$35,000 and they would be willing to sell it to us for \$25,000 or less. Currently, we have four playgrounds up for reconstruction next year. They are Colony Preserve, Suzanne, West Lake and Lakeside Park. Staff suggested this piece of equipment be installed in Colony Preserve. Staff noted this would be an opportunity to commit to the piece of equipment and have it held for the city until it can be purchased with funds from the 2024 Parks and Trails budget.

Boardmember Paulseth asked if a concrete curb would be added at this park. Mr. Krieger reported this would be added. He noted the swing set at Colony Preserve would remain at the park and the new piece of equipment could be painted to match the swing set.

Chair Lester questioned if the footprint of the new piece of equipment was smaller or larger than the current play structure at Colony Preserve. Mr. Krieger explained the footprint was quite similar.

Chair Lester noted the budget for Colony Preserve was \$50,000. He asked if this amount would have to cover the cost for the equipment and the curbing. Mr. Krieger stated this was the budget for both expenditures and new fiber. He noted Palmer Park was recently redone for \$49,000, which included a play structure, new fiber and curbing.

Boardmember Ford questioned if the new piece of equipment was for older children. Mr. Krieger commented on how younger children tend to try new things even when pieces are geared toward certain age groups.

Chair Lester stated he wished this piece had more given the price. Mr. Krieger explained he did not like to spend a lot of money on decks and walking apparatuses within the play structures. He stated he has grown to appreciate pieces of play equipment that allow children to use their imagination to get from point A to point B. He noted the Kiwanis piece of equipment offered a great play factor.

Boardmember Neubert stated she believed her kids would love playing on this piece of equipment. She indicated her only concern was with the two poles that were used as a slide. Mr. Krieger indicated he could speak to Flagship Recreation to see if the pole slide could be removed and a regular slide could be added.

Boardmember Lizakowski explained this piece was an obvious upgrade from what was in Colony Preserve at this time.

Boardmember Paulseth requested staff keep the budget below \$50,000 for this park. Mr. Krieger stated this would be his objective.

Motion by Boardmember Lizakowski to recommend to the city manager holding the Kiwanis A.2, for purchase with funds from the 2024 Parks and Trails budget. Motion seconded by Boardmember Neubert.

Motion approved unanimously.

4.4. 2023-158 Park Updates

Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Mr. Krieger provided the Board updates on the following:

- Playground replacements have started at Sunnyside and Xylite Parks.
- High school baseball has started playing games on city fields. Lacrosse will be starting next week.
- Adult Softball leagues will start games the week of May 1.
- Completion of the Centennial Green and Territorial Park courts will take place once the temperature warms up. The contractor needs to wash the courts and then paint them.
- Our May and June Intro to Pickleball sessions are full at 24 participants in each class. It was noted the July sessions were beginning to fill up.
- There were a number of great offerings at the Mary Ann Young Center for seniors over the next five months with outings, classes, fitness and special events.
- The community garden is starting to take shape and the gardeners can start planting May 15.
- The Summer Performance Series begins on June 13 at Tom Ryan Park.
- The park tour would be conducted in May.

5. Adjournment

Boardmember Lizakowski motioned to adjourn. Boardmember Ford seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Chair Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther

Minute Maker Secretarial