



City of Blaine

Park Advisory Board

June 27, 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, June 27, 2023.

Chair Lester called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

2. Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Boardmember Lizakowski.

Staff Present: Jerome Krieger, Senior Parks and Recreation Manager.

Guest: None.

3. Approval of Minutes

- 3.1. 2023-276 Approval of the April 25, 2023 Park Board meeting minutes
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Boardmember Paulseth requested the blanks for Steve's last name be filled in.

Motion by Boardmember Ford to approve the minutes of April 25, 2023 as amended. Motion seconded by Boardmember Paulseth. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Chair Lester opened the Open Forum at 7:04PM.

No one appeared to address the Board.

Chair Lester closed Open Forum at 7:04PM.

5. New Business

5.1. 2023-277 Honor Past Park Board Member Tom Walsdorf *Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager*

Senior Parks and Recreation Manager Krieger recognized past Park Board Member Tom Walsdorf and thanked him for his contributions to the community over the past eight years while he served on the Park Board. He presented Board Member Walsdorf with a plaque from the city. A round of applause was offered by all in attendance.

Tom Walsdorf thanked the city of Blaine and the Park Board for their tremendous support over the years. He explained he was originally from Duluth where he served on the Park Board and retired to Blaine, where he again served on the Park Board. He stated he appreciated his time on the board and the great work being done by the city in its parks.

5.2. 2023-278 2024 - 2028 Parks and Trails Budget Discussion *Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager*

Mr. Krieger reviewed the Parks and Trails budget for 2024 through 2028 and requested the board discuss and make recommendations regarding project years and funding amounts. It was noted the preliminary budget would be going to the council for review and consideration in September. He commented on how he was working to find a sponsor for Deacon Park in order to make this an all inclusive park. He believed this would be a prime location for this type of park. He recommended this project be moved out several years in order to allow staff to continue to pursue additional funding.

Mr. Krieger noted Oak Creek would be completed this fall and Suzanne Park would be bypassed until 2028 because this was not a heavily used park. He indicated Lakeside Park would be addressed in 2024. He stated West Lake Park within the Lakes Development would be updated in 2024. He asked for comments or suggestions on these parks.

Boardmember Ford indicated there was not a whole lot of equipment being installed at Oak Creek Park. Mr. Krieger reported this was the case, noting there was another neighborhood park quite close that had a number of slides.

Boardmember Neubert asked if the diggers at Colony Preserve Park would remain in place. Mr. Krieger stated if these were outside the fall zone, they would remain in place.

Chair Lester supported the Deacon Park project being pushed out in order to pursue additional funding. He asked that staff provide the Board with an aerial of Suzanne Park. Mr. Krieger provided an aerial of Suzanne Park and noted the location of this park.

Boardmember Neubert stated she recently visited this park and she believed the equipment was in fine condition.

Boardmember Ford indicated he supported the city replacing Suzanne Park in order to provide the proper upkeep of this park. He supported staff considering options for this park in 2024.

Boardmember Paulseth supported Deacon Park being pushed out to 2028.

Boardmember VanBuren questioned how much Deacon Park would cost to make it an all inclusive park. Mr. Krieger estimated this would cost at least \$800,000 or more depending on the type of partnership the city could get in place. He commented further on the soil corrections that were needed for this park.

Boardmember Keraka inquired if the city was focusing more on quantity and not quality for the city's parks. Mr. Krieger commented on the acreage the city had available for parks and how the city has chosen amenities for parks over the years. He believed the city had a lot of opportunities to do different things going forward.

Chair Lester supported plans being made for Suzanne Park in order to assist with drawing people to the park. He did not support the city replacing the play structure just for the sake of replacing the play structure.

Boardmember Keraka suggested the city interact with the neighbors to see what they would like to see in Suzanne Park. Mr. Krieger stated the city used to hold neighborhood meetings and he found that too many ideas were brought up and no one left the meeting happy. He discussed how the city worked to provide variety throughout its parks.

Boardmember Neubert stated another option for Suzanne Park would be to remove the playground structure and replace it with a pickleball court. Mr. Krieger commented the only concern with pickleball was with the sound coming from the court. He noted this court would be quite close to several houses and this could be a concern. He stated another option for Suzanne Park would be to create a passive park.

Boardmember Ford and Boardmember Keraka supported this recommendation.

Mr. Krieger commented on the plans for Trees Edge Park. He noted this park had a bigger oval with concrete already. The plans for Sanctuary North Park were discussed. He then reviewed the plans for Ivy Hills, Austin and East Lake Parks. He encouraged the boardmembers to visit the parks slated for improvements in order to better understand these parks and their amenities.

Chair Lester requested staff provide the boardmembers with information on what \$100,000 and \$125,000 will buy in park equipment. Mr. Krieger stated he could reach out to Flagship in order to provide the board with options for these price points.

Mr. Krieger indicated South Lake Park was scheduled for replacement in 2026. It was noted this park already had concrete. The plans for Happy Acres, Legacy Creek, Aurelia, Filmore, Osman, Olympia, Jefferson, East Side and Little League Parks were reviewed. He then commented on the plans for the beach noting this area was heavily used by kids all year long.

Boardmember Neubert supported Suzanne Park being replaced prior to South Lake Park.

Chair Lester thanked staff for the detailed information on the park plans along with the pricing estimates. He supported the board discussing the future plans for Suzanne Park in further detail at a future meeting. He requested staff speak to other communities to learn more about what could be included in a passive park and to put a dollar figure to the passive park improvements.

Boardmember Keraka questioned if the city had any passive parks in the community. Mr. Krieger stated he did not believe there were any passive parks in the city.

5.3. 2023-280 Park Updates
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Mr. Krieger provided the Board with an update on the following matters:

- The Aquatore Bandshell pre-construction meeting was held on June 22. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony in July.
- The summer programs are in full swing and residents are out utilizing the parks.
- The new courts at Territorial and Centennial Green Parks are complete and being used for tennis and pickleball.
- The Summer Performance Series has started and we have performances on most Tuesdays and Thursdays through the middle of August.
- The Mary Ann Young Center is hosting their Independence Week of Fun (June 26 through July 3). There is bingo and various tournaments for cribbage and 500. The ukulele group will be performing on Monday, July 3.
- The gates had been installed at Lakeside Commons Park and the city was just waiting for the electrical work to be completed. He noted the gates would open at 5AM and would close at 9PM.
- The playground equipment for the new park, "Sunrise Pond Park" will be here in July. The hope is to have it installed in August.

6. Adjournment

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

Chair Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:33PM.