



City of Blaine

Park Advisory Board

July 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, July 25, 2023. Chair Lester called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

2. Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Boardmember Keraka.

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

Guest: None.

3. Approval of Minutes

- 3.1.** 2023-325 Approval of the June 27, 2023 Park Board meeting minutes.
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Boardmember Neubert requested the following corrections:

Page 3, in the third to last paragraph she noted she was asking about Colony Preserve Park.

Motion by Boardmember Ford to approve the minutes of June 27, 2023 as amended. Motion seconded by Boardmember Neubert. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Chair Lester opened the Open Forum at 7:03PM.

No one appeared to address the Board.

Chair Lester closed Open Forum at 7:03PM.

5. New Business

5.1. 2023-326 2024 - 2028 Parks CIP Budget Discussion

Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Senior Parks and Recreation Manager Krieger presented the Parks CIP budget for years 2024 through 2028 and requested feedback regarding adjustments to project years and funding amounts. He provided the board with an update on the work that was occurring at Sunrise Pond Park. He anticipated this park would be open to the public mid to late September. The improvements planned for the Blaine Baseball Complex were discussed.

Chair Lester questioned how much the baseball association contributed to the city of Blaine. Mr. Krieger explained these fields were owned by the city and all of the local baseball associations. He reported the associations have repaid to rebuild the mounds, batting boxes and other amenities. He stated he did not have an exact dollar figure, but noted the associations were heavily involved in maintaining the fields.

Chair Lester stated it was great to see such great collaboration between all of the organizations and the city within this baseball complex. He supported the city trying to pursue state baseball tournaments. Mr. Krieger indicated he does work with the state league in order to pursue these types of events.

Chair Lester questioned if the airport parks would be impacted with the new development. Mr. Krieger stated he would be addressing this later in his presentation.

Boardmember Ford inquired how many baseball complexes the city maintained. Mr. Krieger reported the city had three baseball complexes. This included the Jim Peterson, Lexington and Blaine Baseball Complexes. He stated the city had a large number of other neighborhood parks that hosted little league baseball play throughout the summer months.

Mr. Krieger described the plans the city had to add two new hockey rinks to Jim Peterson Park. He commented on how the Spring Lake Hockey Association was in need of additional outdoor rinks within their school district and were willing to help fund this initiative. He reviewed the lighting and poles that would be needed for the rinks/ballfields. It was his hope to have poles installed before winter and the boards from the Lexington Athletic Complex would be moved to this park. He indicated the parking lot expansion would be pushed out to 2024 or 2025.

Chair Lester recommended the parking lot be lit given the increasing number of visitors that would be using Jim Peterson Park in the winter months. Mr. Krieger stated the parking lot could be lit.

Mr. Krieger indicated the wheel park has been pushed out to 2027.

Boardmember Ford questioned if Class 5 could be used in parking lots instead of asphalt. Mr. Krieger indicated this could be considered, but noted this would require more maintenance than asphalt.

Mr. Krieger discussed the additional hockey rink that was being planned for the Lexington Athletic Complex. He commented on how popular this rink was in the community. He stated the city was looking to remove the one larger rink in order to have two smaller rinks at the Lexington Athletic Complex. He indicated staff was considering the removal of the medians in order to create more parking spaces in the summer and for ease of use of the rinks in the winter months. He explained in 2027 the city had \$75,000 set aside for a new park west of Lexington Avenue and north of Main Street. He stated this was a placeholder within the budget at this time. He explained he was about \$250,000 over budget for 2025, so adjustments would have to be made to the CIP for that calendar year. He indicated he would make adjustments and forward this document to the Board for review and recommendations.

5.2. 2023-327 Park Updates

Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

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

- Staff held a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, July 13 for the bandshell at Aquatore Park.
- Demolition of the old restroom building and construction of the bandshell is starting soon.
- Staff held its annual Family Fun night on Tuesday, July 11. There were about 600 attendees at the event.
- The Mary Ann Young Center is hosting their annual Pork Chop dinner on Thursday, July 27.
- The playground equipment for the new Sunrise Pond Park is currently in place. Contractors are finishing concrete work, the poured in play surfacing, wood fiber, a parking lot and green space with irrigation. The staff is looking at opening up the park later this fall.
- The gates at the beach are in, but we are still waiting for the motor to arrive.
- The NRCB would like to hold a joint meeting with the Park Board on Tuesday, August 15.
- Staff was working on the fall brochure and it would be sent out mid to late August.

6. Adjournment

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

Chair Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:05PM.