



City of Blaine

Park Advisory Board

October 24, 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, October 24, 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. 2023-513 Approval of the September 26, 2023 Park Board meeting minutes.
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Motion by Boardmember Ford to approve the minutes of September 26, 2023 as presented. Motion seconded by Boardmember Paulseth. Motion approved unanimously.

4. 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.

5. New Business

5.1. 2023-514 2024 Playground Replacements for Lakeside and West Lake Park
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Senior Recreation Manager Krieger presented renderings and costs of the landscape structure equipment with Flagship Recreation's installation for Lakeside and West Lake Park. Staff reviewed the options for each park and requested the Board make a recommendation on which concept should move forward.

Boardmember VanBuren stated she supported Option 1 for Lakeside Park.

Boardmember Neubert explained her children enjoyed the tunnel slides within the city's parks. She indicated she was leaning towards Option 1 for Lakeside Park, noting she appreciated the accessible and sensory amenities that were included.

Boardmember Keraka stated she supported Option 1 as well, due to the sensory elements. She asked if the shade feature from Option 2 could be incorporated into Option 1. Mr. Krieger explained this park had a shelter near the playground structure and there were trees along the trail to provide shade.

Boardmember Keraka requested staff provide the Board with information on surrounding park amenities in the future.

Boardmember Paulseth indicated he liked the height of the play structure for Option 2 and anticipated the children playing on this structure would be able to view the lake. However, he noted he supported Option 1 moving forward because there were more diverse amenities to play on.

Motion by Boardmember Ford to recommend Option 1 move forward for Lakeside Park. Motion seconded by Boardmember Keraka. Motion approved unanimously.

Mr. Krieger reviewed the two park plan options for West Lake Park.

Boardmember Ford expressed concern with how close this playground structure was to the water. He stated he was concerned for the safety of the children playing at this park. Mr. Krieger indicated he could check to see if signs were posted near the lake.

Boardmember Keraka asked if the lake had a steep drop off near the park. Mr. Krieger indicated the lake was pretty shallow. He noted this was a manmade lake and the deepest part was 18 feet. He reported there were plants along the shoreline which assisted in serving as a barrier between the park and the lake.

Boardmember Neubert explained she supported Option 1 for West Lake Park, noting she appreciated the zip line and the new climbing structure. In addition, she believed the 2 to 5 year old playground structure was better within Option 1.

Boardmember VanBuren stated she supported Option 1. She requested an accessible swing

be substituted or included in Option 1. Mr. Krieger stated this could be done.

Boardmember Keraka stated she understood zip lines were very popular, but she supported Option 2 for this park. She liked the climbing web, the stand up merry go round and the inclusive swing. She also appreciated the open space for creative play.

Boardmember Lester indicated he appreciated longevity and low maintenance parks. He asked which option would last longer. Mr. Krieger commented on the longevity of the Lexington Athletic Complex noting that zip line was used all day long. He discussed the maintenance his staff does within the parks noting ropes may need to be tightened and seats may need to be replaced.

Boardmember Lester recommended if Option 1 were to move forward, that an accessible swing be added to the plans.

Boardmember Paulseth indicated the style of the zip line in Option 1 was different and may not be as exciting as the zip lines at other parks. He stated the design of the main structure within Option 1 was not that impressive, however he did like the design for the 2 to 5 age structure. He explained between Option 1 and Option 2, he would support Option 1 going forward.

Boardmember Ford agreed with Boardmember Paulseth stating he supported the city mixing up the park amenities throughout the community. He asked which park design staff believed would be a new option for Blaine residents. Mr. Krieger stated the city does not have many tire swings. He indicated he liked the swing set on Option 2 along with the free standing play options. However, he understood the zip line was the hot commodity.

Boardmember Ford anticipated the apparatus that would be used the most within Option 1 would be the zip line. He feared the remainder of the structure was not inspiring.

Boardmember Neubert described how her children utilize the climbing structures to play games with the children at the park and noted she anticipated the play structure within Option 1 would be utilized. She indicated her children were put off by the merry go round because of the vibration that occurs.

Motion by Boardmember Neubert to recommend Option 1 move forward for West Lake Park including an accessible swing. Motion seconded by Boardmember VanBuren. Motion approved 5-1 (Boardmember Keraka opposed).

5.2. 2023-515 Park Updates

Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

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

- Aquatore Bandshell
- Sunrise Pond Park is officially open
- Jim Peterson Park lighting project

- Aquatore street lighting
- MAYC Jewelry Sale
- Carrara East Court project
- Harvest dinner and music festival recap at MAYC
- Oktoberfest recap
- Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt

6. Adjournment

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

Chair Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:10PM.