



City of Blaine

Park Advisory Board

July 23, 2024 | 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 23, 2024. Chair Lester called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

2. Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Boardmember Neubert.

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

Guest: None.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. 2024-320 Approval of the April 23, 2024 Park Board Meeting Minutes
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Motion by Boardmember Ford to approve the minutes of April 23, 2024 as presented. Motion seconded by Boardmember Lizakowski. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Chair Lester opened the Open Forum at 7:01PM.

Gary Ramacher, 12816 Monroe Street NE, expressed concern with Jefferson Park which was located at 128th Street and Jefferson. He stated the maintenance of the park was lacking. He discussed how he was involved with the original park planning and believed this park was in need maintenance and updates. He requested the Park Director meet him at the park in order to discuss his concerns further.

Senior Parks and Recreation Manager Krieger explained the Public Works Department maintains the city's parks. He noted he would be willing to meet with Mr. Ramacher along with the Parks Supervisor in order to go over Mr. Ramacher's concerns.

Chair Lester closed Open Forum at 7:04PM.

5. New Business

5.1. 2024-322 2025 - 2029 Parks CIP Budget Discussion *Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager*

Mr. Krieger reviewed the Parks CIP budget for 2025 through 2029 in detail with the board. He reviewed the revenues the parks department took in on an annual basis from billboards and park dedication fees. He commented further on the proposed plans and asked if the board would like to make adjustments to project years or funding amounts. He noted the recommendations made by the board would be brought to the city council for consideration.

Chair Lester questioned how much would have to be spent on trails each year in order to catch up. Mr. Krieger estimated the city would have to spend close to \$500,000 each year on trail maintenance in order to catch up on the park trails.

Boardmember Ford asked if trail maintenance was to be paid for through park dedication fees or was this covered by a different fund. Mr. Krieger explained trail maintenance was covered by the Parks and Trails Fund. He commented on how staff tries to tie trail maintenance work into street projects in order to lower the mobilization fees that are being charged to the city for this work.

Chair Lester inquired if Jefferson Park would have to be moved up on the parks plan. Mr. Krieger did not anticipate this would need to change, but rather that the park needed public works maintenance.

Further discussion ensued regarding the balance that was carried over from year to year and how this funding was used for emergencies.

Boardmember Paulseth questioned what the plan was for Deacons Park. Mr. Krieger stated he had \$115,000 set aside for this park, but he forgot to put this into the plan. He commented on how the trail work would be completed around Deacons Park and he was waiting to hear more about the soil conditions. He noted the plans for Deacons Park were for an all inclusive park. He stated the city was looking for a partner to complete this park.

Boardmember Ford asked how many feet of park trails would be improved in 2025. Mr. Krieger estimated approximately one mile of trails would be improved, which included all of the trails within Deacons Park.

Boardmember Henderson inquired how staff determined which parks would be improved first. Mr. Krieger indicated staff went by the parks master plan, which was completed in 2018. He discussed how the parks master plan was a road map for the city.

Boardmember VanBuren suggested the shelter be replaced at Osman Park in the same year as the playground. Mr. Krieger stated he could look into this.

Boardmember Ford asked how many parks the city had at this time. Mr. Krieger explained the city was currently responsible for maintaining 66 parks and noted the city may be adding one more park. He reported Airport Park was on MASC/NSC property and was subleased to the city for use in the summer and fall.

Motion by Boardmember Ford to approve the 2025-2029 Parks CIP Budget as presented. Motion seconded by Boardmember VanBuren. Motion approved unanimously.

5.2. 2024-323

Park Updates

Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

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

Aquatore Bandshell - Staff shared pictures of the bandshell with the board, noting all the landscaping had been installed.

Blaine Festival - Staff reported the Blaine festival was held the last weekend in June and the parade had over 97 entries.

July 4th Fireworks - Staff explained the fireworks were the responsibility of the parks and recreation department. He was pleased the city had a window to shoot off the fireworks at 9PM on the 4th.

New Senior Center Manager - Staff indicated Amanda Alms was hired as the new Senior Center Manager.

Annual Pork Chop dinner - Staff reported the annual pork chop dinner would be held on Saturday, July 27 at the Mary Ann Young Center.

Lexington Athletic Complex Rink Project - Staff provided the board with an update on the Lexington Athletic Complex rink project. The parking lot and lighting work had been completed. It was noted the boards were being fabricated at this time.

Performance in the Parks - Staff explained the Performance in the Parks have been held outside City Hall on Tuesday and Thursdays this summer. It was staff's understanding these events have been very well attended.

Bark in the Park - Staff reported Bark in the Park would be held on Thursday, August 8 from 5PM to 7PM at Aquatore Park.

Eagle Scout Project - Staff reviewed photos of an Eagle Scout landscaping project that was completed at the baseball complex.

Rentals - Staff commented on the great success the city was having with rentals at the Mary Ann Young Center, the city's shelters and at the Aquatore Bandshell.

6. Adjournment

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

Chair Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:08PM.