



City of Blaine

Park Advisory Board

August 27, 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, August 27, 2024. Chair Lester called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

2. Roll Call

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

Members Absent: None.

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

Guests: Emily Maloney and Mike Raymond, Flagship Recreation.

3. Approval of Minutes

- 3.1.** 2024-383 Approval of the July 23, 2024 Park Advisory Board minutes
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Boardmember Neubert requested the following corrections:

Page 2, under New Business, the word question needs to be spelled correctly.

Motion by Boardmember Neubert to approve the minutes of July 23, 2024 as amended. Motion seconded by Boardmember Lizakowski. 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. 2024-384 Presentation by Flagship Recreation staff *Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager*

Senior Recreation Manager Krieger stated members of the Flagship Recreation staff were in attendance to present the Park Board with information on the process of planning and selecting playground equipment for playground replacements in our city. He explained he was proud to report the city has replaced 38 playgrounds in the past nine years, which was over four playgrounds per year. He indicated he appreciated how dedicated this board and the city council was to improving outdoor spaces for the community. He reported the city has been working with Flagship, almost exclusively, for the past four years and noted they have been great to work with.

Emily Maloney, Flagship Recreation, introduced herself to the board. She explained Flagship Recreation was located in Lake Elmo, Minnesota and of the 13 staff members, four worked specifically for Blaine. She discussed how Flagship was different noting they worked exclusively with Landscape Structures, which was a Minnesota based business.

Mike Raymond, Flagship Recreation, introduced himself to the board, noting he oversees many of the playground installs in the city. He indicated he was also a resident of Blaine. He stated he only uses certified playground safety installers. He explained he took great pride in working with local crews on all installs.

Ms. Maloney commented on how she valued community input when putting together ideas for new playground installs. She provided an overview on the playground planning process. She discussed the equipment selection and layout considerations and described how she worked to provide a variety of play experiences for children of all abilities.

Chair Lester asked if parks had to be brought up to meet current ADA requirements if undergoing renovations. Ms. Maloney reported this was the case, noting all updates must meet Certified Playground Safety Inspector standards. Mr. Krieger commented on how the city inspects every piece of playground equipment every spring and fall. He stated if a part were to go bad, the city would be able to get the playground up and running quickly due to the great relationship it has with Flagship.

Boardmember Ford questioned if there was any statute or code that required sensory equipment to be installed in new playgrounds. Ms. Maloney reported there were ADA standards that had to be met by law. She indicated these standards were minimal. She commented further on the difference between ADA requirements and inclusivity. She stated the city of Blaine has worked to include more inclusive elements within their playgrounds.

Further discussion ensued regarding the elements that were in place to improve inclusivity

and ADA accessibility.

Boardmember Ford suggested staff post on the city website which parks have sensory and ADA elements. Mr. Krieger stated he could put this information on the city's website.

Chair Lester recommended the city also seek feedback from residents surrounding parks, especially those who have children with special needs to see what elements would be beneficial to their children.

Boardmember Neubert asked if Lakeside Park had poured in place. Mr. Raymond reported this park does not have poured in place, but does have ADA compliant elements.

Mr. Raymond commented further on how playgrounds are installed after receiving approval from the park board and city council.

Ms. Maloney reviewed photos of recent playground parks Flagship had completed in other communities.

Boardmember Ford questioned how big of an area was used for the playground structure in Shoreview. Mr. Raymond estimated this park was approximately one acre in size.

Boardmember Ford stated he would love to see a park like this in Blaine, perhaps a part of the 105th Redevelopment Area project. Mr. Krieger indicated this would be a great amenity for this development, but noted the space would also have to have enough parking to support the use.

Boardmember Neubert commented on how current splash pad was next to the beach, which sort of made the water feature redundant. She questioned if the city had considered having a second splash pad in a different location in the city. Mr. Krieger stated the Lexington Athletic Complex had been discussed as a second location, but noted the direction from the council was to have just one splash pad at this time.

Boardmember VanBuren asked what was done with the city's old playground structures. Mr. Raymond reported he used to be able to find places to send the structures in other countries, but if this does not occur, the equipment is recycled. He commented on the risk to the city if the city were to reuse the equipment.

Mr. Krieger stated Blaine was unlike many other cities given the fact the city has 66 parks and 54 playground structures. He discussed how the city had to properly budget for playground, trail and court replacements. He encouraged residents surrounding Olympia, Austin, and Ivy Hills Parks to plan to attend the October Park Board meeting as the city will begin planning for the playground replacements for these parks.

Chair Lester recommended the city's upcoming park renovation plan be posted on the website. He then thanked the representatives from Flagship Recreation for their detailed presentation to the Park Board.

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

Aquatore Bandshell rentals for 2025 - The city was now taking rentals for the Aquatore Bandshell for 2025.

Bark in the Park - This event was held on Thursday, August 8 from 5PM to 7PM at Aquatore Park and there were about 200 dogs and 350 people in attendance.

The Beach - The beach was now closed for the season. Staff reported attendance at the beach was down this year, due to the number of rain days.

Jim Peterson Skating Rinks - Staff would be moving the skate rinks from the Lexington Athletic Complex to Jim Peterson Park. He reported lighting was in place for the new rinks.

Pork Chop Dinner - Staff reported the annual pork chop dinner was held at MAYC at the end of July. He estimated staff grilled over 200 pork chops this year.

Summer Outings - Staff commented on the summer events that have been held for the seniors, which included trips to Minnesota Twins games.

Safety Camp - Staff reported safety camp was a great event again this year and noted 160 4th graders attended safety camp this summer.

Bring a Youth to the Mary Ann Young Center Day - Staff reported seniors have a day where they can bring their grandchildren or other child to MAYC.

Bike Rodeo - The bike rodeo would be held on Wednesday, August 28 from 5PM to 8PM at Aquatore Park.

Worldfest - Worldfest would be held on Saturday, September 14 from 1PM to 6PM at Tom Ryan Park.

Eagle Scout Project - Staff noted Eagle Scout Brayden Samuelson installed three park benches along the Sunrise Pond Trail.

Summer Sports Recap - Staff provided the Board with a recap on summer sports programs that were sponsored by the city.

6. Adjournment

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

Chair Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:14PM.