



City of Blaine

Park Advisory Board

October 22, 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, October 22, 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.

Guest: None.

3. Approval of Minutes

- 3.1. 2024-498 Approval of the August 27, 2024 Park Advisory Board minutes
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Motion by Boardmember Ford to approve the minutes of August 27, 2024 as presented. Motion seconded by Boardmember VanBuren. 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.** 2024-499 Introduction of Playground Equipment for Austin Park.
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Senior Recreation Manager Krieger reviewed the park options for playground equipment for Austin Park. He reviewed pictures of the current play equipment, noting this equipment was originally installed in 2005. He further discussed the playground options for Austin Park. He indicated the existing benches at this park would be utilized outside the new play structure. It was noted feedback from the park board will be used along with feedback from the residents to provide a final concept in November.

Boardmember Neubert stated Option 1 looks similar to the playground structure that was installed at West Lake Park, and noted residents were not highly supportive of this playground.

Boardmember Neubert commented she believed Option 2 was similar to Kane Meadows, but wished Option 2 had more slides.

Boardmember VanBuren indicated Option 2 did not have a 2-5 age play structure.

Boardmember Henderson suggested the hanging structure be removed in order to make space for a 2-5-year-old play structure.

- 5.2.** 2024-501 Introduction of Playground Equipment for Ivy Hills Park
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Mr. Krieger reviewed the park options for playground equipment for Ivy Hills Park. He reviewed pictures of the current play equipment, noting this equipment was originally installed in 2007. He further discussed the playground options for Ivy Hills Park. He discussed how the safety zones would limit the amount of equipment that could be reinstalled at this park. He commented on how the existing benches would be reinstalled within the park. It was noted feedback from the park board will be used along with feedback from the residents to provide a final concept in November.

Boardmember Neubert explained she looked into the new swing option, stating it was called a fox den swing and understood it was good for children with autism and were easily accessible for children in wheelchairs. She stated she appreciated how Option 1 for this park was very different from any other playground structure in the city.

Boardmember Ford commented this park had a larger footprint than Olympia Park. Mr. Krieger commented this park did have a larger footprint.

Further discussion ensued regarding the size and budget that was set aside for Austin, Olympia and Ivy Hills Park. It was noted a portion of the budget for Olympia Park would be used to improve the basketball court.

Boardmember Ford stated he supported the basketball court at Olympia Park being fixed at this time, versus waiting for a future date.

The Board supported Option 1 for Ivy Hills Park.

5.3. 2024-502 Introduction of Playground Equipment for Olympia Park
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Mr. Krieger reviewed the park options for playground equipment for Olympia Park. He reviewed pictures of the current play equipment, noting this equipment was originally installed in 2007. He further discussed the playground options for Olympia Park. He reported the neighbors have asked for work to be done on the basketball court as well, which would cost \$20,000. He provided further comment on the sport court material that would be installed. It was noted feedback from the park board will be used along with feedback from the residents to provide a final concept in November.

Boardmember Neubert was of the opinion Option 1 had more activities. She indicated her children really enjoyed playgrounds with tunnels.

Further discussion ensued regarding why merry-go-rounds have been phased out.

Joelle Lipa, 1064 98th Avenue NE, suggested the city consider a community build to assist with reducing installation costs for the playground. Mr. Krieger stated community builds were tough because staff would still be needed on site to lead the project and would be more time-consuming.

Chair Lester asked if there was space to do more within this park. Mr. Krieger reported the fall zones have been measured and noted the proposed playground structures meet all fall zone requirements.

Ms. Lipa agreed that Option 1 would provide more activities but noted her son really enjoys playing on the monkey bars.

Chair Lester suggested a spinner, like the one at the Lexington Athletic Complex, be considered for this park.

Boardmember Neubert suggested one of the seat spinners be changed out for a standing spinner for the Option 1 playground plans.

Mr. Krieger stated he would bring back Option 1 with modifications for the Board to consider in November.

5.4. 2024-500 Park Updates
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

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

- Trail Improvements and Parking lots - Staff reviewed the trail improvements that were completed in 2024.
- Blaine Baseball Complex backstop - Staff explained the old backstop has been removed and the new backstop was now in place. He noted a grandstand would be considered at this park in the future.
- Suzanne Playground Equipment - Staff reported playground equipment at Suzanne Park was removed last week and new equipment would be installed this week.
- Oktoberfest - Staff stated Oktoberfest was held on October 5. He stated this event was well attended by the public.
- Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt - Staff reported the City held a flashlight pumpkin hunt in Friday, October 18.
- Senior Tours - Staff reviewed the tours seniors have been attending in recent months.
- Liver and Onions luncheon - Staff explained the Liver and Onion luncheon was held last week and noted over 200 seniors attended.
- Jewelry Sale - Staff reported the jewelry sale at MAYC was a success again this year. He noted an ornament sale would be held on November 30 at MAYC from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Musical Jamboree - Staff commented on the musical jamboree that was held at MAYC.
- Dottie's McKinley's bench - Staff discussed the memorial bench ceremony that was held at Pioneer Park for Dottie McKinley. It was noted all three of Dottie's daughters were involved in the placement and language that was included on the plaque for the bench.

6. Adjournment

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

Chair Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:14PM.