

**CITY OF HAM LAKE
PARK AND TREE COMMISSION MINUTES
AND
JOINT MEETING MINUTES WITH THE CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019**

The Ham Lake Park and Tree Commission met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ham Lake City Hall, 15544 Central Avenue NE, Ham Lake, Minnesota.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Patrick Wolfgram and Commissioners Tim Donnay, Al Stauffacher, and Tara Lanigan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Doug Miller

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Mike Van Kirk and Councilmembers Jim Doyle, Brian Kirkham, and Gary Kirkeide

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilmember Tom Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT: Interim Streets & Parks Supervisor, John Witkowski, Administrative Assistant, Nicole Wheeler and City Clerk Denise Webster

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wolfgram called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Wolfgram, seconded by Donnay, to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2019 Park and Tree Commission meeting as written. All present in favor, motion carried.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE: None

1.0 APPEARANCES: None

2.0 PARK & TREE COMMISSION BUSINESS:

2.1 Bruce and Tammy Braastad consideration of parkland dedication for the sketch plan for B and T Acres (2 lots) located in Section 21 (2332 153rd Avenue NE)

The commission discussed whether the bike path should be on the North or South side of 153rd Avenue NE. All agreed it should be on the South side. Commissioner Stauffacher stated he would like a crosswalk on the North side that connects to the park once the trail gets developed. **Motion by Wolfgram, seconded by Lanigan, to recommend to the City Council to take land for a bike trail on the South side of 153rd Avenue NE. All present in favor, motion carried.** This item will be placed on the April 15, 2019 City Council agenda.

2.2 Dog Park Liability and Archery Park Liability

Chair Wolfgram stated he would like to get fact finding prior to the next Park & Tree meeting regarding the archery building in Bunker Hills Park and the dog park in Arden Hills. Commissioner Donnay would like to discuss what to put in the archery park (targets, hay bales, wooded course).

The City received an email from Denise and Troy Wolen's requesting the City to consider a future mountain bike course. Currently there aren't any mountain bike courses within Anoka County. Chair Wolfgram would like to invite Denise and Troy Wolens to the April meeting to discuss the possibility of a future mountain bike course in the City.

3.0 TREE UPDATE:

3.1 Interim Streets & Parks Supervisor, John Witkowski stated that he and Dan Foshay from the Public Works Department attended the Shade Tree Short Course this week. Chair Wolfgram asked if he had any updates to report on the cold winter affecting the beetles for emerald ash borer and oak wilt. Interim Streets & Parks Supervisor John Witkowski said they won't immediately know if the beetles died off, some of the larger trees help keep the beetles insulated. Interim Streets & Parks Supervisor John Witkowski stated that he is still gathering information and will be choosing the tree for Arbor Day on May 4, 2019.

4.0 PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT:

4.1 Report

Interim Streets & Parks Supervisor, John Witkowski stated that once the snow melts, public works will start an inventory list of what needs to be updated or replaced at each park. Shelter buildings are \$10,000 and up. We are still waiting for a catalog from the park equipment vendor. Public Works will also obtain additional quotes to convert the tennis court into a pickle ball court once the snow is gone and they can get accurate measurements.

Motion by Wolfgram, seconded by Stauffacher, to adjourn the Park and Tree Commission meeting at 6:10 p.m. All present in favor, motion carried.

5.0 JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL:

5.1 Mayor Van Kirk called the Joint meeting with the City Council and Park and Tree Commission meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Mayor Van Kirk stated he would like City staff to research parkland dedication fees in neighboring cities. Mayor Van Kirk questioned if the City of collecting too much?

Mayor Van Kirk stated that we are just starting to look at adding a future dog park. The City Council isn't interested in small parks. Regional Parks should have the County involved. The council discussed the fifty foot City owned right of way on 158th Lane NE and East Ham Lake Drive. The right-of-way leads to Ham Lake. We could install a public dock, picnic tables, lighting and adequate parking. Councilmember Doyle stated the City might need to install fencing to keep people off of the abutting private property. Discussion followed about adding an area for kids to play so they can get outside.

Mayor Van Kirk stated there is an area on South Coon Lake that is used to access Little Coon Lake mainly by snowmobiles in the winter. Mayor Van Kirk stated that it would be nice for the City to acquire an additional ten feet of land to provide better public access to the lake.

Councilmember Kirkeide stated that the Park & Tree Commission can request a special meeting with the City Council if they feel there is something that is better to discuss in person. Having someone from the Park & Tree Commission attend the City Council meetings will also help keep the lines of communication open. Councilmember Doyle stated that the City Council needs to keep in mind what is best for constituents. Councilmember Doyle stated that the City is still growing and amenities will be added as needed. There was discussion that not all of the parks need playground equipment, as residents have expressed interest in open space, archery, pickle ball and disc golf.

There was discussion regarding a location for an archery park. Chair Wolfgram stated that Marshall Manor Park doesn't get much use from residents and would be a good place for an archery park. The park has wetlands with plenty of room to install targets and shoot toward the south side of the park.

Chair Wolfgram stated that the City might run into issues when developers do multiple phases and we wait to collect money or take land for parks, we don't hold them accountable. Councilmember Doyle stated that it depends on how the development is laid out and sometime there are a lot of wetlands. Councilmember Doyle stated that there are times that parkland is preferred and sometime money in lieu of parkland. Councilmember Doyle stated that there is no rubber stamp that we always need parkland or always need to collect money.

Councilmember Doyle stated there are pollution problems on Ham Lake. Mayor Van Kirk stated the City Council is not interested in paying for treating invasive species. Chair Wolfgram asked if the Park & Tree Commission could make a yearly donation to help combat this issue. Mayor Van Kirk said that is a question for the City Attorney.

Commissioner Stauffacher brought up the idea of bike trails and stated that it would be nice if the residents could use the paths to get to our parks. Councilmember Kirkeide stated that regular bike trails don't have a good base and it would be best for the City to construct a trail when Municipal State Aid Funds (MSA) can be used. Councilmember Kirkeide stated that Anoka County has plans for bike paths to be constructed on the County roads in Ham Lake.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Kirkeide, seconded by Kirkham, to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:20 p.m. All present in favor, motion carried.

Nicole Wheeler, Administrative Assistant