

**CITY OF HAM LAKE
PARK AND TREE COMMISSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019**

The Ham Lake Park and Tree Commission met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ham Lake City Hall, 15544 Central Avenue NE, Ham Lake, Minnesota.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Tim Donnay and Commissioners Al Stauffacher, Tara Lanigan and Doug Miller

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Patrick Wolfgram

OTHERS PRESENT: Public Works Superintendent, Tom Reiner, Deputy City Clerk, Jennifer Bohr and City Councilmember Brian Kirkham

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chair Donnay 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 Lanigan, seconded by Miller, to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2018 Park and Tree Commission meeting with corrections as noted on the clerks copy. All present in favor, motion carried.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE: None

1.0 APPEARANCES: Mark Smith, consideration of Parkland Dedication for Sketch Plan of Catchers Creek of Ham Lake (4 Single Family Residential Lots) in Section 30 (40 Andover Boulevard NE)

Mark Smith was present. The commissioners discussed bike path easements with Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith stated he has developed property to the west of Catchers Creek of Ham Lake (Catchers Creek, Catchers Creed 2nd Addition and Hickory Meadows in Andover) and the City of Andover has an easement for a bike trail along Coon Creek within a 100-foot easement for Coon Creek Watershed. Mr. Smith stated the trail isn't contiguous at this point as there is a property owner who has not sold their land for development; he anticipates the property will be sold for development in the future. Mr. Smith stated the City of Ham Lake could connect to the trail and extend it eastward if the property owner at 220 Andover Boulevard NE, Ham Lake (PIN 30-32-23-32-0002) sells the parcel for development. **Motion by Stauffacher, seconded by Lanigan, to recommend to the City Council to accept money in lieu of parkland for the Sketch Plan of Catchers Creek of Ham Lake (4 Single**

Family Residential Lots) in Section 30 (40 Andover Boulevard NE). All present in favor, motion carried. *(This item will be placed on the January 22, 2019 City Council agenda.)*

Vice Chair Donnay called a short recess of the meeting at 6:24 p.m. as Commissioner Miller left the Council Chambers. Vice Chair Donnay reconvened the meeting at 6:26 p.m. when Commissioner Miller returned to the Council Chambers.

2.0 PARK & TREE COMMISSION BUSINESS:

2.1 Discussion of requests for use of ballfields for the upcoming 2019 season

- Soderville/Blaine Athletic Association (SBAA)
- Ham Lake Lanes

No one was present from either of the organizations requesting to use the fields. Commissioner Stauffacher stated the groups have worked together in the past to avoid schedule conflicts and believes they will continue to do so this season. Commissioner Stauffacher stated the date the organizations can start using the fields will be dependent on weather and the condition of the fields; Superintendent Reiner will inform the organizations when they can begin using the fields. **Motion by Stauffacher, seconded by Miller, to accept Soderville/Blaine Athletic Association's (SBAA) and Ham Lake Lanes ballfield practice and game/tournament schedule requests for the 2019 season. All present in favor, motion carried.**

2.2 Discussion of Arbor Day tree planting (Recycling Day is Saturday, May 4, 2019)

Superintendent Reiner stated Public Works will select a tree to plant in Lion's Park on the City's designated Arbor Day which is Saturday, May 4, 2019, the same day as the citywide recycling event at City Hall. Commissioner Miller stated he will inform the Boy Scout Troops that they can participate in the Arbor Day tree planting. Commissioner Miller asked to extend an invitation to local 4-H Clubs. **Motion by Miller, seconded by Lanigan, to recommend to the City Council to accept the Arbor Day Proclamation for Saturday, May 4, 2019. All present in favor, motion carried.** *(This item will be placed on the January 22, 2019 City Council Agenda.)*

2.3 DNR grant/Possible projects

Superintendent Reiner stated the City recently received information about a DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Program. Superintendent Reiner stated the grant could possibly be used to convert one of the tennis courts at Lion's Park to two Pickleball courts. Superintendent Reiner stated Mayor Van Kirk has stated he would like to discuss the possibility of creating an archery park and dog park in the City. The Park and Tree Commissioners offered suggestions for recreational projects: Pickleball courts, metal picnic tables to replace wooden picnic tables in the City's parks, an archery park, another fishing pier at Ham Lake Park and a boardwalk and nature trail in one of the City's open space parks. **It was the consensus of the Park and Tree Commissioners present to have city staff verify what projects would be eligible for grant funding and research plans and cost for the projects to be reviewed at the next meeting.**

2.4 Future agenda items

The Commissioners stated the projects previously discussed constitute items to be discussed at future meetings.

3.0 TREE UPDATE:

3.1 Superintendent Reiner stated Public Works is currently trimming trees throughout the city. Superintendent Reiner stated he will begin looking for a tree to plant on Arbor Day. Vice Chair Donnay asked about the status of oak wilt in the City. Superintendent Reiner stated the number of trees identified as having oak wilt seems to have increased slightly from last year. Superintendent Reiner reminded the commissioners of the upcoming Shade Tree Short Course March 19-20.

4.0 PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT:

4.1 Report

Superintendent Reiner stated Public Works is preparing for the Snowbowl on February 9, 2019. Superintendent Reiner stated the weather this winter has made it difficult to form ice on the City's ice rink. Superintendent Reiner stated the ice rink and warming house should open the weekend of January 19, 2019.

Superintendent Reiner stated the City Council has requested that a Park and Tree Commissioner be present at the January 22, 2019 meeting; Tara Lanigan stated she would attend the meeting. Superintendent Reiner stated a representative from the Park and Tree Commission should attend future City Council meetings scheduled for the first Monday of each month where Park and Tree Commission recommendations are on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Stauffacher, seconded by Miller, to adjourn the Park and Tree Commission meeting at 7:07 p.m. All present in favor, motion carried.

Jennifer Bohr, Deputy City Clerk