

Cambridge Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 12, 2018

A regular meeting of the Cambridge Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, June 12, 2018, at Cambridge City Hall Council Chambers, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge, Minnesota, 55008.

Members Present: Chair Kelli Klossner, Vice Chair Mark Ziebarth, Ex-Officio Member Barry Wendorf, Members Marisa Harder-Chapman, Tom Koep, and Council Appointee Mayor Marlys Palmer.

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Community Development Director Marcia Westover.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Klossner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Wendorf moved, seconded by Palmer, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Ziebarth moved, seconded by Koep to approve the March 13, 2018 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Tennis and Pickleball Discussion

Westover stated the Tennis and Pickleball groups' discussion had been tabled at the February 13, 2018, Parks Commission meeting until the June 12, 2018, Parks Commission meeting due to the difficulty of scheduling representatives from both of these groups to attend a meeting. Westover stated the Commission requested that a joint meeting between the Tennis group and the Pickleball group be held to discuss future shared use of the courts.

Westover stated last January, the Pickleball group requested staff, at both a Parks Commission meeting and a City Council meeting, to repurpose one of the tennis courts at Central Green into pickleball courts or to build new pickleball courts. That discussion ensued and, in February of 2018, the Pickleball group's request changed from building new pickleball courts to repurposing one of the tennis courts at Central Green into four pickleball courts.

Westover stated in March of 2018, the Tennis group gave the Parks Commission a summary of their history and their use of the new tennis courts at Central Green. Since that discussion with the Tennis group, Westover stated the City now has contracts with the Tennis group to hold practices at these courts starting in the Fall of 2018 and also using the courts for practices in 2019.

Westover stated a number of events have happened since receiving the original request from the Pickleball group to repurpose one of the tennis courts and since meeting with the Tennis group. At the March Parks Commission meeting, it was the consensus of the Commission to bring both the Pickleball group and the Tennis group back to discuss, in a joint meeting, the future of the shared tennis courts. Westover stated the purpose of this meeting is to discuss how the tennis courts can be shared in the upcoming years.

Chair Klossner clarified the discussion at this meeting is in regards to both groups sharing the court and not how the courts can be changed.

Dick Welch, 2087 352nd Ave NE, Cambridge, of the Pickleball group, asked for clarification of when the decision was made regarding sharing the tennis courts versus the possibility of turning one of the tennis courts into four pickleball courts as he was not aware of this decision having been made.

Westover replied a decision had not been made; rather it was the consensus of the Commission to discuss joint use of the facility by pickleball and tennis players.

Welch shared further information regarding the alternative bids they discovered from attending the City Council meeting and the Parks Commission meeting earlier this year and reviewing meeting minutes.

Welch pointed out the two Cambridge-Isanti High School and Middle School programs and coaches have full access to 7 tennis courts at the Cambridge-Isanti High School. They have also had access to using two tennis courts in Mattson Park in the City of Isanti for the past 5 to 10 years for their Middle School program. Welch also stated that community tennis players have access to the same 9 courts the schools have access to when the schools are not using them. In addition, they have access to the tennis courts in Pioneer Park and Honeysuckle Park which were resurfaced and refurbished in 2016 and also the two new courts at Central Green. A new court was added in Isanti last year as well in the Arts and Science Park.

Welch shared information they have gleaned from review of minutes and talking to people who attended various City of Cambridge and City of Isanti meetings including the resurfacing of the Mattson courts in Isanti, a concern for safety of older players in using plastic temporary throw down lines on courts, the warming house at Central Green being a reason to stop using the courts at Mattson court, the City of Cambridge offering the tennis program a lower fee than the City of Isanti for court usage and the Cambridge Schools not asking the City of Isanti about the court use fees.

Welch summarized there are 14 tennis courts available for Cambridge-Isanti Schools and Cambridge community tennis players. The schools have complete control over the use of the 7 tennis courts at the high school and have had an agreement with the City of Isanti for five years to use 2 tennis courts for the middle school program.

Welch expressed how grateful the pickleball community is to the City of Cambridge for the two beautiful pickleball courts to use and enjoy and emphasized that in three years, the interest in pickleball has grown from 50 regular players to 150+ regular players throughout the season. Welch

also stated that four pickleball courts can fit in the space required for one tennis court. Welch stated there is a need for more pickleball courts and they need help from the City of Cambridge to make this happen.

Larry Bacon, 3070 Ivy Street S, Cambridge, stated pickleball is an enjoyable sport anyone can easily play and stated if the tennis courts are not being fully utilized, why not turn them into pickleball courts. Bacon spoke about the growing popularity of pickleball everywhere for adults looking for something to do in retirement, after a day of work, for exercise and it is a great way of meeting new people.

Mike Mueller, 1005 329th Ave. NW, Cambridge, MN, recommends repurposing a tennis court for four pickleball courts, which would include repainting the surface and putting in pickleball nets at a cost of \$6,000 which the Pickleball group is willing to donate to make this happen so there would be no cost to the City.

Commissioner Klossner stated there are two potential financial ramifications that could be a cost to the City: one being a potential lawsuit of breaking a contract and a second being the potential loss of future United States Tennis Association (USTA) grant money by not using part of the grant money that was given to the school to add QuickStart lines to the (Central Green) court.

Mueller stated perhaps the contract would expire in a year and as far as the USTA, what would they say about the lines they gave grant money to have installed on the court? Klossner believes that would mean there could be no future grant money for the tennis courts.

Mueller stated since the parks funding has been cut this year, the Pickleball group would pay for the costs of repurposing one tennis court into four pickleball courts, stating this would continue to honor the decision made by the City of Cambridge three years to replace the tennis court lost by the remodeling at City Park. Mueller added the second tennis court was simply an add on.

Mueller stated there is an active group of people showing up to play pickleball and more courts are needed. There will continue to be overflow crowds on pickleball courts and Mueller stated postponing making a decision regarding more pickleball courts will see costs going up in the future.

Welch stated he appreciated the information presented regarding the two potential legal risks. However, Welch voiced his concern once again about the contracts/agreements having already been drafted or written between the City and the school tennis staff prior to this joint discussion with the Tennis group and the Pickleball group at this Parks Commission meeting.

Klossner stated the Parks Commission is not involved in the contracts/agreements the City makes with the schools. She went on to state that from a historical standpoint and during her years on the Parks Commission, it was always the intention of this Commission that these tennis courts would be used by the schools.

Mr. Welch thanked the Commission for their time in allowing them to share the Pickleball group's point of view.

Thea Lowman, 500 E. Rum River N, Cambridge, Cambridge-Isanti High School Boys' Tennis Coach, spoke on behalf of the Tennis group. She stated they presented to the Parks Commission in February. Lowman stated the Tennis group wants everyone to work together, provide courts for all racquet sports, and that it is important to support each other's sports in the best interest of the Cambridge community.

Lowman stated the Tennis group does not understand how one group can ask to take away a facility from another group. Lowman stated tennis numbers are up this year and 90 to 100 kids are signed up for tennis and will utilize the City courts. Losing one tennis court would mean the loss of four kid sized courts.

According to Lowman, the tennis courts are always being used; there is never enough court space. The tennis program has been creative and has set up temporary courts, using temporary nets, painters tape and/or throw down lines, on grass at the high school, on the hitting board slab, on the gym floor at the Cambridge Middle School, and on the high gloss cafeteria floor at CMS. Lowman stated they have had no injuries in roughly twenty years and the USTA includes throw down lines, which she believes are made out of rubber, in packs in their grant packages for schools.

Lowman said if the west court at Central Green is converted to a pickleball court, there would not be a place in the City where there are two courts together. Pickleball is not asking to repurpose the courts at Honeysuckle Park or Pioneer Park for the same reason; they want courts that are together for the social aspect of the sport. If the City did decide to remove a tennis court and convert it to a pickleball court, the Tennis group would ask when the City would replace two courts side by side.

Lowman stated it is an easy thing to share. If the tennis courts are full and pickleball courts are not being used, these pickleball courts can be used to play tennis, volley or practice hitting balls over the net. If the pickleball courts are full and the tennis courts are not being used, pickleball could be played temporarily on the tennis courts. Lowman stated both sports have a great facility to use and her hope is that the courts can be shared rather easily.

Lowman stated one thing has been left out of these discussions. A fence would be needed between the tennis courts if the west court at Central Green is repurposed into pickleball courts in order to stop the balls from flying on to the tennis courts.

Lee Orvik, 321 4th Ave. SW, Cambridge, Boys' Tennis Coach for Cambridge-Isanti Middle School, stated he is looking forward to moving to the Central Green courts for practice and games as the warming house would provide a shelter for kids waiting for their turn to play on the courts on windy, rainy, cold days and waiting for their parents to pick them up. Orvik stated he hopes everyone can work together.

Lowman stated the warming house provides a shelter to keep students safe and warm in inclement weather. Parents want to know their kids are safe until they are able to pick them up after work. The warming house would be a safe place for the athletes to stay.

Klossner asked Lowman how not using the court with the QuickStart lines made possible by the grant money from USTA might affect future grants from USTA. Lowman stated the school tennis and community tennis programs has received many USTA grants over the years and would like to maintain that positive relationship. USTA grants are given to promote sports in communities and the Cambridge Tennis group is currently working with USTA on a Net Generation grant which donates equipment for kids, such as racquets, tennis balls, etc. Lowman stated they hope to continue the good relationship they have with USTA.

Klossner asked the tennis coaches response to the comment of the tennis courts being empty. Orvik commented that sometimes kids are nervous when there is a large crowd at the courts. Lowman stated some kids feel intimidated when approached by adults to do something else, depending on their confidence level.

Wendorf asked about the difference between the sizes of a youth tennis court and a pickleball court. Lowman stated a youth tennis court size is 26' x 36' and a pickleball court is 20' x 44'.

Tor Kindem, 3130 Juniper St., Cambridge, spoke in favor of keeping the tennis court at Central Green a tennis court. Kindem stated this is the third time the Pickleball group has tried to remove the tennis court at Central Green. Kindem stated the high school courts do not belong to the City and should not be part of this conversation. Kindem stated it is not a fair trade to lose a public tennis court and only have three courts left. Kindem stated many pickleball players are retired and can play anytime during the day. If there are not enough pickleball courts, people will have to wait just like hockey players wait at the ice rinks and tennis players wait at the tennis courts.

James Sullivan, 534 2nd Ave. SW, Cambridge, Girls' Tennis Coach for Cambridge-Isanti Middle School, stated he is relieved that tennis practice is moving to Cambridge as there has been many issues at the Isanti Courts, including a sexual predator, fire trucks, police cars, semi trucks, a lot of traffic, and people walking by that are distracting to the players. There have been known to be drugs, fights, crowds, smoking and it is just a scary place to go. Central Green will provide a warm, pleasant, safe environment for the girls to practice tennis. Sullivan stated coaching at Isanti has been loud and he needs to talk very loud just for the girls to hear. Sullivan stated that tennis needs to work with the Pickleball group in sharing the courts.

David Larson, 2059 352nd Ave. NE, Cambridge Township, Former Isanti School Principal, encouraged the Parks Commission to work this out in an effort to not separate two communities that many people have been trying so hard to unite, the Cambridge-Isanti community, for many years.

Lowman stated she does not see this issue as a Cambridge versus Isanti issue; there are players from both communities. Lowman stated the tennis program really does appreciate the City of Isanti working with them, providing a great facility for them to use for tennis for all these years. Lowman stated all communities have their issues but tennis appreciates the facility they have been able to use in the past.

Lowman summarized that we have nothing against Pickleball. In tennis, kids are waiting all the time and they have to share courts all the time. Waiting is kind of the nature of all racquet play. Her hope

is they can all continue to share the facility, support all racquet sports and an active lifestyle. Lowman strongly encouraged the Commission to not take facilities away from the tennis community or repurpose existing tennis courts.

Welch stated the City of Cambridge has accommodated both the interests of the pickleball and tennis communities. Welch stated if nothing is done at this point in time, the City of Cambridge will see both the Tennis group and the Pickleball group return to the Parks Commission asking for more courts in the near future as both sports continue to increase and thrive. Welch suggested maybe the school district needs to build more tennis courts to accommodate their increased need for court space. Welch reiterated that the need for more courts will not go away as the interest in both sports continues to grow.

Harder-Chapman asked Welch what times the pickleball courts have been reserved for pickleball. Welch stated 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m./dark on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Welch stated they are looking at opening up more playing times in the afternoons as well.

Klossner asked Welch if the temporary pickleball nets initially used at Pioneer Park are still available. Welch stated yes and that these nets are used in the armory in the winter months. Klossner asked about lines at Pioneer Park but Welch stated these lines were only used in the armory. Klossner asked if an option might be to use lines on the outside courts. Staff will check past minutes. Klossner, Welch and Lowman discussed a possible compromise of putting down temporary lines at Pioneer Park. Harder-Chapman clarified that painting lines on the ice rink was not allowed.

Mayor Palmer stated she is bothered by the tension in these discussions, prays these two groups can work together in sharing the courts available and come up with a solution that meets both groups' needs as best as they can.

Wendorf agreed with Mr. Welch's point stating the group playing pickleball is the fastest growing age group (65 or over) and pickleball needs for more courts will not go away. Wendorf hopes the two groups can work together as the City will see requests in the near future for more courts to support this healthy form of exercise for our communities.

Ziebarth agreed with Wendorf, stating pickleball is growing and the needs of our communities are changing. As the Commission revisits the long-range parks plan later on in this meeting, Ziebarth suggested this area needs to be taken under consideration as the Commission tries to meet the needs of the community while also being responsible to the taxpayers and the residents of Cambridge. Ziebarth stated the Parks Commission has a good long-range plan which can always be revisited. Ziebarth thanked both groups for sharing their passion for their sports.

Koep stated Central Green has many options and also hopes everyone can work together to help share everything Cambridge has to offer. Koep thanked both groups for sharing their experiences.

Palmer stated this issue will be resolved and was thankful for everyone's points of view and passion. She stated the City always works toward the common good, doing what will do the most good for the most people.

Klossner stated the Commission has heard from both the Tennis group and the Pickleball group and asked if staff is looking for a motion or resolution at this meeting.

Westover stated staff is asking the Commission to make a recommendation on the use of the tennis courts and whether or not the Commission would recommend turning the west tennis court at Central Green into pickleball courts or leaving the courts as they are with both tennis and pickleball sharing the courts as needed.

Klossner moved, seconded by Harder-Chapman, to not permanently modify the tennis courts at Central Green but rather state the tennis courts may be used for pickleball by the use of temporary nets and temporary lines.

Wendorf wanted to make sure the Commission addresses potential future pickleball courts in their long-range planning.

The motion carried unanimously.

Klossner thanked everyone who came and appeared before the Commission for the tennis and pickleball discussions.

***2018 Park Projects and Long Range Plan Update
(Slab for Skatepark, Hockey Scoreboards and Speakers, Outlot I)***

Westover stated staff has been working on identifying park related items that need to be completed in 2018. These items have been discussed with the Parks Commission in the past and are identified below. (Please note: Item 5B should be 4B on the staff report.)

Slab for Skateboard Park at Ice Rinks

Westover stated when the plans for the ice rinks at Central Green Park were being developed, it was the intent to move the skateboard park next to the ice rinks. The cost for the slab for the skateboard park was not included in the overall cost of the ice rink project. The cost for the slab is estimated at \$21,000. Westover said staff met to discuss the need to complete this project and felt that this should be done in 2018 to complete the project. The skateboard park equipment is still housed on the School District's property near the Isanti County Government Center.

Westover stated the slab can serve a dual purpose for the ice rinks. The skateboard park equipment can be moved and the slab can be used for a mobile food truck during the winter for events at the ice rinks.

Wendorf asked if the skateboarding equipment could be put in the ice rink? Staff will check into this and let the Commission know. Wendorf stated it would be nice to utilize the ice rinks during the summer for many sports, including basketball. Westover stated the hockey association was appreciative that at least one court was open for floor hockey and practices. Westover said staff is still working out those details of summer use of the ice rinks.

Speakers and Scoreboard at Ice Rinks

Westover stated staff has received a quote for speakers in the amount of \$3,372.74. The Cambridge-Isanti Hockey Association has donated \$1,000 for the speakers. Since the donation was received, staff will ask Council to approve the purchase of the speakers in 2018.

Westover added staff has received a quote for two scoreboards in the amount of \$33,520. Staff will work with the hockey association and has requested a donation for the scoreboards. Westover stated staff also plans to contact Bernick's regarding a donation of funds or a scoreboard. At this time, the scoreboards are not yet determined for 2018 unless a donation is received.

Outlot I - Parkwood on the Lakes

Westover stated the City obtained Outlot I, Parkwood on the Lakes 3rd Addition through a conveyance of forfeited lands. Minnesota Statutes 282.01, subd. 1d requires that the land be put to the proposed use within three years. In an effort to avoid the land being reverted back to the state, the City intends to start with grading and installation of recycled concrete material for the trail in 2018. Westover said the intention is to pave the trail in 2020 and add some benches at that time. The inception of trees and other equipment (horseshoe pits and/or fitness equipment) can also come at a later date when funds are available. The estimated costs for the grading and recycled material in 2018 is \$7,000. Westover stated the Outlot I improvements have been added to the Long-Range Plan Priority List and should be reviewed by the Commission.

Klossner inquired about the City seeking any donations for benches for this project. Westover stated donations have not been looked into at this point but knows this is an option. Wendorf suggested designing the trail on the north side into a loop, if there is enough room, to connect to a sidewalk or an existing trail rather than just running the trail through the park. Wendorf likes the overall layout of the proposed park. Palmer suggested having people donate a tree in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Wendorf added another idea of buying a brick in a path in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Westover was thankful for the suggestions and will pass these ideas on to Public Works.

FISCAL NOTE: Westover noted the 2018 Capital Improvement fund has \$30,000 allocated each year for park improvements. There is \$16,000 in the Park Dedication fund. The total cost for the improvements (slab for skateboard park, speakers for ice rinks, and Outlot I improvements) is \$31,000.

Westover stated staff is asking the Commission for a recommendation to approve the park improvements for 2018 in the amount of \$31,000 for the skateboard park slab, speakers for the ice rinks, and Outlot I improvements.

Klossner asked whether the Commission could make a motion when waiting on additional information relating to the slab and seeing if the skateboarding equipment can be used on the ice rinks instead of installing a new slab. Westover stated a motion could be made with a clause that staff will check into the idea of the skateboard equipment being placed on the ice rink and if that is the case, there would not be a need for the new slab.

Wendorf made a motion to recommend to approve the park improvements for 2018 in the amount of \$31,000 for the skateboard park slab, speakers for the ice rinks and Outlot I improvements with a

clause that staff will check into the possibility of the skateboard equipment being placed on the ice rink and if that is the case, there would not be a need for the new slab.

Ziebarth proposed the possible reason for needing a separate slab for the skateboard park and using this slab for other purposes, including parking a food truck on top of it, is because of the refrigerant coils that are located under the ice rink. Not being able to add holes into the surface of the ice rink to secure the skateboard park equipment, due to the refrigerant coils underneath, would not allow placement of the skateboard park equipment on the ice rink. Westover will check into all these details and report back to the Parks Commission.

Klossner seconded the motion made by Wendorf. The motion carried unanimously.

Westover stated staff is also asking the Commission for a recommendation to the City Council to approve the Long-Range Plan Priority List with the addition of Outlot I improvements. Westover explained the Outlot I improvements need to be added to the Long-Range Plan. The way the state statute reads for the conveyance of the land requires a plan for this Outlot I so there is record that work has started within three years from the timeframe the parks land was donated to the City. Westover stated the Outlot I improvements have been added as Item #3 in the Long Range Plan Priority List due to it being started in 2018. Westover added the following costs for the Outlot I park project: 1) \$7,000 for grading and recycled material trail to be completed in 2018; 2) An additional \$10,000 for trail completion in two years, which will hopefully be in 2020 with the street improvement project; 3) \$500 per bench and \$2,000 for trees, which hopefully can be donated or partially donated in two years; and 4) An estimate of \$5,000 for a horseshoe pit and an estimate of \$10,000 for fitness equipment within the next two to five years.

Westover stated if the Commission felt comfortable adding this to the Long-Range Plan Priority List as Item #3 and the dollar amounts presented, a motion would be needed to recommend to add these items to the Long-Range Plan.

Wendorf asked if the Commission could approve the Outlot I/Parkwood Park being added to the Long-Range Plan but not necessarily approve the priority order placement until after the Commission reviews the Long-Range Plan Priority List. Westover agreed to this.

Palmer suggested approving the \$7,000 grading and recycled material trail item separately from the additional items. Westover agreed to separate the items into different priority positions on the Long-Range Plan Priority List.

Klossner moved, seconded by Ziebarth, to recommend the City Council approve the addition of Item #3 to be identified as Outlot I/Parkwood Park, the \$7,000 grading and recycling material trail 2018 and the addition of Item #17, to be determined what specific priority number it should be at a later date, to be Outlot I/Parkwood Park with the remaining items under the approximate cost paragraph in the proposed Long-Range Priority Plan.

Wendorf asked whether the \$7,000 is an estimate since this is a draft plan and any changes made could increase this cost. Westover stated the estimate came from Public Works based on the length of the trail. Westover plans to discuss these items with Public Works and try to stay within the

\$7,000 at this time to get the work started in the park. She added that changes can be made in the future.

The motion carried unanimously.

Naming of Outlot I Park – Parkwood on the Lakes

Westover asked the Commissioners for ideas for naming Outlot I Park. It has been referred to as “Parkwood Park” and Westover opened it up for suggestions. Palmer moved, Ziebarth seconded, to name the Outlot I Park in Parkwood on the Lakes as “Parkwood Park”. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business/Miscellaneous

City Council Update

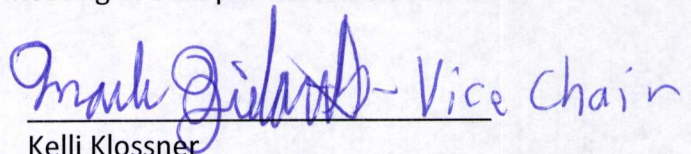
Westover updated the Commission on the last City Council meeting. The Bank Shot equipment for Brown Park, the swing set for Central Green, and the 3-Hole disc golf equipment for Pioneer Park have all been delivered and are waiting for Public Works staff to install this summer. The Isanti County Humane Society donated \$4,500 for play equipment items for the City Dog Park which the Public Works staff will also install.

Commissioner Concerns

Klossner asked for any Commissioner concerns. Ziebarth asked how the Parks Commission can clearly articulate what will happen if the upcoming ballot question regarding the sales tax referendum passes and what will happen if it does not pass, regarding the Cambridge City Parks and the library. Ziebarth asked how this is being communicated to the residents of City prior to the vote. The Commissioner discussed possible ways this can be done.

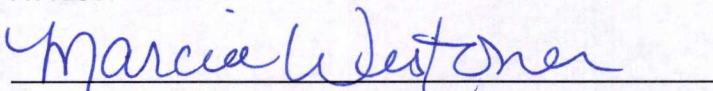
Adjournment

Being no further business before the Cambridge Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission, Palmer moved, seconded by Ziebarth, to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:29 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

 - Vice Chair

Kelli Klossner
Cambridge, Parks, Trails, and Recreation
Commission Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Westover, Community Development Director