



## **Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

A Regular meeting of the Cambridge Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at Cambridge City Hall Council Chambers, 300 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE, Cambridge, Minnesota, 55008.

**Members Present:** Commissioners Jeff Andres, Kriste Ericsson, Jeff Soderquist, Blake Ramlet, Christina Thayer Anderson, Mark Zeibarth (City Council Representative)

**Members Absent:** Lindsay Rassmann (excused)

**Staff Present:** Carri Levitski, Community Development Specialist and Amy Norling, Community Development Administrative Assistant

### **Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance**

Levitski called the meeting to order at 5pm, took roll call (Lindsay Rassmann excused) and lead the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Organizational Meeting**

Staff and the Commissioners welcomed Blake Ramlet (youth representative), Christina Thayer Anderson (Community education Representative), and Lindsay Rassmann (absent) to the Commission.

Commissioner Soderquist nominated Commissioner Andres as the Chairperson of the Parks, Trails, And Recreation Commission. With no additional nominations, Commissioner Andres was appointed as the Chairperson by acclamation.

Commissioner Ericsson nominated Commissioner Soderquist as the Vice Chairperson of the Parks, Trails, And Recreation Commission. With no additional nominations, Commissioner Soderquist was appointed as the Vice Chairperson by acclamation.

Commissioner Zeibarth approved Carri Levitski as the Administrative Appointment of the Parks, Trails, And Recreation Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Soderquist, all in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

Mrs. Levitski briefly reviewed the Commissioner Bylaws and Code of Conduct with the Commission. Mrs. Levitski also referred to a confidential handout that listed the Commissioners contact information. Levitski reminded the Commission that personal data regarding Council appointments is not public information. However, it is good for the Commission to have such contact information. Levitski also cautioned the Commissioners regarding conversations among themselves and what constitutes a "Daisy Chain."

Levitski reviewed the 2022 meeting calendar. Chair Andres asked for a consensus about what time works best for commissioners. The commissioners concurred that the second Monday at 7pm will work best and option 2 is the second Tuesday at 5pm and the third option is keeping it the same.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Ericsson moved, seconded by Zeibarth, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Ericsson moved, seconded by Soderquist, to approve the April 13, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **New Business**

### **Chapter 98, Parks Regulations Annual Review**

Levitski said that Chapter 98 is something we review on an annual basis for comments or questions. It has been a few years since it has been amended, and inquired if any commissioners recommend changes.

Soderquist inquired if e-bikes and hoverboards are included in the regulations. Levitski said that our current regulations would not allow them on city trails, so city staff will research what other communities have on this topic and will bring it back to the commission for review.

Zeibarth questioned when the Oak Circle Preserve area would be available to the public again after a 'no trespassing' sign was posted to deter vandalism. Zeibarth said that it is included on our city parks map, but if we are going to keep the 'no trespassing' sign up long-term then the park should be removed from our parks list and map. Levitski said that she will seek an update from city staff about whether the 'no trespassing' sign has deterred vandalism and whether they plan on keeping that sign up short- or long-term and will update the commission at the next meeting.

Zeibarth verified that pets are addressed in the Parks Regulations. Levitski said that they are addressed in number ten. Andres inquired about dogs on athletic fields. Levitski said that pets are not allowed on athletic fields, but can be in the spectator areas such as the sidelines and parking lots, but not on the actual fields.

### **Chapter 32 Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission Review**

Levitski reviewed the most recent changes to chapter 32.

Soderquist inquired if we have communication with the Isanti County Parks Department. Levitski responded that Barry Wendorf, who works for Isanti County Parks Department and was once on the Cambridge PTRC, is still a resource for us. So, although he is not on the commission any longer, city staff still contact him regarding relevant projects and encounter him at meetings such as the Greater MN Parks and Trails Commission.

### **2022 Summer Parks Programming**

Levitski said that we are planning four (4) concerts this year, with the first one will be the fourth Thursday in May. The June and August concerts are going to coincide with the Discover Downtown events, so we are planning to have those concerts in the downtown area. The July concert will be either the second or the fourth Thursday, due to the County Fair.

Levitski said that Movies in the Park will resume soon. They will be on a Friday in June, July, and August, and possibly one in late May. Soderquist inquired what park the movies in the park will be, Levitski said that they move around to different parks.

City council has approved 20k to the parks programming.

Kids programming went really well last year with attendance 200+ children. Looking forward to this summer's activities, city staff will be mindful for what nearby communities are scheduling. We will also plan for activities during the day since the evening activities had lower attendance.

Levitski said that she is inquiring about potential teen programming to encourage teens to come to the park. Wilderness Inquiry is one of her contacts for this project. Levitski is also working on ways to capture the Rum River water feature Cambridge has access to. Levitski asked that commissioners send her ideas via email.

Ericsson said that there was a canoe relay racing in the 70s that she participated in, and recommended sprint races on the Cambridge stretch of river.

Ericsson said that Rum River Cleanup usually comes in September and cleans a 10 mile stretch of river, but they haven't been here for the last two years.

Levitski said that she is looking into Country Camping as a resource for a partnership opportunity for activities such as tubing, kayaking or canoeing.

### **City Council Update**

Zeibarth gave an update about City Council activity, including the local sales tax contributing to new activities fields at Sandquist park. Isanti Township, City of Isanti, and the City of Cambridge have an annual meeting to discuss the Cambridge-Isanti Bike Trail, which is coming up soon.

Discussion ensued regarding Woodhaven Acres and Levitski confirmed the Park Dedication fee was paid during the initial phases of the development.

Commissioners questioned if the proceeds of the Minnco property goes directly in to the Park Dedication fund. Levitski would follow-up with the Commission once she finds out if any additional fees were added with the sale of the property.

Commissioners discussed the trails that will be repaved at Brown Park this summer. Ziebarth informed the Commission the city might be getting closer to connecting the Cambridge-Isanti Bike Trail through Isanti Township. Ericsson recommend a parking area near the bike path entrance. Zeibarth replied that the Park and Ride to the east was originally designed to be the parking area for this bike path, but that handicap spaces should still be considered.

### **Commissioner Concerns**

Soderquist asked for the Park Naming Policy and Parks Budget to be provided to the commissioners, and recommended that an online survey be added to our website and Facebook page inquiring residents about what they would like from our parks.

Zeibarth mentioned that pickleball is very active in Minnesota and we are seeing an increase for those arenas around the state.

Levitski said that she will provide the city parks map, budget, and comp plan for future development to the commissioners at the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Ericsson motioned, seconded by Zeibarth to adjourn the meeting at 6:07pm. Motion passed unanimously.

---

Chair Jeff Andres

ATTEST:

---

Carri Levitski, Community Development Specialist