



**Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 9th, 2022**

A Regular meeting of the Cambridge Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission was held on Monday, May 9, 2022, at Cambridge City Hall Council Chambers, 300 3rd Ave NE, Cambridge, Minnesota, 55008.

Members Present: Commissioners Jeff Andres, Kriste Ericsson, Jeff Soderquist, Christina Thayer Anderson, Jim Godfrey (City Council Representative)

Members Absent: Blake Ramlet, Lindsay Rassman

Staff Present: Amy Norling, Community Development Specialist

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance

Andres called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and lead the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Thayer-Anderson moved, seconded by Ericsson to approve the January 11, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Soderquist moved, seconded by Ericsson to approve the March 14, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

New Business

a) 2022 Summer Parks Programming Update (p. 10)

Norling is proud to present the 2022 Summer Parks Programming with four Kids Summer Events, four Movies in the Park, five Concerts in the Park, and three Discover Downtown Concerts. Norling explained that the three Discover Downtown Concerts will have Cookies with Council where citizens are provided to talk about downtown revitalization efforts with council members and city staff. Norling expressed hope that the Parks Commissioners will be able to attend the events.

There was a question on how the flyers were going to be distributed; Norling replied that the lovely new Assistant City Administrator Smith distributed a few of the flyers and brochures personally to downtown businesses. Norling continued stating that advertisements have also been sent to the Chamber of Commerce where they added it to their Monday Mailbag. In addition to these advertising efforts, there is also virtual advertising through the city Facebook and website. It was a delight to see the *Isanti County Star* do their own personal article on the events. Ericsson added that the Community Garden has a window on a kiosk where flyers can be placed and then another commissioner added that City Park also has a kiosk that can be utilized.

Andres inquired if there is any COVID protocol that was required if cases elevate again. Norling replied that the city will always follow the CDC guidelines for COVID, especially as these are public gathering events. At the moment, the events are following what is established for the guidelines, but if the CDC guidelines change, the city will have to adapt to those changes. Norling continued stating that there are back up locations (Library, Fire Station, or City Mall) in place in case of bad weather.

Ericsson asked about the Bankshot Court, Shuffleboard, etc. events that the *Isanti County Star* discussed. Norling explained that these are activities that the city provides year round and that the city checks out Bankshot Balls and other equipment to the community. Ericsson inquired whether the city has ever organized a formal disc golf competition. Norling replied that she is not aware of a particular competition, but that there is a Cambridge Disc Golf League. The League organizes its own tournaments and competitions. Ericsson asked if there was any discussion on checking out the equipment on the weekend. Norling explained that the equipment can be checked out for three days at a time. Commissioners and Norling agreed that it would be nice to have a sign that tells residents that equipment can be checked out at City Hall.

Ericsson noted that the Lorne Ericsson Park was missing from the map.

b) Cambridge City Parks and Trails update (p. 20)

City Park bathrooms and irrigation systems are set up for the summer. The city staff is working on the canoe landing, security light grading, replacing the trash receptacles, and providing a new sign.

Browns Park Trail and the trail from Rum River Parkway and the section from Pine River Park will be closed for approximately three weeks for a repaving project. The improvement work at Sandquist has begun. The demolition of Sandquist outbuildings will take place in a few weeks. The bike project is planned as part of the Street Project.

The Park Dedication Fund update from Moe and Westover mentioned that the funds were used to build a new ice rink facility. The balance of the fund is currently zero. There was discussion on how the park dedication worked. Norling explained that a developer can decide whether to pay into the Park Dedication Fund or have land to make their own park. As far as the Community Development department is aware, all of the developers are choosing to have a park within their development rather than donate to the fund. Commissioners asked if they should be looking to write grants to help develop the parks.

Godfrey mentioned that the list of priorities is important for the council to know how best to dedicate funds and to help the commissions. Norling requested that if the commissioners come across any grants that apply to the Parks Commission to notify her and city staff.

Norling's updates included updating the website with the Oak Park Reserve being removed from the website and the amenities being removed from the maps. City staff are updating the Parkwood Park pictures. Awards and nominations are posted on the website and at City Hall.

Godfrey added that the council has city staff looking into painting or using the silo at Sandquist Park for advertisement or memorial.

c) Resident Guide input (p. 27)

Norling stated that the city is looking to update the resident guide and to let the city staff know if any information is missing or could be added. Ideally this information does not need to be continually updated more than once a year.

Godfrey asked for the deadline in changing the quotations in the resident guide. The resident guide is not well known, but Norling mentioned that it can be a wonderful tool for a city. It can be comprehensive and it should be on the home page of the website. Printed resident guides are available at the City Hall.

When a new resident moves into town and they sign up for the city utilities and the Public Works sends out the resident guide to the new residents.

Commissioner noted that both of the newspapers in town have community guides as well. One is the Many Faces Community Guide.

Anderson Thayer asked if she could send Norling some updated information for the school pages. Including Community Education and helpful websites. Under the Performing Arts Center there is not an active committee and they are revisioning what that space will be.

Norling inquired whether the committee would like a restaurant guide. Godfrey noted that the restaurants change frequently, which may be problematic. Thayer Anderson noted that grocery stores and restaurants would be helpful in the resident guide.

d) Future growth and Strategic Planning (p. 52)

Norling noted that the Strategic Planning's short-term goals and Core Strategies should be reviewed by the commission for future direction and information. Then indicated the provided report on housing that was included in the last year and the proposed housing construction for 2022. Norling noted the attachments of the 2021 Strategic Planning brochure and the short-term goals.

e) Long Range Plan Review and Potential Amendment (p. 57)

There has been a request from a resident to add more swings to the Central Green Park. There is currently a swing for a child and a swing for a toddler. But the resident explained that the park could use more swings for the development in that area. Norling mentioned that there has also been discussion on adding picnic tables to City Park. There was discussion that Central Green Park will be heavily used due to the apartments that are being added in the area.

Soderquist moved, seconded by Thayer-Anderson to recommend to City Council to amend the Long-Range Plan as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business/ Miscellaneous

City Council Update

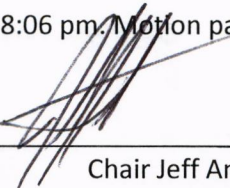
Update provided by Godfrey on council's current plans and actions.

Commissioner Concerns

No concerns were voiced

Adjournment

Ericsson motioned, seconded by Soderquist to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. Motion passed unanimously.



Chair Jeff Andres

ATTEST:



Amy Norling, Community Development Specialist