

Wayzata Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 6:00pm

Attendees: Dan Baasen (chair), Mary Bader, Merrily Borg Babcock, Jim McWethy, Tory Schalkle, Sarah Showalter, Sarah Randolph, Mike Kelly (staff), Terry Schneider (consultant for Boatworks).

Absent: Tyler Purdy

Call to Order: Chair Baasen called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Showalter moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Ms. Babcock seconded. Motion approved 7-0.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Babcock moved to approve minutes from the February 21, 2019 meeting, as presented and Ms. Showalter seconded. Motion approved 7-0.

Public Comments: There were no public comments and no members of the public present.

New Business:

Boatworks Redevelopment Project:

Consultant Terry Schneider provided background on a development plan for the Boatworks, adjacent to Wayzata Beach and Marina. The plan will be presented to the City Council at a workshop on April 2, 2019. Mr. Kelly noted the importance of the Parks and Trails Board evaluating how the plan would impact the beach and marina area.

The proposed plan is five stories tall, two levels of parking ramp and three levels of condominiums. The current Boatworks building would be demolished and a new building would exceed the current building's footprint. Mr. Schneider said the developers would strive to conform and enhance existing plans for the park and the Lake Effect Project. He added that the development could be eligible for Tax Increment Financing, considering an analysis of deteriorating structural issues found in the east side of the existing building. There was considerable discussion about several other aspects of the proposal:

Storm water – The plan aims to filter all water from the building, and potentially from the adjacent city parking lot, through the existing drainage pond on the site.

Parking – Mr. Kelly said the plan would represent a net gain in public parking.

Trees – It was unclear how trees in the Marina would be affected by proposed changes to parking lot. Several members of the board expressed their displeasure about the portable trees promised in a previous tree-removal action by the Boatworks' owner.

Other vegetation – Ms. Babcock suggested the developer consider making the west wall of the parking ramp a "green wall" to soften the ramp's aesthetic effect on the park area.

Utility boxes – Board members emphatically emphasized that there should be no electrical or phone boxes on the west side of the building next to the park and city parking lot, and there should be no cell towers on the property. Mr. Schneider said all external utilities would be on the Grove Lane side, and all mechanicals for the building will be contained within the building's fifth level.

Construction impact – Mr. Kelly noted the need to work out a schedule to protect the use of the beach during construction and mitigate the unavoidable conflict between construction and a park where children play and swim. The board acknowledged that the Boatworks construction cannot happen without impacting the beach, but they agreed that negative effects of such construction must be mitigated – and enforced -- as part of any development plan.

In summary: Mr. Kelly suggested that the board was intrigued by the new plans for the Boatworks. Ms. Bader said the word “intrigued” must be coupled with a strong statement that the board’s primary interest is protection of the historic community asset of Wayzata Beach.

Old Business:

- Music in the Park: Ms. Randolph and Ms. Babcock reported that five bands have committed to perform at the Great Lawn on the five Sundays in June. To date, only one contract has been signed. Ms. Randolph and Mr. Purdy are in charge of obtaining the remaining contracts. Once again, the UPS Store in Wayzata has offered to donate publicity materials.
- Lake Effect Update: Mr. Kelly reported that on 3/5/19 the City Council approved changes to plans for Lake Street, including a bike trail extension that separates bikes from pedestrians.
- Master Plan: Chair Baasen reported that the City Council has asked the board to hold a public open house to get additional public comments on the Master Plan before it is submitted to the council. To date only five comments have been received through an online survey. However, it must be noted that during the process of receiving public input during the development of the master plan, four public meetings were held at City Hall specifically at different times and on different days, which were attended by a total of 165 residents. Comments were also solicited at the Spring Splash event and at the Wayzata Art Event. Additionally a heavily publicized survey was posted on the city web site from June 24 to September 15, resulting in 189 citizen responses.

In response to the City Council’s request, Chair Baasen has decided that the plan’s consultant, Confluence, should present the plan to residents at an open house on April 11, 2019, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. He encouraged members of the board to attend. Mr. Kelly said that residents who attend the open house would be asked to either verbalize comments or provide written comments about the Master Plan, and those comments will be recorded and provided to the City Council. Members of the board voiced their frustration about the time invested in creating the master plan, which was requested by the council, and the extension of the process after the plan’s completion.

- Summer Activities: The kickoff and registration for classes with Minnetonka Community Education (MCE) is scheduled for May 9 at the Bell Courts. Board members agreed that MCE staff must be prepared to register people for classes at that time. Ms. Babcock expressed disappointment that she has received no catalog of Minnetonka’s summer activities yet.

Mr. Kelly reported that he has tasked the Minnetonka staff with communicating with Tim McCormick to determine his interest in again participating in the kickoff event. Ms. Babcock and others stressed that McCormick’s should be compensated for any food provided. Ms. Babcock

also asked that Tim McCormick be asked to attend a meeting to discuss a revenue decline at McCormick's Beachside and whether there is anything we could do to help improve revenues.

- Chair Baasen said it was important to start organizing for the July 4th boat parade.

Adjourn: Ms. Babcock made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm. Ms. Randolph seconded. Motion approved 7-0.