

Wayzata Park and Trails Board Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2021

Attendees: Chair Schalkle, Babcock, Gonzalez, Showalter, Erickson

Staff: Mike Kelly, Director of Public Works

Absent: Purdy, Randolph

Guests: Aurora Yager, Administrative Services Director

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chair Schalkle at 6:02pm.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** Suggestion to add Beach furniture, Panoway Update, and Revenue Generating Ideas to the agenda. Babcock made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Seconded by Schalkle. Motion was approved 5-0.
3. **Approval of the Minutes:** Babcock suggested to remove “as amended” from approval of minutes, since no changes were made. Additionally, she stated that the “Dig-It: event is not a Parks and Trails event. Babcock made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended. Seconded by Showalter. Motion was approved 5-0.
4. **Public Comments:** Administrative Services Director, Aurora Yager made a brief presentation. The Parks and Trails Board’s budget derives its from mainly three sources: General Funds transfers authorized by the Council, from Boat Slips and Charter Boats, and from Park Dedication Fees. However, projections indicate that the Board’s funds are expected to run out by 2025. However, the future may not be as dire. The Council has authorized a transfer of \$110,00 from the General Fund. Schalkle asked if a 2022 transfer of \$40,000 from the Parks and Trails Budget could be eliminated.

Public Works Director Kelly indicated that the telecom revenues are offset by a small lease paid to the Wayzata Middle School. Chair Schalkle asked how the Board might consider managing the proposed deficit for the next five years. Public Works Director Kelly indicated that reprioritizing of projects, and continuing reminding the Council that Parks and Trails are very important should improve the Board’s funding. This year they gave the Board \$110,000 from their excess funds. Additionally, the Council expects to hire a parks planner who would be in charge of applying for park grants.

Babcock asked about the Park Dedication Fees. Half of it has gone to the Lakefront Fund. She suggested that we look into how TIF can be modified to create or expand parks. Public Works Director Kelly commented that upon completion of the Panoway project, in total, the Lakefront Fund will be folded into the Parks and Trails Fund and any excess balance will be available to the Board for parks and trails projects.

Chair Schalkle asked about sidewalks and utility fees. Public Works Director Kelly talked about how Minnetonka uses utility fees to offset trail costs, as many utilities are being moved to be under sidewalks

rather than under streets. Also, there needs to be compliance with ADA. Hollybrook Rd. and Shadyway Rd. are updating their street crossings.

Babcock asked if Excelsior uses park dedication fees for sidewalks. The answer was not yet. Yager indicated that only a small portion of our fund is restricted by park regulations fees laws. Walker and Indian Mound paid their fees in 2020. Ventana and Garrison also are paid up.

5. **Old Business:**

- a. **Playground discussion:** Determine use for Area X. Kelly reported more than 120 positive reactions on Facebook and the survey for the Wayzata Beach Playground project. Babcock contributed to responding to some of the questions on the survey. Respondents requested some type of water feature. Also, that the current playground be repurposed, perhaps to Third World countries, perhaps through Kids Around the World. Babcock suggested a real canoe secured in place. Also, a Creative Table, maybe a sand table. Kelly mentioned that the red lines indicated the safety zone for the equipment. Also, people requested some Adirondack chairs.

Babcock suggested that the Board needs to spend a lot of time on Klapprich and do another survey. Kelly indicated that the Beach playground work will start right after Labor Day and will be completed in about 3 to 4 weeks. Klapprich will be a spring project aiming to have it completed by Memorial Day. Babcock expressed concern that Klapprich trees be preserved and protected. Randolph asked about a water feature and a sand table.

Babcock said that the Beach site should have a sand table on the site of the spring canoe, and get rid of the spring rider and add a mister. She also asked if the ash trees at the beach are being treated. The city can apply for a grant from Hennepin County to treat the trees for 10 years instead of removing the them.

6. **New Business:**

- a. **Marina discussion.** Randolph was not present, but she had indicated a concern about milfoil. Public Works Director Kelly reported that the City cleans the beach every morning and soon after cleaning there is more milfoil on the beach. Babcock asked if the city composts the milfoil we harvest. Public Works Director Kelly indicated that yes, it does.
- b. **Approval of Additional Site furnishing.** Schalkle asked how we go about adding furnishings. Public Works Director Kelly indicated that the city can accept donations, too. Garrison Landing has offered to donate a picnic table to the Beach area.
- c. **Panoway.** Schalkle will email the Board on Panoway at a later date. Babcock said that she heard there are lots of people coming to town using our parking and not shopping anywhere, Public Works Director Kelly indicated that there were public safety concerns. For example, a guy with a bullhorn.

Babcock indicated that she felt the space was a bit cold and suggested more plantings for Panoway.

7. **Other Business**

- a. **Determine future Agenda Items:** See below.

- b. **Follow up items:** Public Works Director Kelly indicated that the rental kayak racks have been installed at the Little Beach. Also, dog waste bags are now available at the entrance to the trail in the Big Woods.
- c. **The Beach:** Showalter proposed adding a swimming platform there. Babcock reminded the Board that there used to be one but was later removed. Also, Babcock pointed out that there are no bike racks at the beach. All those present agreed that at least one bike rack needs to be added immediately. The Beach area needs more shade and more seating.

Some members of the public have complained that people rinse the sand off their children's feet in the dog water bowls. Babcock proposed adding a sign directing people to the existing shower for that purpose.

- d. **Community Garden:** Public Works Director Kelly asked if there was any interest in sponsoring a Community Garden, perhaps at the Middle School. A community survey is in process. Results of the survey should be available at the next meeting.
- e. **Margaret Circle Park:** Schalkle said there is a need for more seating at the Margaret Circle Park, especially in winter, and also a portable fire pit. Schalkle made a motion to approve purchase of a fire pit for Margaret Circle Park. Seconded by Erickson. Motion was approved 5-0.
- f. **Revenue Ideas:** Schalkle said that the Rotary contributes to the Excelsior playgrounds. The Legion was mentioned as a possible donor and Kelly said he will share his contacts at the Legion. Babcock proposed contacting The Retreat and asking them if they would like to contribute to the playgrounds fund.

Kelly said the Wayzata Foundation was used to receive donations to the Children's Garden by the Library and also for many benches. All the donated benches have been already installed; except that the U of M Bench is still in storage awaiting a new home. Babcock suggested putting a plaque at the playgrounds with the names of the donors rather than putting the donors' names on the equipment itself.

Schalkle brought up boat slip fees as a possible additional revenue source. He felt that Wayzata charges too little in comparison with other cities. Minnetonka charges \$4,000 to their residents while Wayzata charges only \$2,200 and \$1,900. Kelly pointed out that our city charges less because we do not provide the amenities that some other cities provide, such as gas and electricity. The Board felt that we could still charge a bit more. Schalkle reminded the group that our budget is projected to run out of funds in two years. Moreover, our boat slips have a 65-year waiting list! Schalkle made a motion to recommend increased boat slip fees for 2022. Kelly suggested increasing to \$2800 and \$2400, in 2022, with an additional increase in 2023. Seconded by Babcock. Motion was approved 5-0.

- g. **Future Agenda Items:** Playground Update, Platform Tennis Update, Budgets, Community Gardens, Winter Activities, Revenue Generating Ideas

- 8. **Adjournment:** Showalter moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm. Seconded by Schalkle. Motion was approved 5-0.