

**CITY OF LAKEVILLE
PARKS, RECREATION & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 6, 2025**

Committee Chair Weberg called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. in the Lake Marion Conference Room. Official quorum began at 6:22 p.m.

Members Present: Holly Weberg, Daniel Volkosh, Erin Young, Steven Henneberry, Monica Joubert, Lindsay Haneman

Members Absent: Shahid Nadeem, Surya Ganesan (alternate), Erin Young

Staff Present: Parks and Recreation Director Joe Masiarchin, Environmental Resources Manager Mac Cafferty

1. Approval of January 8, 2025 minutes

A motion was made by Haneman, seconded by Henneberry to approve January 8, 2025 minutes as written.

Ayes: unanimous

2. Citizen comments

There were no citizen comments.

3. Spyglass Park

Staff presented the most recent master plan concept; changes were made to the location of trails and minor adjustments were made to the play structure and basketball court due to site grading. Neighborhood survey comments had been sent to the committee for review, a notable item that was commented on was the inclusion of bocce ball courts. Staff has identified the need to relocate the bocce ball courts from Aronson Park to better support the bocce clubs and leagues. The lawn at Aronson Park will be restored and utilized by the athletic associations.

Motion was made by Volkosh, seconded by Joubert to approve the Spyglass Park Master Plan Concept as presented by city staff.

Ayes: unanimous

4. Staff Report

Facility rentals remain steady with 87 shelter reservations and 71 reservations at the John Hennen Pavilion. This is the first year that two reservations will be permitted per day during the peak months of June-August. This new scheduling approach seems to be going over well with renters.

The Summer/Fall brochure is going to the printer this Friday, this will be the second of the bi-annual publications. Staff made the decision to move from three brochures to two, which will provide cost savings and funding for other marketing opportunities.

Committee Discussion:

Has gap care been popular and are there opportunities to expand it? Some participants have taken advantage of the gap care offered but staff is not looking to expand this outside of art programming and Community Education partnerships at this time. As full-day programming demand increases, this could change. Art instructors and Community Education staff are currently overseeing the gap care programming at this time. Staff has not received much feedback on the program so far.

The committee asked how the scholarship program works and how it is funded. Staff recently made a change to the scholarship program, offering more funds to families who are utilizing it. Youths 17 or younger can now qualify for \$300 per calendar year with an 80/20 split of program fee costs. Up to this point, the program was being underutilized, and efforts have been made to publicize it more. In past years, donations from local groups have primarily funded the program but in recent years, household credits that are more than 18 months old are moved to the scholarship and it has been well funded since. If the funds become significantly depleted, other funding opportunities would be explored. There are donation opportunities posted on the city's website for those wanting to donate to youth programming.

The committee asked for an update on pottery programming. The program remains popular and staff has been able to expand programming to reduce or eliminate the waitlists that we used to see for these classes. The offerings for this summer have nearly doubled but are expected to fill.

Staff then provided an update on the progress of Grand Prairie Park, the roofing at the field support building will be completed next week. Framing will begin on the main building over the next couple of weeks. The upper pond has been drained and flume installation completed, spring construction is anticipated to continue as scheduled. The goal is to open most of the park in 2025 with seeding and turf establishment to continue into 2026.

Lakeville Baseball Association continues to finalize agreements and pursue potential sponsorships for various amenities associated with the grandstand and ballfield.

Trail gap connectivity projects continue along Highview and Cedar Avenues, these are some of the remaining trail gaps to be completed that were a part of the Park Bond Referendum.

Trails: Gap improvements along Highview and Cedar (Bond)

Trails in the pheasant run neighborhood along the south creek greenway, simplified in light of the north creek greenway being constructed.

Dakota County is redesigning some trail segments along North Creek Greenway to bring them up to county safety specifications. WSB is working the design with them. Additionally, the Lakeville segments that connect to the North Creek Greenway will be completed this year and discussions for future trail maintenance with Dakota County will occur when it is completed.

The master planning process for the Phase II of East Community project continues. Staff will be developing and finalizing concepts that will then be shared with neighbors for feedback. This will be the final Park Bond Referendum project, construction is expected to begin in 2026.

The Lake Marion Greenway Trail, contract for design and construction was just approved by City Council. This project includes the reconstruction and new trail construction from

downtown Lakeville at the former Royal Milk Property to Ritter Farm Park. The trailhead would be located off of Howland Avenue.

The 10-year park planning process has begun, staff reached out to consulting groups to partner with on the development of the plan. The plan would include Park Maintenance in addition to park assets which has not been done before. This will require committee input over the next year.

Motion was made by Henneberry, seconded by Haneman to adjourn the February 6, 2025 meeting.

Ayes: unanimous

6. Adjourn

Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Joint Planning Commission and Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Committee Work Session February 6, 2025

Tree Preservation Ordinance Amendment Discussion

The two committees came together to review a proposed Tree Preservation Ordinance. Forestry Staff presented the draft ordinance and provided a brief overview of tree preservation ordinance from other metro area cities. In speaking with the City Council, commission, community members and staff, it has been determined that improvements/adjustments to the current ordinance would be appropriate.

Staff explained the current ordinance which provides less guidance and can be interpreted as being developer driven. Changes to the ordinance would provide more clarification and stricter standards as to what acceptable tree preservation is. The committees were in agreeance that the ordinance should be reviewed. Forestry presented the ordinance line by line for comments/recommendations. This included:

- Scope of Application
- Removal Threshold
- Removal Calculations
- Tree Replacement Requirements

Discussion:

Is the proposed ordinance outside of what other communities' standards are?

No, staff looked at a number of ordinances and developed an ordinance that is similar to what was reviewed. Most communities have some type of replacement requirements. Staff shared some insight into what they saw as common themes in other ordinances including native species requirements, providing education on species diversity.

What would the impact be to cost increases for developers and buyers?

Staff will be reaching out to developers for their feedback on the draft ordinance, this is undetermined at this time but staff reiterated that most other cities have a tree preservation ordinance.

What is the scope of application?

Staff preference is that it would be city wide and applied primarily to new development. Monitoring private removal of trees isn't feasible for staff as it would require significant monitoring and is of lesser concern at this time. Committee members was in support of offering cash in lieu of replacement of contributing trees/shrubs being provided in other locations as a means to satisfy the required tree replacement. Staff also clarified that property that is designated for stormwater, utilizes, streets and/or other easements would not be held to the tree replacement ordinance.

When would the ordinance changes be implemented?

This is in very early discussions, the ordinance would be shared with developers, City Council and staff for input. It would be implemented once finalized, more details to come.

Next Steps:

A final draft will be prepared based on committee feedback and staff will gather feedback from developers as well. That draft would then come back to City Council and both committees for review and approval.

Adjourn

Work Session 8:26 p.m.