



Parks and Trails Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Attendees: Chair Schalkle, Merrily Babcock, Sarah Randolph, and Graciela Gonzalez.

Staff: Parks Planner, Nick Kieser

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** Babcock offered amendments to the Agenda: To 5. a., add Earth Day event. Also, add 5. c., Music in the Park report. A motion to accept the agenda by Babcock and seconded by Randolph with the proposed amendments. Approved 4-0.
3. **Approval of the Minutes:** The Minutes for the November 16, 2022 were tabled to the next meeting.
4. **Public comments:** None.
5. **Old Business.**
 - a. **Memorial Tree Program.** Board Member Babcock gave an update on the Memorial Tree Program. Instead of planting individual trees around the city, the goal now is to plant a grove of trees in the Nature Center. This area needs to be cleaned of buckthorn and other invasive species. Staff and the Board are working on a grant with Great River Greening to pay for the cleaning up of the Nature Center entrance. Randolph made a motion to approve \$250 for the tree giveaways from the P&T Board funds and seconded by Gonzalez. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. **Maple Tree Tapping.** Babcock reported that 85 people had already signed-up for the 30 pails the city owns. After emailing people who had not yet returned pails from last year, the city recovered some, and bought six additional tree tapping kits. The sign-up did not require a cost or deposit this year.
 - c. **Sunday Music in the Park.** All the concerts will be on Sundays from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM, at the Great Lawn/ Promenade Park, west of the Hotel Landing. Babcock reported the line up for four concerts in August 2023:
 - i. August 6, 2023: IPSO FACTO (new). Five-piece reggae band with singers.
 - ii. August 13, 2023: WESTWIND SWING BAND (returning). Big band swing music with a female vocalist.

- ii. August 20, 2023: DITCHWEED from POWER BALLADZ (returning). 1980s high energy sing along.
- iii. August 27, 2023: SALSA DEL SOUL (new). Nine-piece salsa band with singer.

Babcock suggested that we put up posters advertising the events. Randolph said will contact Steve Bohl about having the Hotel Landing provide drinks and snacks for the concerts.

- d. **City Council Workshop Update.** Planner Kieser reported on the workshop with the Council. Consultants will prepare bid requests to redo the Middle School and Bell Court tennis courts and to add pickleball to Bell Courts. The Council had some additional ideas for Klapprich Park that can be worked on as part of the comprehensive plan of the Park like an underground cooling system for the ice rick and the acquisition of future land for Klapprich Park. Council Member MacDonald would like to be included in the Klapprich Park planning project so the Board and staff will work with MacDonald to determine the best way to include her. The City Council and staff are also working on ways to make the funding mechanism of the Parks and Trails fund more consistent.

6. **New Business.**

- a. **Review WSB Proposal for Klapprich Park Design Development and Construction Documents.** Parks Planner Kieser described the current status of the project. He stated that currently we have five priority projects for the park.

The Board reviewed the WSB proposal for the Klapprich Park project. The Board discussed adding two or three open houses, five to six Parks and Trails Board Meetings alongside the meetings with City staff to the WSB proposal. Staff would also like to include design work for the warming house improvements and the potential for an underground cooling system for the ice rink. Babcock made a motion to approve the WSB proposal with the stated amendments and seconded by Schalkle. Approved 4-0.

Schalkle proposed a conversation about the priorities regarding the items in the Parks and Trails CIP at the next meeting. Babcock said that the Board should have a say regarding projects financed by the budget allocated to the Parks and Trails Board.

- b. **Wayzata Blvd Corridor Study Participant.** Planner Kieser invited the Board to attend the next meeting of the Corridor Study group scheduled for February 23 from 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM. This meeting will concentrate on transportation along the corridor.
- c. **Recommend Bell Courts Tennis Courts Reconstruction Option.** Planner Kieser reviewed the four concept options put together by WSB that show how pickleball could be incorporated at Bell Courts. In addition, the parking area and path needs to be made ADA accessible. The Board noted that Concept 2 and Concept 4 are preferred, but additional information is required on the feasibility of Concept 4. If Concept 4 does not allow for two bocce ball courts to remain without impacting the trees then Concept 2 is

preferred. Randolph moved to recommend Concept 2 while receiving information on Concept 4 and seconded by Gonzalez. Motion passed 4-0.

7. Other Business.

- a. Communications Recap.** Parks Planner Kieser stated that the Panoway project is mostly funded and staff is waiting on the State Bonding Bill to determine if the amount of funds we will receive. Babcock requested that the Board be kept informed about what is going on with the project. Chair Schalkle said the Board should contribute to the discussion of future designs.

Planner Kieser noted that he will work to schedule an Open House to review the Bell Courts options with the community.

- b. Staff Updates.** No additional staff updates were given at this time.
- c. Election of Officers.** The Board approved Schalkle and Babcock to continue as chair and vice chair respectively.
- d. Code of Conduct.** There was a brief discussion about the Code of Conduct, previously adopted.

8. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM. The next meeting will be on March 15.

Respectfully submitted, M. Graciela Gonzalez