

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2024

The Mound Parks and Open Spaces Commission met on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers at the Centennial Building.

Present: Chair Mark Stehlik, Commissioners Kim Blievernicht, Travis Mills and Joanna Kahn, City Council Representative Sherrie Pugh

Absent: None.

Others Present: Deputy City Manager, Maggie Reisdorf

Public Present: Tyler Pieper

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Stehlik at 7:00pm.

2. **Administrative Oath of Office to Commissioner Travis Mills**

The Administrative Oath of Office was performed by Commissioner Travis Mills.

3. **Roll Call**

Present: Chair Stehlik, Commissioners Blievernicht, Mills, and Kahn, City Council Representative Pugh.

Absent: None.

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Pugh asked to add the following items to the agenda:

8.1. Wayfinding Signs

8.2. Rename of Harbor Park

Motion by Kahn to approve the agenda as amended, second by Blievernicht; Motion carried 5-0.

5. **Approve Minutes from 1-11-24 Meeting**

Motion by Kahn to approve the minutes, second by Blievernicht. Motion carried 5-0.

6. **Comments and Suggestions from Citizens Present**

7. **Belmont Native Plant Proposal**

Tyler Pieper provided a follow up presentation for his proposed project expansion at Belmont Park for the native plant gardens. Pieper stated that he was asked to move the garden locations a little bit and bring the new location concept back for further review by the POSC. Pieper asked for comments.

Blievernicht said that she thought the design was great. Mills agreed. Kahn stated that she appreciated Pieper taking their comments into consideration and addressing concerns. Kahn explained that there were concerns about the location being close to the street.

Kahn moved to recommend to the City Council moving forward with Proposal 2 for Belmont Park and approving the staff support for the project and a financial allocation of up to \$700. Blievernicht seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Pieper thanked the Commissioners.

8. **2024 Park and Open Spaces: Long Range Financial Plan: Capital Planning**

Reisdorf explained that since 2023, the City has been working with an outside financial advisor, Ehlers, on a Long Term Financial Plan that includes capital planning elements. She informed that the plan will provide an outlook over 10 years and serves as a guiding document in which the city will plan for operating and capital costs for all city departments.

Reisdorf said that as part of the plan, she wants the POSC to review a draft list of higher cost capital items that should be included within the plan. She referenced some of the items being items such as the replacement of playground structures, upkeep of park buildings, and more. Stehlik said that it is great that the city is going the Long-Term Financial Plan and that the city will be planning for these types of expenditures.

Mills asked if the Phase 3 of the Harbor District Park could be moved up.

Reisdorf stated that would talk with the City Engineer and the Financial Advisor on getting the Phase 3 closer to the other two phases.

Kahn said it was nice to see dates associated with significant park updates.

8.1 (Added) Wayfinding Signs

Pugh referenced the regional Dakota Trail that goes through the City of Mound. She said that many people use and just go straight through the city because there are no signs indicating what is off of the trail. She said that it would be nice to add wayfinding signs. Pugh asked the POSC if they thought this would be a good project to get the Westonka High School students involved with.

There was discussion with the POSC about wayfinding signs for restaurants and informational signs about historical events. There was also discussion on if businesses would be required to pay for signs that specifically mention their business's name. After much discussion, the POSC decided that the topic of wayfinding signs for businesses should be a City Council discussion. The POSC did state that informational signage about parks could remain with the POSC.

8.2 (Added) Harbor District Park Rename

Pugh talked about progress with the downtown Artessa project and that its tentative completion date is August 2024. She also discussed the neighboring public park that is currently called Harbor Park. Pugh informed that in 2023, at the farmers' market, the city solicited for names that people liked for a renaming options for the park. She asked staff to look up those names. She also asked if the POSC would be interested in reaching out to the historical society to see if they have any name ideas based on historical people or events. Pugh said that the POSC could ask the school to research names as well based on the city's history.

The POSC agreed to look up the recommendations that were provided by residents at the 2023 farmers' market. They also agreed to connect with the historical society to see if they had any ideas or suggestions.

Pugh stated that with the Artessa project being done tentatively in August 2024, she expressed hope for doing a "fall opening" for the park.

Stehlik summarized the plan that the POSC would reach out to the historical society and bring the discussion back to the POSC in June. He said that it would then be nice to bring the narrowed list to the community somehow.

9. Reports

Reisdorf informed that she reached out by email and letter to those who are actively participating in the adopt-a-park program. She said that a few of them have responded back and will be reaching out one more time to see if she can get more to respond. Reisdorf said that she thanked them for their hard work and that the POSC appreciate them. She said that she wants to keep that line of communication open in the future and asked them to provide any feedback or comments at any time.

Kahn thanked Reisdorf for doing that.

Stehlik discussed the 2024 Park Visits and explained that this will likely be an item to review at the May 2024 meeting. He wondered if instead of rotating parks each year, if they should have a discussion on keeping the same parks throughout their commission term.

Pugh talked about the upcoming Rain Barrel sale event with Harrisons Bay Association. There was discussion on whether any barrels could be placed in any of the parks. It was determined that sites would have to include those where buildings/pavilions have rain gutters to help connect the rain into the barrels.

Reisdorf asked if the Park Commission was interested in changing their meeting time from 7 pm to 6 pm. She said that the City Council recently made the time change for their meetings. The POSC agreed to keep it at 7 pm.

Pugh informed that the City Council recently approved an ordinance that would now require watercraft licensing as a way to better regulate non-local businesses and activity related to watercraft rentals at city parks.

10. **Adjourn**

**Motion by Commissioner Mills to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm, second by Commissioner Kahn.
Motion carried 5-0.**