

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2024

The Mound Parks and Open Spaces Commission met on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers at the Centennial Building.

Present: Vice-Chair Joanna Kahn, Commissioner Travis Mills and City Council Representative Sherrie Pugh.
Absent: Chair Mark Stehlik and Commissioner Kim Blievernicht
Others Present: Deputy City Manager, Maggie Reisdorf & City Engineer, Matt Bauman.
Public Present: None.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Kahn at 7:00pm.

2. **Roll Call**

Present: Vice Chair Kahn, Commissioner Mills, and City Council Representative Pugh.

Absent: Chair Stehlik and Commissioner Blievernicht.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Pugh to approve the agenda, second by Mills; Motion carried 3-0.

4. **Approve Minutes from 5-9-24 Meeting**

Motion by Mills to approve the minutes, second by Pugh. Motion carried 3-0.

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

Resident Lowell Jaeger, Chapman Place Condominium #102 at 2670 Commerce Blvd, stated that he has been a resident of Mound for three years. He informed that his past work history included working for the MN Department of Natural Resources as a manager and trail supervisor. He said that he has worked on many park and trail projects.

Jaeger expressed concern about the Dakota Trail Crossings on Commerce Blvd and Shoreline Drive. He said that they are very dangerous. He explained that he understood that there will be construction happening soon with the eventual crosswalk improvements being made after that, but wondered if anything could be done immediately to enhance safety. Jaeger stated that there should never be unmarked crosswalks.

Jaeger expressed a desire for the City to allow for fishing off of the harbor docks. He asked the Park Commission and City staff to look into this consideration.

Jaeger expressed concern over several items at Surfside Park. He requested that the City allow car/truck parking at all times, he asked that the City look at the current concrete boat ramp stating that it was not properly designed, and that the City install a boarding dock immediately adjacent to the ramp. He also requested that the City install a combination drinking foundation/water faucet at the park, consider public plumbed toilets at the Depot building, install proper accessibility to current temporary toilets, and move one of the park benches that currently sits in front of the cattail rain garden. He suggested that the City look for grant opportunities for high cost items.

Pugh thanked Jaeger for coming to the meeting and sharing his concerns and making recommendations to the Commission. She mentioned that the weekend/holiday parking citations are per City Code and that the City Council has started to recently enforce this Code per complaints received. Pugh said that the complaints stemmed from outside remote businesses that would come to the City and use the park to set up their business on the weekends. She said that the City now has a licensing requirement and that the Orono Police Department has been patrolling. She recommended that Jaeger come to the City Council for further discussion on the topic.

Jaeger stated that it was never the residents of Chapman Place that complained about traffic within the parking lot.

Reisdorf thanked Jaeger for coming to the meeting. She confirmed that staff received his email regarding these concerns and have been putting together a response to which items can be addressed in the near-term, which in the long-term and which need more discussion with the City Council. She said that she hoped to have a response back to him soon.

6. Harbor District Park Layout – City Engineer Presentation

City Engineer, Matt Bauman, introduced this item to the Commission. He informed that the City Council is working on several improvements within the downtown including improvements to the park open space located with the Harbor District. He said that he is at the meeting tonight to review some of the concepts for the park improvements and incorporate those into the final design that will go to the City Council for approval.

Bauman explained that the concepts that would presented at the meeting were based on a study that was completed by HKGi in 2022, the Hennepin County Three Rivers Park Trail Crossing recommendations, the adjacent Artessa Development Project, the Long-Term Financial Plan, and the Transit Center Pavers project.

Bauman said that the Artessa Development is due to be complete in August and that with that project wrapping up, the City is coordinating the start of the Phase I (of three) of the park improvements. He informed that the Artessa Developer is responsible for some restoration work upon completion of their project and that Phase I will include removing “orphaned elements” such as roadway and underground stormwater storage, restoration of the site, the addition of a fire access, and the installation of underground items needed for future phases.

Mills asked for clarification on what the underground items would be.

Bauman said would include things like irrigation lines, power, and ponding. He said that the goal of Phase I would be to establish the promenade, landscaping, and ponding system. He said that Phase II would focus more on landscaping, the plaza gathering space, a fire ring, seating, and lighting. He informed that Phase III would include an open air shelter and the performance area.

Bauman stated that at this meeting, he is looking for decisions from the Commission on the Plaza Space Layout, the Concrete Colors Schemes, the Seating Area Layout, and the Art Walk/Hammock Grove design.

Bauman presented three concepts to the Commission. He said that Concept I was the closest to the HKGi study, the Concept II included more landscaping, and that Concept III at more trail/landscaping to the right of the park.

Kahn asked if the stormwater basin changed.

Bauman explained that per recent discussion with the watershed district, the city is able to relocate and put in a smaller stormwater basin. He said the change relates to other local projects that the city is working on as well.

Bauman asked the Commission about the different layout designs presented for the plaza/promenade. Mills said that they all look good, but preferred the layout of A and the color schemes of B. Kahn provided a response for Chair Mark Stehlik, who communicated preferences to her ahead of the meeting know he would be absent. She said that Stehlik was in support of layout A and either of the color schemes for A or B. Pugh said that she liked the layout of A and the color schemes of B.

Mills moved to approve moving forward with the design of Layout A and the color schemes of Layout B. Kahn seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Bauman stated that the location of the shelter indicates a different location than the Park Plan study because of current easements located with the park land.

Bauman asked the Commission about their preferred seating area layouts. He explained how the City was going to preserve the current pavers that have names on them and incorporate them into the project. He said that the quality of the pavers isn't too bad as less salt has been used for maintenance within this area over the years.

Mills stated that he liked the seating area of Layout B. He said he liked the squares. He said like liked Layout C as well. He said that he wasn't a big fan of the bump out in Layout A.

Kahn said that she liked the bump out in Layout A and preferred that design. She said that Stehlik had no preference.

Bauman said that a decision on this item doesn't need to be made at this time and can be brought back at a later date. The Commission agreed to table this item for now.

Bauman asked the Commission about their preference for the Art Walk and Hammock Grove areas. Bauman explained that Layout A placed these elements more along the existing trail, that Layout B was the most in-line with the Plan, and the Layout C was based on the now outdated basin design.

Mills stated that he liked Layouts B or C, but that the extra trail within C was not necessary. He said he liked the landscaping of Layout B.

Kahn said that Stehlik also liked the layouts of B and C. Kahn said she liked Layout B the best because the hammocks would be clustered together more and there would be more landscaping.

Pugh said she also liked Layout B.

Mills moved to approve moving forward with the design of Layout B for the Art Walk and Hammock Grove. Kahn seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Bauman reviewed the Phase I project schedule which included going to the City Council in June to get the authorization to bid the project, award the bid in July and start construction by August 2024.

Mills asked about the neighboring Transit Center project and the replacement of the current pavers

Bauman said the project would not replace the pavers with pavers, but with asphalt.

7. Park Rename Discussion

Reisdorf introduced this item to the POSC. She stated that at the April 11, 2024 POSC meeting, the commission discussed the renaming of Harbor Park. She stated that at that meeting, the Commission directed Commissioner Kahn to reach out to the Lake Minnetonka Historical Society (LMHC) to see if they had any recommendation for park names based on significant community historical events. She explained that in the past, a park study solicited names for the park as well. Reisdorf explained that at that meeting, Kahn said that she was having trouble connecting with the LMHC, but would try one more time to connect with them.

Kahn said that she hasn't had any additional success connecting with them. She said that the POSC did their due diligence and will have to move on with other information.

Reisdorf mentioned that at the May 9, 2024 POSC meeting, the Commission asked staff to reach out to HKGi, the company that did the park study, to see if they still have the park names that were recommended by the community as part of the survey that was conducted. Reisdorf stated that she was able to get a list of those names and stated that they were in the packet.

Mills stated that he thinks the park name comes down to the top two choices that were recommended by the community in the survey: Harbor Park and Lost Lake Park.

Pugh stated that she doesn't see the area as a harbor. She referenced the nearby Lost Lake and explained that Lost Lake is part of the history of Mound. She said that the Lost Lake area was filled in for some time and was dredged and revitalized and added value to that area. She recommended Lost Lake Park.

Mills said he liked Pugh's explanation on Lost Lake and said he also liked Lost Lake Park.

Kahn asked what the new Artesa development street name was changed to. She said it used to be Auditors Road.

Pugh explained that the Artesa development requested that the street be renamed to Harbor Place to reflect Artesa at Harbor Place.

Kahn said that she sees Artesa as a separate space than the park space. She recommended instead of Lost Lake Park, naming it Lost Lake Commons as she sees it more as a gathering space instead of a park.

Pugh said she likes "Commons" as it is more inclusive.

Mills said he wasn't sure about "Commons" as he first thinks of the docks program commons. He said it could be confusing. Mills said he preferred Lost Lake Park over Lost Lake Commons.

Kahn said that Stehlik would go with whatever the Commission decided. She said his only recommendation was to not name it after a person.

After much discussion, the Commission agreed on Commons.

Kahn moved to recommend to the City Council naming the park located within the Harbor District: Lost Lake Commons. Pugh seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

8. **Adopt a Park/Greenspace Program**

Reisdorf introduced this item to the Commission. She said that on an annual basis, the City of Mound and Commission partner with resident volunteers and/or service groups as part of a collaboration for the City's Adopt-A-Greenspace program. Reisdorf said that the Commission requested an up to date list of parks that have been adopted so that the Commission could highlight vacant spaces when they participate in the Farmers' Market. Reisdorf said of the 60 locations, 23 are available for adoption.

Reisdorf said that she would create a list and poster for the Farmers' Market that the Commission could use to educate people on the program and ask for more volunteers.

Pugh stated that the City needs to work on acknowledging its volunteers more as they truly represent the spirit of volunteerism.

The Commission discussed when they would like to participate in the summer Farmers' Market. Kahn said she would reach out to the Market representative for open dates.

9. **Reports**

Reisdorf informed that the Eli Hart Playground was complete at Surfside Park and that it looked great.

Pugh said that the City Council is reviewing its Long-Term Financial Plan and budget projections for upcoming years. She said that the liquor store continues to perform well. She mentioned the upcoming road construction that is going to take place with the Metropolitan Council Sewer project. She mentioned that she met with staff to review an idea of hers related to an economic development strategy that focused on family tourism. She said that there are so many great activities in the area including the parks, a farm, golfing, ice cream, and more. Pugh said she wants to encourage and market more family focused activities so more people will visit.

Pugh recommended that the Commission nominate the founders/operators of the Mound Farmers' Market for Citizen of the Year. Those present agreed.

Pugh moved that the POSC nominate the founders/operators of the Mound Farmers' Market for Citizen of the Year. Mills seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

10. Adjourn

Kahn moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. Mills seconded. Motion carried 3-0.