

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2024

The Mound Parks and Open Spaces Commission met on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the Centennial Building.

Present: Chair Mark Stehlik, and Commissioners Joanna Kahn, Travis Mills, Kim Blievernicht, and City Council Representative Sherrie Pugh.
Absent: None.
Others Present: Deputy City Manager, Maggie Reisdorf.
Public Present: None.

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Stehlik Kahn at 7:05pm.

2. **Roll Call**

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

Absent: None.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Blievernicht to approve the agenda, second by Mills; Motion carried 5-0.

4. **Approve Minutes from 10-10-24 Meeting**

Motion by Pugh to approve the minutes, second by Mills. Motion carried 3-0-2 (Stehlik and Blievernicht abstained due to not attending that meeting).

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

NA.

6. **2025 Park Projects and Goals**

Reisdorf introduced this item to the Commission. She explained that within the packet was a list of priorities and goals that the POSC had been working off of in the past and most recently in 2023. Reisdorf asked the Commissioners to review. Reisdorf said the goal by 2025 would be to update the list by crossing off what has been completed, and adding new items.

Reisdorf talked about one of the 2025 park improvement projects being at Chester Park. She stated that at the previous POSC meeting, Commissioners requested that letters be sent to the neighboring properties informing of the upcoming improvements and inviting them to the December POSC meeting to provide them more information on the project and get their insight.

Kahn talked about how the current park is not ADA accessible, specifically where the current playground sits. She explained that sand around playgrounds does not meet the ADA requirements. She stated that when playground improvements occur, it triggers, for City parks, the need to get park spaces into compliance with ADA standards. She said she supported keeping a sand beach down by the water. She said it would be great to get comments from the neighboring properties.

Blievernicht stated that she sees kids wading in the water all the time at the park.

Stehlik agreed that it is not a beach where swimming occurs, but that many people wade in the water.

Kahn stated that getting input from neighboring properties allows them to participate in planning the space and gives them ownership within the decision making process.

Stehlik agreed and stated that the POSC has done this in the past as well with other park spaces. He said that some people may not care to participate, but some may. He said that some may have really great ideas. Stehlik said that it is good to attempt to connect with people and get their input.

Pugh mentioned that there is a tar pathway that encroaches on the City property from the neighboring property and that there may have to be some discussion on that.

Stehlik stated mentioned that the neighboring business, Al and Almas, has adopted that park and takes care of it. He said they are doing a great job taking care of the park.

Stehlik confirmed that staff would send out letters to neighboring properties, including Al and Almas, to invite them to the December meeting to start the discussion on the Chester Park park improvements in 2025.

Reisdorf asked that the Commissioners continue to review the list of past goals and priorities and that it will be brought back to the December meeting for further review and refinement.

Pugh mentioned that the Dutch Lake fishing pier project was completed in 2024. She informed that there was originally concerns about possible teenager activity that could occur with the project. She stated that she has not heard of any complaints since the project was completed. She said that the newly improvement crossings for the Dakota Trail in 2024 have been well received.

Reisdorf explained that the Depot Building is scheduled to have 2025 some improvements done and that she would report back the specifics on those improvements at the December meeting.

Kahn asked if staff could put together an inventory of the picnic tables and schedule the replacement of the tables over time. She said they are not very welcoming.

Reisdorf agreed to talk to the Public Works Director.

The commissioners talked about low maintenance options.

7. Parks and Open Space List – Review

Kahn initiated the conversation on this. The commissioners talked about the current Adopt a Park informational sheet and application that listed the current adoptable spaces and decided that it needed to be “cleaned up” and some of the outdated spaces eliminated.

There was discussion about historical sites that used to have flower boxes and don’t anymore. There was also discussion about flower boxes and spaces that the Public Works Department currently manages. The commission asked that those be removed from the list of adoptable spaces.

Kahn recommended that parks that have flower boxes be adopted as a combination instead of separately. Mills and Blievernicht agreed.

Stehlik mentioned that a neighboring city has a garden club and if there was a local similar group in Mound that could adopt high profile areas.

Kahn said that there is a group currently that adopts areas within the downtown near some of the restaurants and the post office.

Kahn mentioned that there is a park called Bluffs Park that is very difficult to locate as it is an empty lot and not marked. She said that it is an open space and not a park. She said she didn’t even know it existed.

Mills stated that it is indeed an empty lot that the City sometimes uses for snow removal.

Stehlik said that the City of Mound has several of these types of open spaces throughout the City for snow removal activity. He stated that the City mows and maintains them, but that these open spaces do not have amenities and that no one would know it is a City owned lot.

Mills stated that it shouldn't be listed as a City park if it has no amenities.

Stehlik said that the City should either remove it as a listed park or post a sign identifying it as a park.

Mills said that he didn't see a point in placing a sign there.

Kahn agreed.

Mills stated that the commissioners should go visit before the December meeting.

Stehlik agreed for everyone to go visit and then they could discuss the future of the site more at the December meeting.

8. Reports

Reisdorf informed that the City is getting closer to completing its new website. She said that with the new website, she hopes to be able to clean up a lot of the outdated information and specifically revamp the parks informational pages.

Stehlik mentioned that he would be stepping down from the POSC at the end of his term at the end of the year. He said that it has been a wonderful seven years serving and that he appreciated working with everyone. He informed that life has gotten busy and that has been harder to commit and that he would only want to commit if he could give 100%. The other commissioners thanked Stehlik for his years of service on the Commission.

Reisdorf said that staff posted for vacancies on the POSC and Planning Commission. She said that the POSC would be hopefully interviewing to fill the vacancy in December.

Pugh stated that the holiday wreaths have been installed on the City streetlight posts and that they look great. She informed of a recent open house at the Artesa Co-op Development in downtown Mound. She said that the building is beautiful with many amenities. She informed that many of the residents are excited about the new Lost Lake Commons Park. She informed that the Farmers Market is down for the season and that they are excited about the new park as well. Pugh mentioned the new residential development going in called the Lake Minnetonka Flats.

Stehlik asked if there would be a way for the City to create a better map on the new website that would allow visitors to find a park space and now which amenities are there.

Reisdorf said she would reach out to the City Engineer regarding GIS mapping and if there would be potential to have something more interactive for parks.

Pugh mentioned that the Three Rivers Park District recently purchased 17 acres of land near Commerce Blvd and Dutch Lake. She stated that she is thinking of reaching out to the District to see what their plans are for that space. She said it was a beautiful piece of land. Pugh thought it would be great for a representative to attend a future meeting.

Pugh mentioned the desire to expand the Andrews Sisters Trail and prioritizing other trail expansion opportunities.

Pugh mentioned that the City Council continues to work on obtaining funding through the Minnesota Legislature for the Water Treatment Plant project.

Stehlik mentioned that the old dentist office in downtown Mound was torn down.

Pugh explained that the current owner's intention was to rehabilitate the building, but that those plans fell through. She said that the building was then torn down with intention for redevelopment at some point.

9. **Adjourn**

Mills moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm. Kahn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.