

**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION (POSC) MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2025**

The Mound Parks and Open Spaces Commission met on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6:35 pm in the Council Chambers at the Centennial Building.

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

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

2. **Roll Call**

Present: Commissioners Kahn and Pieper, and City Council Representative Pugh.

Absent: Commissioners Mills and Blievernicht,

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Reisdorf recommended that the Oaths of Office be moved to the next meeting as Blievernicht was absent for the meeting and because she accidentally left the Oaths of Office documents back at City Hall. Reisdorf apologized for the error.

Motion by Pugh to approve the agenda as amended by moving the Oaths of Office to the March meeting, second by Kahn; Motion carried 3-0.

4. **Oaths of Office (TABLED)**

Commissioner Kim Blievernicht

Commissioner Tyler Pieper

5. **Approve Minutes from 1-9-2025 Meeting**

Motion by Pugh to approve the 1-9-2025 meeting minutes, second by Kahn. Motion carried 3-0.

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

NA.

7. **2025 POSC Projects and Goals Discussion**

Reisdorf introduced this item to the POSC. She stated that the purpose of this discussion is to set project and goal priorities for the year.

Pugh informed that the City Council has proposed having a joint meeting in April with the City Council and POSC to discuss these priorities. She explained that some City Council members are interested in selling park land that is underutilized to adjacent property owners. Pugh stated that the POSC has to emphasize the value of the parks and its vision for the parks system. Pugh said she is not in favor of selling park land. Pugh mentioned that there are some City Council members that are interested in moving the current playground at Surfside Park to Lost Lake Commons.

Kahn asked what the concerns were about the current playground location at Surfside Park. She stated that it was installed in 2024.

Pugh informed that there are concerns about the structure blocking the view of the lake. Pugh said that 75% of Mound residents don't have direct access to the lake via lakeshore and that the park is a valuable space for people to gain access to the lake and swim. She said that Surfside Park has many great amenities and a great view of the lake.

Pieper expressed concern about spending money to move a park that was just installed in 2024. He asked if there is citizen support for this.

Pugh informed that it is about a \$500,000 park that was mostly paid for through fundraising efforts. She referenced a contract between the Eli Hart Foundation and the City of Mound for its installation. She talked about how the city spent money on grading and concrete.

Kahn stated that the installation of the park was approved by a majority of the City Council.

Pieper wondered if the POSC should solicit public comment on the idea.

Kahn stated that the Surfside Park Playground had been discussed for several years before it was installed. She informed that there was a decision not to put it at Lost Lake Commons in the past. She said that many people enjoy the location as it is currently.

Pugh recommended that the city reach out to the residents who live in the Artessa Villas as they should be involved in decision making for what goes into Lost Lake Commons.

Reisdorf mentioned that this topic was recently brought up at a City Council Workshop meeting and that at the meeting, it was decided that it wouldn't be an agenda item for discussion at this time. She said that she would keep the POSC updated on if that changes.

Kahn provided a review of her 2025 POSC goals and priorities:

1. Continue to refine the Adopt-A-Park program.

She recommended that the adoptions are managed through year-long agreements, instead of open ended agreements. She said that by doing it this way, the city would be able to better grasp the ongoing commitment of adopters.

She recommended that monthly emails be sent out to adopters with various communications on the program and that the city appreciates what they are doing.

She recommended doing a yearly social event with all of the adopters to show the city's appreciation.

2. Parks bucket list for families.

Kahn provided a "parks passport" document from the City of Victoria that lists various parks in their community for people to visit and subsequently check out. She explained that it is a low cost idea to distribute and get people to visit different parks. Kahn explained that when each park is visited and checked off, the participant comes to City Hall to drop off their passport to receive a prize.

3. Consider creating a new timeline for POSC park visits & follow up with Public Works.

Kahn expressed concern about the POSC park visits and the time spent gathering feedback for city staff. She informed that even though feedback is provided, the POSC rarely hears back on what improvements/fixes are made based on the feedback.

4. As website is redeveloped, list parks that are adopted and parks that still need an adopter.

5. Lower-cost ideas for current undeveloped parks

a. Nature play areas (rocks, stumps, logs, water feature)

b. Pump track for kids (Doone Park)

c. Mandala (walking labyrinth made with stones)

Reisdorf provided a summary of Commissioner Blievernicht's priorities that were mentioned at the January POSC meeting:

1. To adequately fund and staff resources to support annual evaluations of the parks and open spaces recommendation that are provided by the Commission. There was concerns about lack of staff follow up on recommendations.

2. That city staff perform an evaluation on all the parks and open spaces to determine accessibility needs. To prioritize, create, and fund a long-range written plan to ensure accessibility improvements are being done over the next five years.

Pieper provided a review of his 2025 goals and priorities:

1. Help organize individual commissioner goals into larger themes or priorities, to help determine where we could possibly put our efforts.
2. Create and maintain open communication with the City Council through:
 - a. Summaries (1 page or less) of Meetings.
 - b. Summary of priorities for the year.
 - c. Representation of POSC members at City Council meetings.
 - d. Understanding goals, associated park budget (if any) of City Council.
3. Investigate and pursue grant opportunities for existing parks and amenities.
4. Create ranked and sorted inventory of parks and open spaces in Mound.
 - a. Rank by agreed-upon set of standards/specifications.
 - b. Designate which areas could benefit from improvements.
5. Seek feedback from residents and park visitors and investigate low-cost initiatives to improve spaces.
6. Determine what parks have impact for water improvement due to proximity to lakefront drainage. Proposed low cost solutions like native plants and other mitigation measures.
 - a. Could Parks Department inform us of any knowledge of frequently flooded areas, drainage concerns, etc.?
7. Investigate and initiate more community awareness and collaboration. Ideas include:
 - a. Coordinating parks usage with Community Education, Boy Scouts, Garden Clubs, etc.
8. Provide feedback as a unified commission for Bolton & Menk for Lost Lake Commons. Design that maximizes community usage (including handicap access, preservation of resources, and long-term viability of the location (including water runoff).
9. Incorporate successful practices from other cities or communities, such as a food map, bucket list, and others.

Kahn provided a review of Commissioner Mills' 2025 goals and priorities (provided to her before the meeting):

1. Have a staff event planner.
2. Food Trucks
3. Small Splash Pad at Lost Lake Commons.
4. An inventory of Parks/Equipment.

Kahn asked if the city currently has recreational programs.

Reisdorf stated that at this time, the city does not do recreational programs and relies on the school district's community education programs for many of these programs and activities.

There was discussion about the City Council trying to use volunteers to head up recreational activities. The POSC talked about have POSC sponsored events.

8. **Reports**

Staff Reports: Reisdorf provided project updates to the POSC including that the project planning for Lost Lake Commons Phase II would start in early 2025. She informed that the City Engineer would likely be at the March or April meeting to discuss Phase II in more detail and to ask for feedback and ideas. Reisdorf said that the Chester Park planning and discussion would likely occur at the March POSC meeting. Reisdorf provided information to the POSC with regards to questions asked at the January meeting. This included information regarding the reuse of trees and boulders for the Lost Lake Commons Project. It also included confirmation that the Lake

Minnetonka Flats Development paid a park dedication fee of \$22,400. There was also an update on a donated tree that was planted at Belmont Park.

City Council Representative: Pugh mentioned the Minnetonka Flats Development project was moving forward. She stated that the City Council continues to work on the manganese issue in the water and the hope to build a Water Treatment Plant.

Commission Comments: None.

11. Next Meeting: March 13, 2025

12. Adjourn

Pugh moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM. Pieper seconded. Motion carried 3-0.