



AGENDA OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
CITY OF BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JUNE 15, 2023
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE AGENDA

APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- A. May 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes* (p. 3-4)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS - REGULAR AGENDA

- A. Public Forum
- B. New Discussion Items
- a. Garlic Mustard Plant and Park Maintenance* (p. 5-6)
 - b. Swimmer's Itch Treatment* (p. 7)
 - c. Bear Updates
- C. Discussion Items Carried Over from Previous Meeting(s)
- a. Hall's Marsh
 - b. Sign at Curt Feistner Memorial Preserve
 - c. Public Signs on City Beaches
 - d. City Code Review
 - e. Planning for Tighe-Schmitz Park
 - f. Maintenance of the Birch Beach Rain Garden
 - g. Wood Chips at Birch Beach Park
- D. Confirm Next Month's Meeting and Identify Agenda Topics

ADJOURN

* denotes an attachment in the agenda packet

ATTACHMENTS

Parks and Natural Resources Committee Minutes May 18, 2023

Members present: Michalk, McCarthy, Weier, Arsenault, Hegedus, Simmons

Guests present: Candy Cramer, Judy Duffy, Debbie Harrod, Julie McKenzie

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michalk

The Agenda was approved after adding topics: our resident bear problem and maintaining water quality in the lake.

The April 25, 2023 Minutes were approved.

Committee Business

New Discussion Items

Hall's Marsh

McCarthy and Weier met with the City Engineer regarding the maintenance and overall health of Hall's Marsh. Priebe Lake sends poor quality water and sediment into White Bear Lake via Hall's Marsh. Rice Creek Watershed District staff have offered to do some maintenance but more financial assistance is needed.

Curt Feistner Memorial Preserve

Ideas for the placement of an historical sign were discussed and members viewed a photo of the bike trail and fence above the Preserve. Because of the Preserve's location and difficult access path to the lake, members expressed doubt that public access should be encouraged.

Discussion Items Carried over from Previous Meetings

Kay Beach

It was agreed by all that the waste containers there should be placed in front of the chain to allow easier access to the beach area.

Guests brought up several issues related to dogs, fishing from the dock, motorized vehicle use, and supervision of children. Also discussed was the idea of marking a designated swimming area with buoys.

A draft sign for Kay was reviewed and revisions were discussed. If the decision is made to allow dogs at Kay, they would need to be leashed. Kay could have a special sign as it is the only lake park specifically designated as a swimming beach only. A new version of a sign will be reviewed by the committee next month.

City Code Review

This item carried over to next month.

Planning for Tighe-Schmitz Park

The committee passed a motion that it will conduct a public forum on July 20, 5:30 to 6:30 pm to gather ideas about how the park could be enhanced and better used. Residents would be asked: What would you like to see at Tighe-Schmitz?

A volunteer opportunity event will be held on June 17 to clean up Birchwood parks (?)

Hand Railing on Owl St Trail

Committee member Arsenault submitted data on the potential costs of installing a railing similar to the one at White Pine/Grotto St.

Members McCarthy and Weier will explore grant opportunities for this project.

Motion made and passed to install the handrail on Owl Street trail.

Maintenance of the Birch Beach Rain Garden

McCarthy and Weier are meeting with Cameron Blake from Washington Conservation Board to discuss maintenance needed at the rain garden. This item will appear on next month's agenda. Birchwood maintenance man Jim will be asked to move the wood chips at Birch Beach.

Special Revenue Fund

Nothing new to report.

The Birchwood Bear

The DNR will not relocate the bear. If he becomes a danger to the community, it would be killed. Notices will continue to caution residents not to harass the bear and remove all feeders. A bear ordinance and warning sign may be created.

Additional comments: Mowing of parks has not yet started.

Arsenault will look into obtaining a safety inspection of Tighe-Schmitz playground.

Next Committee Meeting: June 22

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, MarySue Simmons
Acting Secretary

From: McGinnis <mcginnis1717@gmail.com>
Date: May 20, 2023 at 1:05:51 AM GMT+2
To: Al Mitchell <alanshari@comcast.net>
Subject: Another PNR item: Garlick Mustard

Al:

Here is another item that the Parks and Natural Resources Committee may want to put on the list of things to look into, perhaps under an "invasive species" category:

Garlick mustard, a very invasive plant (see web resources), has become numerous in Bloomquist Park. It is prevalent along the path on the west side of the park. (Even after at least a couple serious attempts at eradicating buckthorn from this park, there are still many small plants.) Several years ago Ericka Peterson pointed out, to a few of us on a "walking tour", some garlick mustard plants along Ash Walkway toward the north end of the straight part of the path down from Birch Street. I didn't see any on a walk through there this spring, but it may have been too early for them to be up. I would be glad to point out this plant to anyone who would want to meet me at the park.

The wooden "gate" to Ash Walkway, at Wildwood Avenue needs attention. I am sure that there are other maintenance issues in the parks.

Bryan







White Bear Lake Conservation District - 4701 Highway 61 - White Bear Lake, MN 55110 - Telephone: (651) 429-8520

Email: wblcd@msn.com - Web: www.wblcd.org

May 25, 2023

Rebecca Kellen
Administrator-Clerk
City of Birchwood Village
207 Birchwood Ave.
Birchwood, MN 55110

Re: 2023 Swimmer's Itch Treatment

The White Bear Lake Conservation District (WBLCD) has established a Swimmer's Itch Control procedure for White Bear Lake for 2023. This procedure is as follows:

1. The WBLCD agrees to reimburse one copper sulfate treatment at the following public beaches to reduce the effects of swimmer's itch for 2023 (on an "as required" basis):
 - City of White Bear Lake - Memorial Beach
 - White Bear Township - Bellaire Beach
 - Mahtomedi - Mahtomedi City Beach and Chautauqua Park Beach
 - Birchwood – Kay Beach.
2. The affected communities are to use whatever triggering criteria they have used in the past to determine if, and when, to treat a beach for swimmer's itch.
3. Permits must be obtained from the MN DNR to apply copper sulfate, and use a DNR-approved applicator if they anticipate their beaches will need to be treated.
4. When requesting reimbursement from the WBLCD, please include a copy of your receipt and note the date of treatment.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Cheri Howe, Administrator, at (651) 429-8520, or wblcd@msn.com.

Thank you,

Lake Quality Committee
White Bear Lake Conservation District