

## **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