

## **Parks Committee Meeting Minutes**

May 22, 2018

### **In Attendance:**

Chairman: Houston Clinch

Members: Jim Nelson, Bridget Sperl, Dave Remely, Judy Walker. Absent: Analeisha Vang;

Council Liaison Members: Megan Malvey and Trilby White.

The meeting started on the minute! 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Clinch asked that the Birchwood Council address/come to agreement on the 180 Birchwood Avenue residence as its status pertains to further pathway/walking trail additions.

Trilby: Paul, our new assistant at City Hall, will manage Music in the Park. We will need to ask permission of people living near the designated week's music for permission to use their power amps for 1-2 hours each week. We will ask that attendees/visitors supply their own chairs or blankets, eliminating need for chairs at City Hall. Signage for Music in the Park needs to be put out and removed the day before and after. E-mail Alerts can be sent to the 130+ households.

### **Discussion/reporting regarding respective Parks' needs and conditions:**

#### **Bloomquist Park – Judy**

It looks good overall and ready for use.

- Drinking fountain is on.
- Needs some new gravel on stairs – Class 5 is suitable to level and neaten it up.
- The path west of the tennis court fence could use a mow.
- The tennis courts are up, leaves have been blown, one bench needs painting.
- Playground equipment is so-so. We would like to add a few new pieces to accommodate special needs children.
- The trees have been trimmed and all brush removed – for now.

#### **Jim reported on 8 beaches/easements**

##### **Ash Beach**

- Needs 4-5 yards of Class 5 gravel.

##### **Kurt Feistner Easement**

- Access is overgrown but could be cleaned out.
- Not much buckthorn.
- Fencing o.k.
- Possible space for kayak racks.

### **Birch Beach**

- 75' of western portion will be where new swale will be installed with the guidance/help of Rice Creek Conservation District's expertise the end of summer.
- Once the canal is dredged, could there be a possibility for a small bridge to walk over? Just a thought.

### **Elm Beach**

- Silts up in storms. It's been seeded at least 10x and grass doesn't grow. Could a woodchip path down the middle be of use?

### **Dellwood Beach**

- The sun gets through and overall it looks good.

### **Kay Beach**

- A perfect combination of swimming access and playground nearby.
- Looks good and ready for families.

### **Grotto Easement**

- A brush pile needs burning.

### **Ash Walkway**

- Needs new woodchips added.
- There is a nice bench made from a large fallen tree on Ash Walkway – Thanks Steve Dean.

### **Tighe-Schmitz Park-Playground – Dave**

- Play area needs raking out and a deteriorating tree needs removal.
- Ice rink's asphalt is cracking in places and could be patched/resurfaced by road people.
- A small tree growing out of curb needs removal.
- Question posed about concrete stops put in front of parking space to stop cars from encroaching onto play space areas?

### **Wildwood Park - Bridget**

- It should be featured!
- Cyclists, walkers come through.
- We could install a quality sign designating parks, beaches, Porta Potty's and dog waste stations in Birchwood.

- An autumn aerating and re-seeding program should be started as well as adding woodchips around the shrubs and generator, so shrubs can grow well, and mower doesn't impede.
- A few new trees must be replanted to replace rotting trees, creating a lovely canopy.
- A drinking fountain would be a welcome addition to Wildwood Park.

### **Committee Discussions**

- Adding charcoal stationary barbecue stands in various parks. We will site them for future use/installation.
- Excitement arose when we found on-line picnic tables and benches to be added to the beach areas, walkways, and throughout Birchwood. We have the money to spend and wish to use it soon. We want lasting, high quality equipment. Does the City have its own vendor for park equipment or can we order independently? Suggestion of benches being purchased and named i.e. "In Memory Of... .." For a nominal fee of \$500? Could there be a possibility of using a local artist/designer?
- Discussions regarding the number of picnic tables needed – 4-6? - and located at various parks. We would like to have benches at each beach and two at Wildwood Park. We can start small and increase annually. We concurred again on quality equipment that lasts.
- A question was raised about kayaking at Hall's Marsh. It's not feasible if/until certainty of water levels.

Megan: "Hold off on too many things at once – keep a wish list going."

Trilby: "When you address the council, list how many tables, benches and outdoor grills wanted."

- The Committee speculated that we needed 5-6 Picnic Tables at \$650/ea.;
- 8-10 Benches at \$350/ea.;
- Trash Receptacles needed but not too many to appear junky.
- Houston: "Pet Waste receptacles could be sponsored by local Vet Services and will be contacted." This was hailed unanimously.
- An additional Porta Potty is needed at ...?...Park
- Installation of barbecue grills would be contracted out for 2+ hours – costing \$100/hr.

Much discussion resulted in replacing or augmenting existing equipment.

- The basketball backboard and rims need replacing.
- A much-needed backboard installed at the tennis courts.
- All will be priced for best quality and value.

There have been complaints regarding a person loitering near the playground equipment, making children feel creepy. We agreed to use a police liaison officer to contact the individual.

Bridget: "In discussing the new website design, Councilman Randy LaFoy would like the website to include locations and descriptions of each park and its amenities. Also, to include an overview of each parks' name and history."

Jim: "Let's spend the money to get top quality, durable equipment with a consistency in design and function."

The May meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. making it an easy walk home in dusk light.

Submitted by Judy Walker