

Parks and Natural Resource Committee Meeting Minutes June 18, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:00.

Attendees: Kathy Weier, Zachary Michalk, Jennifer Arsenault, Mary Sue Simmons, Amy Hulett and Alan Mitchell.

Agenda: Agenda approved with additions.

No one in attendance for public forum.

Minutes: May draft minutes approved.

Path improvements through Polly's Park and tree planting. Several trees that were purchased with 2023 grant money were planted with the help of volunteers in Polly's Park. There is some grant money that will help with dead/diseased tree removal in Polly's Park. The downed trees have been cut and a new path established on Ash Path. Birch trees will also be planted on Ash Path. Amy H. will order more wood chips for Ash Path. Jennifer A. volunteered to spread the chips.

No update on T-shirt idea.

Tighe-Schmitz short-term improvements and long-term planning. A walk-about is scheduled for June 26 with Lori Tella (WCCD) and Molly (RCWD) to find a simple starting project to improve drainage at the park. Lori has spoken with Mary Sue S. about a variety of possible projects including a sedge meadow on the south side of the soccer field. Lori has volunteered to assist us in getting a HELP grant which is given to restore wetlands. The grant requires that the city contribute 10% to the project on which the grant money is used. This 10% can be in the form of money or volunteer work. Lori has asked that the committee sign a letter of intention to go forward with a project at the park. This letter would be supporting documentation for the grant application. The letter is non-binding but will show that the committee intends to support a project with the use of grant money. The committee voted to support the letter of intention. Zach M. said that he would sign the letter on behalf of the committee.

No update on ELLm Beach easement maintenance work.

No update on Rice Creek Watershed District Grant opportunities.

No update on conservation initiatives.

No update on community outreach. The deadline for newsletter articles is August 19.

General maintenance. Parts of the hockey rink were under water. The performers scheduled for Music in the Park swept the water off the rink. Kathy W. mentioned that if swimmers' itch is reported, White Bear Lake will treat the water. Kay Beach tree needs to be trimmed to allow safe access to dock.

The next meeting is July 16 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Arsenault