

APPROVED MINUTES
WYOMING PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
APRIL 4, 2022
7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Spangler called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Park Advisory Commission for April 4, 2022 to order at 7:00PM

CALL OF ROLL:

*On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming Park Advisory Commission were present:
Members Bruce Spangler, Heather Vandenheuvel, and Jessica Bergan*

Absent: Lindsay Hobson, Bruce Vukelich

Also Present: Alex Saxe- Assistant City Administrator, Chuck Almhjeld- Public Works Superintendent and Councilmember Claire Luger

Visitors: Candace Amberg, WSB and Ryan Murphy, University of Minnesota

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

Chair Spangler determined a Quorum was present.

PLEDGE OR ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM: NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approving the minutes of the "Regular Meeting" of the Wyoming Planning Advisory Commission for March 7, 2022

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER VANDENHUEVEL, SECONDED BY MEMBER BERGAN, TO APPROVE THE PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 7, 2022 MEETING, AS PRESENTED.

Voting Aye: Spangler, Vandenheuvel, and Bergan

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hobson, Vukelich

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Presentation from Ryan Murphy from the University of Minnesota Tree Steward Program

Assistant City Administrator Saxe explained that the city received a \$40,000 Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) grant but noted that the contracts have not yet been officially signed. He noted that as part of that program, the city is able to get assistance from the University of Minnesota Tree Steward Program.

Ryan Murphy, University of Minnesota, Urban Forestry Outreach and Research, gave a brief

presentation on their Tree Steward Program.

Assistant City Administrator Saxe noted that they are already booked out for Arbor Day celebrations in 2022, but he is hopeful that the city can work with them to coordinate some sort of event in the future.

The Park Advisory Commission and staff discussed oak wilt, the nuisance tree ordinance, public education components, the tree canopy assessment, recommended planting lists, encouraging diversification of trees through the city, differences between urban and rural recommendations, and native versus non-native trees.

3. Park and Trail Master Plan Update

Assistant City Administrator Saxe explained that the city has been working with WSB on a Park and Trail Master Plan and introduced Candace Amberg from WSB.

Candace Amberg, Landscape Architect, WSB gave a brief update on the progress of the Park and Trail Master Plan and what things they had assessed and evaluated as part of the process, including underserved areas, pedestrian connectivity, linking trails, connections, wetlands, the interactive map feedback, priority ratings for the parks within the city, and comments and feedback the public has given for wish list items for the city.

The Park Advisory Commission discussed underserved areas in the city, ADA recommendations, ways to pay for improvements including partnerships and grant opportunities.

Ms. Amberg explained that her next step will be to get into the written document for the Park and Trail Master Plan which will outline the needs analysis and layout each park with a recommendation. She noted that this will be a living document that will change year to year and explained that the goal is for it to be a guiding document for the city.

Commissioner Vandenheuvel asked if the social pinpoint tool would continue to be available to people so they can keep providing feedback.

Ms. Amberg explained that they plan to keep it open for a bit so when they are done with the document it can be uploaded for the public to see.

4. Assigning Park Stewards from the Park Advisory Commission

Assistant City Administrator Saxe explained that one of the goals for both the City Council and the Park Advisory Commission was to have each member assigned to monitor a few of the city parks. He reviewed the general duties and responsibilities of monitoring the parks. He reviewed the draft list he had put together assigning the parks to the PAC members.

Commissioner Vandenheuvel asked if there was a specific checklist they would be using as they monitored the parks.

Assistant City Administrator Saxe explained that they did not have a checklist, but outlined some basic things he felt they could monitor and report back to staff or the PAC.

The PAC discussed various scenarios and who should be informed and when and rotation of the assignments year to year amongst the members.

There was consensus to accept the park assignments as presented.

5. Swenson Park Equipment Discussion

Assistant City Administrator Saxe stated that Swenson Park needs a few more finishing touches before

it is considered 'complete'. He stated that the second phase is installing more playground equipment and noted that the city has been receiving a lot of comments and concerns from citizens about the lack of equipment available for older children. He reviewed the funds that may be available and noted that staff was not looking for a decision tonight but would like the PAC to determine if they felt this should be a top priority. He stated that the city will need to get an updated quote for current costs before this goes before the City Council.

The PAC discussed the feedback regarding the desire for additional playground equipment, the importance of an updated quote, and the confusion about there being a second phase to the Swenson Park project because many people thought it was complete because of the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Public Works Superintendent Almhjeld stated that he can work on getting an update quote but would need to know what age group they are looking for the equipment to be used by.

Ms. Amberg stated that the feedback has been that they are looking for 'older age' equipment.

The PAC discussed equipment options that could be used by older children such as climbing structures.

Assistant City Administrator Saxe stated that staff will work on getting an updated quote with more age appropriate equipment.

COMMUNICATIONS:

6. Update on Arbor Day Event

Assistant City Administrator Saxe the City will have an Arbor Day Event on April 30, 2022 from 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. at Goodview Park. He noted that Hugo Tree Service will be assisting with education on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) disease and provide information and resources including tree removal. He stated that details of the event will be posted on social media and included in the quarterly city newsletter.

Mr. Murphy stated that they have a cohort of tree care advisors that, for example host a 'Ask a Tree Care Advisor' booth at the State Fair and noted that they may be able to get some of those advisors to volunteer to come and staff a booth at the city's event.

Assistant City Administrator Saxe stated that there was a Joint Park Planning Board meeting recently to discuss the Sunrise Riverbank development. He stated that they will do a 50% land dedication and 50% cash in lieu of land for a park, but noted that the location has not yet been determined.

Commissioner Vandenhuevel asked if it was for sure happening or if it was just still being considered.

Assistant City Administrator Saxe stated that he cannot speak for the developer but knows at the current moment, the city is still in talks with them and they have submitted updated information on a proposed location for the park.

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER VANDENHUEVEL, SECONDED BY MEMBER BERGAN, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 4, 2022 MEETING OF THE WYOMING, PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION AT 8:22 PM

Voting Aye: Spangler, Vandenhuevel, and Bergan

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hobson, Vukelich

NEXT MEETING:
MAY 2, 2022
7:00PM