

**City of Woodbury
Woodbury City Hall
8301 Valley Creek Road
Woodbury, MN 55125
651-714-3583**

**Minutes of
Parks and Natural Resources Commission Regular Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022**

Commission Members Present: Arin Kurttila (Co-chair), Deborah Musser, Bruce Montgomery, Wallace Wadd, Brandon Mersch, Emerson Siefken

Commission Member(s) Absent: Chair Greta Bjerckness and Commissioner Timothy Brewington, II

Commission Member Virtual: Commissioner Rachel Nelson

Councilmember Virtual: Councilmember Jennifer Santini

Staff Present: Josh Kinney, Parks Planner

Staff Virtual: Michelle Okada, Parks and Recreation Director
Jodi Sauro, Parks and Recreation Coordinator
Reed Smidt, Recreation Manager

Call to Order

Co-chair Kurttila called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

(Due to technical difficulties, meeting beginning and ending time may not be accurately reflected.)

Open Forum

Special Order of Business

- A. Councilmember Santini administered the Oath of Office to new Commission members: Wallace Wadd and Student Commissioners Brandon Mersch and Emerson Siefken.

Action Items

- A. December 7, 2021, Parks and Natural Resources Commission Meeting Minutes

Co-chair Kurttila asked for the approval of the Minutes of the December 7, 2021, meeting of the Parks and Natural Resources Commission.

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Montgomery, seconded by Commissioner Musser, to approve the December 7, 2021, Parks and Natural Resources Commission Minutes.

Vote: In favor All in-person
Against None
Absent Chair Bjerckness and Commissioner Brewington

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B. Review Bridlewood Park Concept Plan - Memorandum No. 22 - 01

Mr. Kinney referred to the 2022 Park Project Locations Map, which had been provided to the Commissioners, noting that the map can be a helpful reference for locating projects which will be reviewed by the Commission throughout the coming year. The Commissioners were encouraged to visit the various park sites that will be reviewed.

Mr. Kinney reviewed the site plan with preliminary scope of work considerations, including the playground concept for the yet to be named park in the Bridlewood Development. The park plan includes seating, trees for screening and shade, picnicking, open play field and the playground, which was described as a typical playground with swinging, sliding, climbing and also some sensory areas.

Mr. Kinney described the overall park area as a standard residential lot size set aside as park dedication when the development was being planned. The park is .24 acres, and described as more passive and a quiet spot to stop at while on a walk, noting there are more active amenities located in a park area nearby. The low hedge, as shown on the plan, creates a natural fence along the park edge, while providing view-sheds into the park. The roadway is raised up as it slopes down toward the park area. The trail connections are away from the roadway and roundabout and lead to the main park component; the playground. The low hedge design resulted from feedback, which was provided by the public at the neighborhood meeting along with PNRC input. Mr. Kinney also noted that the trees placed close to the playground create a shaded area for respite from the environment.

Mr. Kinney noted that positive feedback was received at the in-person neighborhood meeting and staff received one email comment concerning noise abatement.

Mr. Kinney asked the PNRC for their feedback on the current concept plan and noted the next step in the design process, will be to incorporate their comments and bring the plan back for final approval on February 8, with bidding and construction to follow.

It was also noted that the park site/location has been denoted on the development plans so that neighbors, that purchased lots adjacent to the park, are familiar as to where the play structure would be placed.

The Commission discussion included concerns with the adjacent roadway and roundabout. A discussion took place about the playground being tucked into the space close to the interior property boundaries and other parks adjacent to roadways. It was noted that staff will review safety standards with the city traffic engineers before the final concept plan is scheduled to return for review and approval at the February 8, PNRC meeting.

C. Review Arbor Ridge Development Park Concept Plan – Memorandum No. 22-02

Mr. Kinney reviewed the site plan with preliminary scope of work considerations, including the playground concept, for the yet to be named park in the Arbor Ridge Development.

The park is similar to the park that is being planned in the Bridlewood Development, just in a different location: Arbor Ridge Development. The park elements include seating, trees for screening and shade, picnicking, open play field and playground. The woodland was noted as a special piece of property which was part of the park dedication, with the trails connecting through the park and throughout the neighborhood. Mr. Kinney referred to the scale and magnitude of the existing oak trees noting that the diseased ash trees had been removed and that the floor of the

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forest consists of healthy maple and basswood with an overstory that can't be matched. It was noted that the development will include 127 residential units with 23 units currently built.

The Commissioners were pleased that the woodland was incorporated into the park plan.

It was noted that Hargis Parkway is situated to the south of the play structure and park and is very similar to the Bridlewood Development Park location which is close to a roadway.

Council Report – Councilmember Santini

Councilmember Santini noted Council workshop Wednesday, Jan. 19, will include a look at the city's environment stewardship work that has been done over the past 20 years. At the Council retreat in June, 2022, the Council will consider council initiatives for the next two years.

Announcements/Miscellaneous

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Reed

Belinda Reed
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Parks and Natural Resources Commission on February 8, 2022.