

**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, March 7, 2023**

Commission Members Present: Timothy Brewington, II, Bruce Montgomery (Co-chair), Deborah Musser (Chair), Wallace Wadd, Noah Yehalashet

Commission Member(s) Virtual: Anna Doherty

Commission Member(s) Absent: Charles Eckberg, Edward Myatt

Councilmember: Councilmember Jennifer Santini

Staff Present: Michelle Okada, Parks and Recreation Director
Josh Kinney, Parks Planner
Belinda Reed, Recording Secretary

Staff Virtual: Jodi Sauro, Parks and Recreation Coordinator
Kristin Seaman, Environmental Resource Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Chair Musser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Open Forum

None in-person.

3. Action Items

A. February 7, 2023, Parks and Natural Resources Commission Meeting Minutes

Chair Musser asked for the approval of the Minutes of the February 7, 2023, meeting of the Parks and Natural Resources Commission.

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Wadd, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery, to approve the February 7, 2023, Parks and Natural Resources Commission Minutes.

Voting via voice: In favor All
Against None
Absent Commissioners Eckberg and Myatt

4. Storm Water Project Update – Memorandum No. 23 – 06

Ms. Okada introduced Environmental Resources Coordinator, Kristin Seaman.

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Ms. Seaman noted that the Wilmes Lake Alum treatment facility is the first active storm water treatment facility in Woodbury. The facility is designed to catch storm water by pumping it from the Wilmes Lake inlet to the treatment building, where Alum is added to the water to settle contaminants in an adjacent storm water pond prior to being discharged to the lake. The facility is located in Kargel Park, off the south trail network. The city is partnering and collaborating with the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) on the project: SWWD is funding the design and construction costs of the facility prior to the city taking ownership of the facility's operation and providing maintenance over the long-term. Ms. Seaman shared a visual of the treatment building with the adjacent traditional storm water wet pond, noting cleaning the water in this location will have an effect on all the wetlands and waterbodies downstream.

A discussion ensued with regard to the estimated total pounds of phosphorus being removed from the storm water and while Wilmes Lake is currently on the State of Minnesota's impaired waters list, how long it may take before the phosphorus removal will have an impact on the quality of the lake water and the removal of Wilmes Lake from the impaired waters list as well.

Ms. Seaman noted that this is a long-term commitment. While Wilmes Lake is unique, and the treatment facility will help, water flowing south, through the City, will continue to receive an influx of phosphorus from different directions.

A discussion took place with regard to the Minnesota ban on fertilizers containing phosphorus from being used on lawns and turf. Ms. Seaman noted that while any removal of phosphorus is helpful, it should be noted that phosphorus is also a naturally occurring chemical element carried through dirt, leaves and grass.

5. Park at Canvas North Concept Plan – Memorandum No. 23 – 07

Mr. Kinney reviewed the concept plan as it was previously presented at the February 7, PNRC meeting and highlighted how the park fits adjacent to the rental property development's private amenities: clubhouse and fenced in pool, as well as the location of the storm water storage area and trails that loop through the neighborhood. It was noted that parking is available for three cars in the roadside cut-in.

A discussion ensued with regard to storm water ponds within or near city park spaces. It was noted that Council Directive: Fencing of Storm Water Ponds and Wetlands states that "The city ... will not build fences around storm water ponds and wetland ..." Ms. Seaman noted that the wet holding storm water pond at the Park at Canvas North, is tied to irrigation so there could be a bounce of water, depending on conditions. Additional trees, between the park and pond, were designed to add a buffering effect.

An inquiry was made as to whether there may have been a conversation about flipping the picnic table locations with the play structure. It was noted that having green space (existing picnic table location) between the active park space and the private pool, helps to provide clarity between what is public and private space.

It was noted that although signage is not planned for the park space, aside from the main sign designating the park name, the rental development may have signs identifying the private pool and clubhouse.

Chair Musser asked for the approval of the Park at Canvas North Concept Plan – Memorandum No. 23 - 07.

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Motion: Moved by Commissioner Brewington, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery, to approve the Park at Canvas North Concept Plan – Memorandum No. 23 - 07.

Voting via voice: In favor All
Against None
Absent Commissioners Eckberg and Myatt

6. Goose Management Plan – Memorandum No. 23 – 08

Ms. Okada noted that there have been previous PNRRC conversations about the overpopulation of geese in the city. The draft Goose Management Plan is being presented tonight for the PNRRC to review prior to it being forward to the City Council.

A discussion ensued regarding how the management plan would work. It was noted that to determine whether strategies and tools used are working, in areas that are significantly overpopulated with geese, and to reduce the conflict in certain areas, such as Carver Lake Beach, Eagle Valley Golf Course and areas of heavy traffic like Radio and Valley Creek Road, will be visually evident so as to allow the city to adjust strategies used accordingly.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires cities have in place a Goose Management Plan, in order to be granted DNR permits to take action in controlling the geese population utilizing some strategies, up to and including round-up and removal. It was also noted that once the city management plan is in place, private entities will be able to use the same strategies to control the geese population, should they desire to do so.

Ms. Okada noted that the plan will provide the city with a toolbox of possible solutions with implementation on a case-by-case basis. Ms. Okada noted that included in the plan is consideration for community education.

A suggestion was made to donate the goose meat to a food shelf. Ms. Okada note that the desire would be for the contractor to process the geese for donation to a local food shelf or wildlife facility, whenever possible.

Ms. Okada noted the approval and recommendation of the PNRRC, is to move the plan forward to the City Council for consideration.

Chair Musser asked for the approval of the Goose Management Plan – Memorandum No. 23 - 08.

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Wadd, seconded by Commissioner Doherty, to approve the Goose Management Plan – Memorandum No. 23 - 08.

Voting via voice: In favor All
Against None
Absent Commissioners Eckberg and Myatt

7. Discussion Items¹

A. Current Projects – Status Update

¹ Discussion and updates are intended to be informational or of brief inquiry. More substantial discussion of matter under status updates and miscellaneous should be scheduled for a future agenda.

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Ms. Okada noted that the Central Park Renovation Project design development update is scheduled to go before the City Council at their March 15, workshop meeting, at which time staff will be looking for Council direction for the remaining spaces, park gathering, south plaza and west entry. These areas are really the main heart of the facility and the design impacts much of the other spaces.

Ms. Okada noted that staff continue to work with the citizen group and Woodbury Community Foundation (WCF), on the Angels of Hope – Woodbury memorial. A Memorandum of Understanding, between the city and the WCF is being drafted. Staff is also working with Master Gardeners on the memorial's landscaping design. Once a groundbreaking dates has been determined, staff will share that date with the PNRC.

B. Environmental Stewardship Strategic Initiative

Ms. Okada noted that the Environmental Stewardship Strategic Initiative (ESSI) Project Charter is in its final draft and it is anticipated that the Request for Proposal (RFP) will be going out shortly.

Mr. Kinney highlighted that work on the boardwalk construction project, behind City Hall, is in progress.

8. Monthly Update – Memorandum No. 23 – 09

Ms. Okada highlighted various division activities including the golf course, sports center and noted the annual Ice Show at M Health Fairview Sports Center, will be taking place on April 14 and 15. In addition, the spring/summer programming brochure is currently being distributed, with a number of new program offerings, especially in the adaptive area.

9. Council Report – Councilmember Santini

Councilmember Santini noted that the March City Council Workshop is scheduled for March 15, and the March Council meeting on the March 22. The Mayor's State of the City is scheduled for March 16, at 6:30 p.m., at the Eagle Valley Golf Course Clubhouse.

10. Announcements/Miscellaneous

Ms. Okada noted that Public Works staff will be presenting at the PNRC April meeting, on the Water Strategic Initiative which intersect with the ESSI with regard to irrigation lawn management.

Staff asked the Commissioner's their preference on continuing to receive a paper copy of the monthly packets at each meeting, or if the electronic copy, emailed prior to each meeting, would suffice. It was noted that the paper copy is appreciated: staff will continue providing a paper copy of the packet at the monthly meetings.

A discussion ensued with regard to park/open space sites the PNRC has an interest in touring prior to the April, May, and June meetings. The following venues were suggested:

- La Lake and Prairie Ridge parks were suggested for later in the summer
- Copper Hills as part of the south of Dale Master Plan
- Seasons Park completed storm water filter, following the installation of interpretive signs
- Angels of Hope City Hall site visit prior to the May meeting

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- Valley Creek Park - It was noted that the [Valley Creek Park Management Plan](#) is available on the city's website.

Ms. Seaman noted that an open house seeding event is being planned for the Hasenbank Woods on May 6, with the event being an opportunity for visitors to participate in preparing the landscape by seeding the understory of the forest, followed by spreading sawdust over the seeds. Following the May 6, event, the next step will be to bring goats in to graze. Ms. Seaman noted that by having the goat's move around the site, their hooves help press the seeds into the ground.

A discussion ensued with regard to the tree canopy goals of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. It was noted that in 2021, these goals had been adjusted to take into account the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer. A request was made for access to the city's tree plan. Staff was asked, by the Commission, to provide the city's Tree Canopy Assessment and Management plan.

An inquiry was made with regard to the city map. Paper copies of the city's Parks and Trail Map will be made available at the April PNRC meeting.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Reed

Belinda Reed
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Parks and Natural Resources Commission on April 4, 2023.