

**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, April 4, 2023**

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

Commission Member(s) Virtual: None

Commission Member(s) Absent: Anna Doherty

Councilmember: Councilmember Jennifer Santini

Staff Present: Benjamin Guell, Environmental Resources Technician
Mary Hurliman, Public Works Director
Josh Kinney, Parks Planner
Belinda Reed, Recording Secretary
Kristin Seaman, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Reed Smidt, Recreation Manager
Jim Westerman, Assistant Public Works Director

Staff Virtual: Michelle Okada, Parks and Recreation Director
Jodi Sauro, Parks and Recreation Coordinator
Jennifer McLoughlin, Sr. Environmental Resources Coordinator

1. Call to Order

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

2. Open Forum

None in-person or virtual.

3. Action Items

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

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

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

Vote: In favor All
Against None
Absent Commissioner Doherty

4. Water Use and Lawn and Landscape Watering Policy Review – Memorandum No. 23 – 10

Ms. Mary Hurliman, and Mr. Jim Westerman, Public Works Director and Assistant Public Works Director, respectively, provided an overview of the city's water strategic initiative, as it relates to Woodbury's water supply and lawn and landscape watering usage and policy changes being considered.

Staff also provided information on the status of the various city wells regarding health standards for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and current water treatment capacity with slides to illustrate water usage, during peak days during the summer months, when elevated water usage is attributed to irrigation.

It was noted that in 2021, drought phase restrictions, required by the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, resulting in the city implementing a Level 2 restriction (trash day plus one weekend day) for lawn and landscape water usage, to reduce overall water use and limit peak daily demand volume.

Suggestions were made with regard to reducing irrigation usage, including raising mower height and moving to more drought tolerant lawns.

Discussion ensued with regard to the 3M settlement money and water treatment to mitigate/remove PFAS and the amount of water per week required to maintain a healthy lawn.

With regard to the operation of the city's municipal water system, staff noted they are taking a very active approach and looking at options to treat and protect the ground water supply. Two options to the current city's Lawn and Landscape Watering Policy, were presented for the Commission's consideration, both of which were designed to reduce overall water consumption and limit peak daily demand volumes.

Commissioners asked questions with regard to the 3M settlement funds and Woodbury's water treatment and how any changes to the policy would be communicated to the residents and how it would be regulated.

Staff noted that based on 2021 data, a 2-day a week residential irrigation policy, with Friday commercial irrigation only, will reduce demand on the system and help with conservation. City facilities, that currently have DNR appropriation permits, would be excluded from the policy as well as hand watering. It was noted that individual watering days would be determined by a watering restriction map of the city broken out into zones.

The Parks and Natural Resources Commission discussed the two options and there was support and consensus to recommend Option 2, to the City Council for their consideration.

5. Regional Storm Water Best Management Practices for Wilmes Lake Alum Facility Within Kargel Park and Hasenbank Park Plans Approval – Memorandum No. 23 – 11

Environmental Resources Coordinator, Kristin Seaman, provided a brief review of the designs and water quality improvements for the Wilmes Lake Alum facility within Kargel Park, and the Hasenbank Park Plan; both of which were previously presented and discussed at the March 7, PNRC, and being brought back for final approval.

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A discussion ensued with regard to how the alum facility will operate. Ms. Seaman noted that all excavated material from the construction of the facility, will be used onsite to fill in depressions, create mounds and other landscaping with the basin designed to infiltrate the water. It was also noted that although there will be some tree removal, every effort will be made to preserve high quality trees during the excavation and new trees will be planted with tree diversity in mind.

Chair Musser asked for the approval of the designs for the Wilmes Lake Alum Facility and the water quality improvements proposed in Hasenbank Park, as presented – Memorandum No. 23 - 07.

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Wadd, seconded by Commissioner Myatt, to approve the designs for the Wilmes Lake Alum Facility and the water quality improvements proposed in Hasenbank Park, as presented – Memorandum No. 23 - 07.

Vote: In favor All
Against None
Absent Commissioner Doherty

6. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Annual Report – Memorandum No. 23 – 12

Environmental Resources Technician, Benjamin Guell, noted that the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Annual Report (NPDES) is a federal permit for municipalities that operate a separate storm sewer system. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) administers the permit with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) being the main component with six minimum control measures.

Mr. Guell noted that the PNRC meeting serves as the required annual meeting and highlighted the many city tasks and accomplishments worked on in 2022, as part of this permitting process.

With regard to lake water quality treatments, Mr. Guell noted that Colby Lake is treated with an aquatic chemical, while Markgrafs Lake is spot treated.

It was suggested that the city promote an Adopt-a-Drain program along with stenciling the storm water drains, to include outreach and education.

Mr. Guell highlighted the city's water efficiency incentive programs, including the residential irrigation and toilet replacement programs.

Suggestions were made with regard to reducing lawn irrigation water usage, including raising mower blades to mow grass at a higher height and seeding with fescue rather than Kentucky bluegrass. It was also suggested that the city promote alternatives to turf grass, especially in new developments, to minimize the amount of irrigation required.

7. Athletic Facility Needs Evaluation – Review 2021 Study and Recommendations – Memorandum no. 23 - 13

Recreation Manager, Reed Smidt noted that an athletic facilities study was conducted in 2021-2022. The study consultant evaluated outdoor athletic facilities, including tennis and pickleball courts, all outdoor athletic fields, support amenities/facilities, number of teams, number of players, and other data, including local, state and national trends, to identify what would be needed to meet current and future needs. Also included in the study were surveys and conversations with user groups and

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participants. An economic impact study was completed as well on the tournaments hosted yearly at city athletic facilities.

Mr. Smidt noted the objective is to provide an overview of the study and request direction and guidance from the PNRC, on next steps to continue to address the facility needs and recommendations, that were identified within each study: outdoor athletic facilities and courts.

With increased facility needs and availability, taking into account the demand for more fields to accommodate the growing youth traveling and in-house programs, which include weekend usage, along with the number of tournament requests we are not able to accommodate, the field study projected that without adding any fields to the system, there is potential for a significant shortfall by 2030.

Ms. Okada noted that when Woodbury added the Shawnee Park pickleball courts to the park system, at a time when surrounding communities had no courts, approximately 40 percent of the Woodbury Pickleball Club members were non-resident at that time. As other communities are looking at adding pickleball courts, Woodbury continues to look at how we can support the Woodbury club; this year Woodbury expanded the Woodbury Pickleball Club with social level play at Pioneer Park.

Mr. Smidt noted that the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan includes a community recreation component which highlights and identifies potential future parks and recreation facilities.

Discussion ensued with regard to high school and youth field usage, the additional pressure for fields from growing sports like cricket, and the benefits of hosting national tournaments in the community.

Ms. Okada noted that as part of the process of prioritizing information in the study, staff is seeking feedback from the PNRC related to the recommendations addressing the facility needs that were identified within the study.

Comments included:

- Compare crime statistics between communities with and without recreational facilities
- Larger pickleball facility with lights
- Larger athletic field facility that would remove pressure on neighborhood parks

8. Discussion Items¹

A. Current Projects – Status Update – Ms. Okada noted that there are a number of park projects being prepared and ready for bidding, for construction to take place this summer.

B Central Park Renovation Project – In the interest of time, staff were asked to forward the Central Park Renovation Project Design Development Update PowerPoint to the Commission, for their review.

C. Environmental Stewardship Strategic Initiative – Ms. Okada noted that the Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued with the anticipation that the proposals will have been

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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submitted in time to be reviewed at the May PNRC meeting for recommendation and budget amendment, to be forwarded to the City Council for their consideration.

9. Monthly Update – Memorandum No. 23 – 09

Ms. Okada noted the Monthly Update continues to highlight the various division activities.

10. Council Report – Councilmember Santini

Councilmember Santini noted that the Central Park Renovation Design Development Phase, was reviewed by Council at their March 15, workshop meeting.

Councilmember Santini noted that the first meeting of the Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) Task Force was held on March 15, with the Mayor Chairing this 13-member task force.

11. Announcements/Miscellaneous

Staff will conduct a tour of the Angels of Hope Memorial, for those interested in viewing the site, prior to the May 2, PNRC meeting. The group will gather at the east end of the City Hall parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Tours are always optional, but if you do plan to attend, please let us know in advance.

The Commission consensus was for staff to continue to include park site addresses for those parks that are planned to be discussed at each meeting, in the agenda packet email, which will allow the opportunity for Commissioners to visit or familiarize themselves with those park sites in advance of each meeting.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Reed

Belinda Reed
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Parks and Natural Resources Commission on May 2, 2023.