

**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, Sept. 6, 2022**

Commission Members Present:	Greta Bjerckness, <i>Chair</i> , Timothy Brewington, II, Bruce Montgomery, Arin Kurttila, <i>Co-Chair</i> , Deborah Musser, Rachel Nelson, Wallace Wadd, Brandon Mersch, Emerson Siefken
Commission Member(s) Absent:	None
Commission Member Virtual:	None
Councilmember In-person:	Councilmember Steve Morris
Staff Present:	Michelle Okada, Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer McLoughlin, Sr. Environmental Resources Coordinator Belinda Reed, Recording Secretary Eric Searles, Asst. Community Dev. Director/ City Planner Reed Smidt, Recreation Manager
Staff Virtual:	Jodi Sauro, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Call to Order

Chair Bjerckness called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Special Order of Business

- GreenStep Cities Award – Memorandum No. 22 – 20

Ms. Okada introduced Jennifer McLoughlin, Senior Environmental Resources Coordinator.

Ms. McLoughlin showcased the award noting that the city has progressed through all the GreenStep Cities' program metrics since becoming a member in 2019; reaching Step 5 in 2021. Ms. McLoughlin noted that Mayor Anne Burt was present at the Minnesota conference to accept the award with someone from GreenStep Cities to make a formal award presentation at the City Council meeting on September 28.

Open Forum

None.

Action Items

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A. June 7, 2022, Parks and Natural Resources Commission Meeting Minutes

Chair Bjerckness asked for the approval of the Minutes of the June 7, 2022, meeting of the Parks and Natural Resources Commission.

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Montgomery, seconded by Commissioner Musser to approve the June 7, 2022, Parks and Natural Resources Commission Minutes.

Vote: In favor All present
Against None
Absent None

B. Strategic Initiative – Environmental Stewardship – Memorandum No. 22 - 21

Ms. Okada noted that Chair Bjerckness had presented the PNRC's strategic initiative recommendation to the City Council at their meeting on August 31, 2022. The Council requested clarification from a fiscal and financial standpoint, which were noted as important in defining the consultant scope of work prior to going out to bid.

Ms. McLoughlin thanked the PNRC for all their work in making the recommendation for the Council's consideration.

Ms. Okada noted that no action is needed at this point; however, staff wanted to keep the PNRC informed on the progress of the strategic initiative recommended by the Commission.

C. Community Development/Planning Update - Memorandum No. 22 – 22

Mr. Searles provided an update on the development activity occurring in the community including residential, consisting of multi-family, single family and detached townhomes, and commercial activities and highlighted the South of Dale Master Plan (Plan), which encompasses 600 acres. Mr. Searles noted that the Plan looks at integrations of all the infrastructure, including parkland and open space and layers together to create a system that is a value-add throughout each discipline.

Mr. Searles also noted that the City of Woodbury recently received an award of merit for a previous master plan implementation by the Minnesota Planning Association.

Among the many developments identified throughout the presentation, Mr. Searles highlighted the Amazon warehouse/distribution center facility, which prior to the announcement of Amazon as the tenant of that building was referred to as "Project Bell," further noting that the building of the facility necessitated the reconstruction of Hudson Road and that was funded fully by Amazon, as part of private construction activities necessary to serve their site.

A discussion took place regarding infrastructure improvements and update of Dale Road to Cottage Grove Drive, which first phase is anticipated to start 2024/2025, with the roadway extending all the way to Manning Avenue, at some point in the future.

Mr. Searles also noted that city water and sewer service to the Andy's Bark Park area is projected for the latter portion of the Phase II development.

A discussion took place with regard to Orville Commons, which is an affordable housing community with income restrictions.

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6. Discussion Items

Ms. Okada provided the Commission with a review of 2022 park projects and outlined upcoming CIP projects.

Ms. Okada noted staff during the master plan process, when possible, before developers are identified, works closely with Community Development to anticipate what the housing stock might be and mapping out the recreational needs and identifying what amenities and space would benefit the overall city's park system, so that there is a clear idea of what the park and open space could look like prior to development. In some cases, it was noted that getting ahead of the park spaces allows use of some of the efficiencies of the developer.

A discussion took place regarding tree preservation at Schilling Park, with its existing Oak Savanna. Ms. Okada noted that preservation was the goal for the park area, which also includes potential trail connections.

A discussion ensued with regard to La Lake Park and possible water drainage issues. Ms. Okada noted that some master planning dollars are being planned to look at future options at La Lake starting the end of 2022, as well as a joint funding approach, with the watershed district and others, to study the needs of the watershed in that area of the city.

Ms. Okada noted that the Central Park schematic designs were presented to the City Council at their August 24, workshop. The City Council consensus, upon reviewing the 3 design options, provided direction to staff to proceed to design development with Option B2, which includes all of Option A and B1 components and adds a 6,000 square-foot program/lease space constructed above the multi-purpose space, as well as infrastructure to accommodate the additional spaces.

Ms. Okada noted the city will continue to seek state bonding up to \$15m, which was proposed last year, as well as other legislative items that may help support the project.

Ms. Okada encouraged the Commissioners to visit Central Park, to look at the space to help envision opportunities with what is being proposed.

F. Monthly Update – Memorandum No. 22 – 23

Mr. Smidt highlighted the Recreation Division's busy summer programming season noting that staff, while being down one staff member and the seasonal staffing challenge, put together many fun and well attended summer programs.

Commissioners noted the wide variety of programs that were offered, and a few Commissioners shared that their family members enjoyed participating in some of the Recreation summer programs.

Mr. Smidt confirmed that the very popular "Big Truck Day," would again be held at Central Park on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 9 a.m. – noon.

Council Report – Councilmember Morris

Council Member Morris noted that the City Council will be reviewing the \$142 million, 2023 proposed budget, which is available on the city's website, at a Council workshop scheduled to be held at the Public Safety building on Wednesday, Sept. 14, starting at 4 p.m. Mr. Morris further noted that there are a number of touchpoints on the budget, throughout the year, and as a statutory

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city, truth in taxation notice is required to go out in a certain timeframe, as dictated by state law. The proposed budget is posted on the city's website and Mr. Morris encouraged residents to provide feedback on what he described as the most important thing the City Council does each year.

Mr. Morris noted that the Community Engagement and Equity Coordinator, presented the draft Community Engagement Guide to Council at the August 24, workshop, with the Council to consider the adoption of the guide the end of September. Mr. Morris noted he anticipates that the guide will be presented at the City Council/Advisory Commission kick-off in January 2023.

Announcements/Miscellaneous

The PNRC decided to tour Glacial Valley Park prior to the October 4, PNRC meeting. Additional information and directions will be provided in the October meeting packet. Ms. Okada asked the Commissioners to RSVP once they receive the tour invite.

Central Park was identified as a future park tour site the PNRC would like to tour at a future date.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Reed

Belinda Reed
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Parks and Natural Resources Commission on October 4, 2022.