

**City of Woodbury  
M Health Fairview Sports Center  
4125 Radio Drive  
Woodbury, MN 55129  
651-714-3583**

**Minutes of  
Parks and Natural Resources Commission Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022**

**Commission Members Present:** Timothy Brewington, II, Arin Kurttila, *Co-Chair*, Bruce Montgomery, Deborah Musser, Rachel Nelson, Wallace Wadd, Brandon Mersch

**Commission Member(s) Absent:** Greta Bjerckness, *Chair*, Emerson Siefken

**Councilmember Absent:** Steve Morris

**Staff Present:** Michelle Okada, Parks and Recreation Director  
Joshua Kinney, Parks Planner  
Belinda Reed, Recording Secretary  
Reed Smidt, Recreation Manager

**Call to Order**

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

**Open Forum**

None

**Action Items**

A. October 4, 2022, Parks and Natural Resources Commission Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Kurttila asked for the approval of the Minutes of the October 4, 2022, meeting of the Parks and Natural Resources Commission.

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Wadd, seconded by Commissioner Montgomery, to approve the October 4, 2022, Parks and Natural Resources Commission Minutes.

**Vote:** In favor All present  
Against None  
Absent Commissioners Bjerckness, Siefken

B. Turnberry Park Project Concept Plan Update – Memorandum No. 22 - 28

Ms. Okada noted that in follow-up to the Commission's Turnberry Park project concept plan feedback discussion at the October 4 meeting, which included discussion about the Addison Alcove trail connection, staff did additional research. Staff is recommending implementing that trail at the time of construction.

Mr. Kinney noted that with the Addison Alcove sidewalk, which extends to the entrance of the park and includes a gap of developable land (2 lots) at the terminus of that sidewalk: the connection was

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implied with the way the plat was approved and built, as were the two connections to the north and east. So the fact that the developer did not build on these two lots; but rather included the land in the parkland dedication, it stands to reason that there was intent for the trail and park connection.

Mr. Kinney also noted that the city's Bike and Pedestrian Plan represents future trail locations with the strategy that connecting points of interest or places along these trails is the goal of the city-wide plan. With the position of Turnberry Park, with greenways to the south through Dancing Waters, Settlers Ridge Parkway to the east and then Hudson Road to the north, having this connection links all these other networks in the city trail system.

The Tamarack Nature Preserve was cited as an example of parkland that, although having no major activity nodes, provides opportunities for trail loops from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Discussion ensued and it was noted that having the ability to take a walker or scooter into Turnberry Park will make this beautiful piece of parkland accessible to all, including individuals living nearby, and anyone with mobility challenges, along with the sidewalk network, which is part of the looping trail access.

It was noted that the east trail connects with the Legends of Woodbury, and the south trail connecting to the Addison Alcove sidewalk, will intersect at two oak trees, which is going to become a gathering node.

A discussion took place regarding the park name. Ms. Okada noted that Turnberry Park has been on the approved park name list for several years.

Commissioner comments included:

- Move forward with the plan with bituminous trails and Addison Alcove connection
- Look at the greater opportunity for all 79,000 residents
- Love the pollinator and natural setting with benches
- Opposed to Addison Alcove connection as those residents most closely impacted do not want
- Greater community should be the priority
- Addison Alcove connection is important
- Clear that this was designed for this connection at Addison Alcove
- In favor of trail connections. Nice opportunity to make a walking path through there.

There was consensus to keep the concept plan, with the trail connections, including Addison Alcove, moving forward with a final plan scheduled to be brought back to the PNRC at the December 6, meeting for consideration for final approval.

Ms. Okada noted that the trail near the oak tree stand will be situated as not to disturb the trees as best as possible and that a communication will be sent to the 170+ residents with information on the trail locations, and at which future meeting the concept plan will be brought forward for review and consideration for final approval.

Ms. Okada thanked the Commissioners for their thoughtful discussion.

### **Discussion Items**

A. Goose Management Program Update

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Ms. Okada noted that the overpopulation of geese has become problematic throughout the years, especially at Eagle Valley Golf Course (EVGC), Carver Lake Beach and public parkland. Current Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) guidelines require that the city have a Goose Management Plan in place that has been approved by the governing body and the DNR, in order to address the overpopulation.

A discussion ensued with regard to not only the large geese population in the city, but also with each bird producing a large amount of waste product daily on lawns, trails and sidewalks. It was noted that documented nesting numbers have been increasing; although geese could also be nesting elsewhere and then settling in at EVGC, and other public areas, creating problems for golfers at a number of the course holes.

Ms. Okada noted staff is in the process of drafting a Goose Management Plan, to be reviewed by the PNRC, in order for the plan implementation during 2023.

### **B. Current Projects – Status Update**

Mr. Kinney noted staff is embarking upon a La Lake feasibility and concept plan, and hiring a consultant to support the project.

### **C. Monthly Update – Memorandum No. 22 – 29**

Mr. Smidt noted that Eagle Scout Candidate, Domnic David, approached the city with three Eagle Scout project proposals. While all three project proposals were not only very well presented and thought out, the Tamarack Nature Preserve (TNP) audio tour project stood out as not only innovative, but incredibly unique, was selected. With vision, drive and passion, Mr. David proceeded to put the project together, and included his fellow scouts' voices for parts of the audio.

The resulting geo-coded audio tour is now available for TNP visitors to access using the QR codes to download the phone app and audio tour. As the user walks through the TNP, their location is noted and at various locations they are prompted to stop, while listening to the information provided throughout the walking tour. It was noted that new wayfinding signage is also being added to the TNP.

South Washington County Cable filmed an interview and informational video with Messrs. Smidt, David and TNP volunteer stewards about the project. That video is now available, and staff was requested to forward the video for commissioners' viewing.

Mr. Smidt noted that the TNP volunteer stewards were very pleased and supportive of the project.

### **Council Report – Councilmember Morris**

None

### **Announcements/Miscellaneous**

Mr. Smidt noted that the Parks and Recreation winter brochure registration begins on Wednesday, Nov. 30. Mr. Smidt noted that recently hired Recreation Program Specialist, Joseph Vaughan, will be working with the new adaptive programs. Mr. Smidt also noted that staff is looking at offering sports, such as fencing and cricket, that go beyond the traditional American sport offerings such as tennis, soccer, etc.

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Mr. Smidt also noted that the community garden, which began as a pilot program in 2022, will be expanded to 48 garden plots available in 2023. Registration for plots will begin at 12 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30, with the rest of the Recreation brochure programs.

There was consensus to hold the December 6, PNRC meeting at Central Park, in Valley Creek Room A, located on the lower level, to be convened at 7:00 p.m. Prior to the meeting, a tour of the Central Park facility will be organized to begin at 6:15 p.m. (It was noted that the meeting will be held in-person; no live/virtual technology will be available at the Central Park site.)

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Belinda Reed](#)

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Belinda Reed  
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Parks and Natural Resources Commission on December 6, 2022.