

MINUTES

1. CONVENE PARK COMMISSION MEETING

Chair Mangold convened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Present: Chair Mangold, Commissioners Vassar and Hirner; Planning Director Darling

Absent: Commissioners Barr and Rock, Councilmember Sundberg

B. Review Agenda

Vassar moved to approve the agenda as written. Hirner seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Park Commission Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2019

Hirner moved to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2019 meeting as written. Vassar seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

3. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

There were none.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Select a Movie for Movie in the Park

Chair Mangold stated that he feels this is one of the most fun events the City holds. He stated that he feels that it has been growing and seems to have more people involved. He asked for opinions from the Commission on the movie selection.

Commissioner Hirner asked what the typical age group is for the kids at the event.

Chair Mangold stated that he would say it is usually more the elementary age and not as many preschool aged kids.

Planning Director Darling stated that it is an all ages event but the largest attendance is when the movie is geared toward a younger crowd.

Commissioners discussed movie choices.

Vassar moved to recommend approval of the movie Mary Poppins Returns for the Movie in the Park event. Hirner seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

B. Update on Music in the Park

Planning Director Darling noted that the same band is available for this year's Music in the Park event. She noted that they seemed to be popular last year.

Chair Mangold stated that he likes the idea of having more events and asked staff to give the Commission members as much information as possible, including feedback on how the events went.

Commissioner Vassar noted that the information in the packet states no alcohol allowed and asked what the Council decided on allowing alcohol for special events.

Planning Director Darling stated that they were willing to try it for a year only in Badger Park. She stated that she does not think the one-year time table will begin until the construction is completed and events are being scheduled at Badger Park.

Commissioner Vassar stated that she understands why the Council chose Badger Park because it is more visible, however, most of the events are hosted at Freeman Park.

Planning Director Darling stated that the hope is to start hosting more events at Badger Park when the construction is completed because there will be a new picnic shelter, restroom facility and playground equipment.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Tennis Courts at Badger Park

Planning Director Darling noted that the stormwater improvements that were required at Badger Park ended up having a larger price tag than expected. She stated that she would like to get a full picture of the costs before the Commission launches into another project whether it is rehabilitating the tennis courts or starting another project.

Commissioner Vassar asked how this was brought to the City's attention.

Planning Director Darling explained that the City applied for the permits for the playground portion of the project through Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) and they informed the City that it was over the threshold of 40% of the site being disturbed. Consequently, the entire site needs to meet infiltration requirements. She stated that before the latest round of projects at the Park the City was under that threshold so nothing needed to be done.

Chair Mangold stated that he knows the City had a master concept plan that the City took to MCWD during the planning phases and wonders where the disconnect came so this wasn't on anyone's radar that it would need to be done. He stated that he wants to make sure that this improvement covers everything that is already planned for Badger Park, including the playground, trail system and tennis court improvements.

Commissioner Vassar asked for clarification of what pond this is referring to.

Planning Director Darling noted that it is the pond that was dredged last year.

Commissioner Vassar asked why the pond was dredged without coming before the Park Commission.

Planning Director Darling noted that while it is in the Park, it was just part of the regular maintenance that needed to be done on the pond and that portion of the project was paid for by the stormwater fund.

Commissioner Vassar asked what the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District says needs to be done to the pond.

Planning Director Darling stated that there will need to be a sedimentation trench around the pond to encourage more water to soak into the ground.

Commissioner Hirner asked if there would be long-term maintenance needed on the trench.

Planning Director Darling stated that similar to the rain garden by the lacrosse field, it would need to be maintained. She noted that she believed the maintenance can be taken care of with the stormwater funds. She explained that the project cannot move forward without the improvements, but still thinks it should still move forward this year, as planned.

Commissioner Vassar expressed concern about possible delays when the City has already announced that the playground will be in this summer.

Planning Director Darling noted that she expects to have bids in front of the Council on May 13, 2019, so she will update the Parks Commission at their meeting the following night.

Commissioner Hirner asked if there was any risk that the bids will come back too high and the Council will not approve them at their meeting on May 13, 2019.

Planning Director Darling stated that it is always a possibility.

6. STAFF AND LIAISON REPORTS / UPDATES

A. City Council

There was no report.

B. Staff

Planning Director Darling gave a brief overview of the April 8, 2019 Council meeting. She also gave a brief update on the most recent Planning Commission meeting.

7. ADJOURN

Hirner moved to adjourn the Park Commission Meeting of April 9, 2019 at 7:35 p.m. Vassar seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.