

CITY OF COLUMBUS
PARK BOARD MEETING
INTERACTIVE MEETING FORMAT
STATUTES SECTION 13D.021
04-16-2024

The 04-16-2024 Park Board meeting for the City of Columbus was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Brad Norling at the City of Columbus City Hall. Present were Board members Bob Bodene, Andrea Messina, and Steven Ray.

City Council Liaison Ron Hanegraaf, Public Works Director Jim Windingstad, Interim City Administrator Jack Davis and Deputy Clerk Lorie Spangler were also present.

Absent: Board member Kris King.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Motion by Norling to approve Park Board agenda for 04-16-2024 meeting as presented.

Second by Messina.

Roll call vote: Bodene – aye; Messina – aye; Norling – aye; and Ray – aye.

All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES:

Motion Norling to approve the minutes of the 01-30-2024 Park Board meeting.

Second by Messina.

Roll call vote: Bodene – aye; Messina – aye; Norling – aye; and Ray – aye.

All in favor, motion carried.

DISCUSSION/MOTION:

Eagle Scout Project – Matthew Magistad: Magistad provided the Board members with an overview of his proposed Eagle project to plant trees in the City and asked if the Board had any recommendations on the number of trees and locations. He said he was advised that the project should have 20 to 30 trees to qualify as an Eagle project, but it could be as few as 15. He was still trying to figure out where he would get the trees but figured they will be sapling size. Magistad said he would be responsible for watering the trees the first two months. He said he would like to get them in the ground by the end of June and was planning white oaks as they are less susceptible to oak wilt.

Norling noted because of drought years, maintenance past the first year has to be considered.

The Board discussed possible locations for up to 15 trees as 20 is a large number. Among the sites mentioned were Hidden Park and areas where existing trees are no longer healthy. Board members said they would be willing to take a walking tour to look at possible tree locations. Since the trees would be small, staking and fencing or plastic tubes would be required. They said the end of June would be a little late to plant and asked Magistad if he could accelerate his timeline and get them in by Memorial Day. Board members indicated they are in support of the project and asked Magistad to come back with more information prior to a walkthrough of the two possible park locations to identify planning sites. Board members agreed to meet at 5:30 p.m. May 1 to review locations.

Motion by Norling to recommend to the Council to approve the project with eight trees at the park adjacent to City Hall and seven at Hidden Park with deer protection for the trees there.

Second by Ray.

Roll call vote: Bodene – aye; Messina – aye; Norling – aye; and Ray – aye.

All in favor, motion carried.

Removal of Parking Lot Timbers: Windingstad provided the Board members with an overview of this proposal. He said the timbers were not planned in the budget but another line item for tree maintenance came in below budget. The estimated cost for replacing the timbers is about \$2,000.

Norling said he would prefer to put off a decision on this project until they have a clear picture of the budget.

Dugout Covers: Windingstad provided the Board members with an overview of possible dugout covers with two quotes. The average cost of a cover for one dugout would be about \$13,000.

Norling suggested holding off on the proposal for the 2025 parks budget.

2024 PROJECT DISCUSSION

Park Lighting: Windingstad said he was working with the power company on where the City could locate park lighting without paying a transformer fee. Options will be provided for discussion at the July 16, 2024 Park Board meeting.

Tennis Court Repair: Windingstad said he was still looking for a company that can repair the tennis court as the previous company that worked on them does not seem to be in business anymore. The City would like to look at setting up the courts for both tennis and pickleball. The plan would be for a resurfacing project this year with a long-term plan to completely replace the courts.

Park Master Plan: Davis said the Park Board had talked about the Park Master Plan at the last meeting. The City would like to get some feedback from the Park Board at this point. The Board discussed possible future uses for Hidden Park including the options of letting it go natural and keeping it as a neighborhood park. There was also discussion on the need for trails and walking paths in the City and connecting existing trails. Davis said that would be a long-term plan that will need to be coordinated with Anoka County Highway Department improvements on Lake Drive and the DNR for access to Lamprey Pass WMA. Davis said the plan would also include an assessment of the existing City Park in terms of improvements and upgrades. He said the City has three different park funds but additional grants will be needed to fund the goals of the Park Master Plan. He added he would come back to the Board meeting in July with more information. Board members indicated they are open to having special meetings dedicated to the Park Master Plan. The July meeting will lay out a process and a meeting schedule.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Columbus Lions member Genia Sjerven discussed their upcoming May 4 park event.

PARK BOARD MEMBERS OPEN DISCUSSION:

Christmas Lights: The City Council is proposing purchasing and placing holiday lights but is looking for some input from the Park Board in terms of placement and electricity vs. solar. Community groups could be approached for donations. Eventually, there could be a lighting event. It was suggested that the City should start with a modest display this year and begin with the pavilion as there is electricity there and LED bulbs draw just a small amount of power. Norling and Hanegraaf will look into this and come back with a detailed proposal.

Grants for Ash Tree Removal: The availability of grant funds for the removal of Ash trees was discussed and staff will check with the DNR for the possibility of grant funding.

NEXT MEETING:

The May 14, 2024 meeting is canceled. The next scheduled meeting for Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

ADJORN:

Motion made by Norling to adjourn.

Second by Bodene.

Roll call vote: Bodene – aye; Messina – aye; Norling – aye; and Ray – aye.

All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lorie A Spangler

Lorie Spangler, Deputy Clerk

Drafted by: Carol Shukle

TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.