

MINUTES
CITY OF MAPLEWOOD
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING
October 21, 2021

- I. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 6:08 by Laine Schenkelberg
- II. **Roll Call:** Beth Newman, Megan Dougherty, Rebecca Flynn, Bob Harsh, Laine Schenkelberg, Sarah Walker
 - Excused absence: Julie Francois
- III. **Welcome to visitors and public comment**
 - No public comment
- IV. **Approval of September 2021 minutes**
 - Sarah motioned to approve and Megan seconded. All approved.
- V. **Park Board member reports on parks**
 - Central Park (Laine) no new issues, users excited for new fountain, park user loves the shade.
 - Deer Creek (Bob) bike repair stand constructed by Eagle Scouts is very nice, and the Ga-Ga pit has been installed by the restrooms. The electric company is installing new light poles by the bridge and their trucks are making ruts. Staff will keep an eye out to make sure trucks are not doing permanent damage to the fields. A park user likes the 2 sets of swings. Laine requested Laura Miller post about the new Eagle Scout projects (bike repair station and gaga pit). Tile is coming up by the rock wall.
 - Greenwood (Julie)- absent, Laine reported graffiti is removed.
 - Ryan Hummert (Megan) good, pavilion roof needs attention. Jason (Public Works Superintendent) said the roof and gutters are being replaced. A park user stated there is not a lot of playground equipment for smaller children.
 - Kellogg (Becky) looks great, the dog park is good, the water hose continues to get damaged by user error, mulch gravitates by the fence after a big rain, the area near sewer grates needs to be cleaned out.
 - Lindbergh (unassigned)
 - Sutton Loop (unassigned) Becky- looks great, one sprinkler head fills the sidewalk with water which makes the area muddy near the alley/trash cans. Lights need to be replaced in the pavilion, Jason stated it's an electrical issue, not just the light bulbs.
 - Trolley (Sarah) the picnic tables have been moved into the tree line, should be closer to the playground. Paint is chipping on equipment and mushrooms are growing in the mulch. Slide stairs are rusty and other areas of the playground have been vandalized.
 - Yale (Beth) looks great. Jason confirmed a "No Dogs Allowed" sign has now been installed as requested by Anthony and Eric the code enforcement officer. Laine received feedback that a community member is happy about the new sign.

- Skate Park (Becky) there is a small amount of graffiti noticed, trash cans have been cleaned. A skatepark user stated he has gathered 300 signatures on a petition to get lights for the skatepark. High school students are offering free classes on Saturdays in October. The students are working on creating a nonprofit. Board members reported some of their children were taking the class and were enjoying it.
- General park user feedback: good to have a range of activities at playgrounds, likes water features.

VI. Old Business

- Tennis courts - Update on memo
- Splash pad - Update on memo. Project is complete.
- Mission/Vision statements
 - Laine presented rationale for having a values statement for the Parks Board. Mission, vision, and value statements can help to drive a master plan. The Park Board statements can align with the City of Maplewood's Parks and Recreation Department Mission statements. The Park Board may want to consider specific value themes to help guide the Board in the master planning process. Potential value themes discussed included: accessibility and connectivity, inclusivity, sustainability, positive economic impact, healthy living, conservation, safety. Board discussed ways to use values as guides for future plans/projects; helping people to get to know more about Maplewood parks via a map board (accessibility) and encouraging local restaurants to sell boxed dinners at Ryan Hummert concerts (positive economic impact).

VII. New Business

- Michael Quinn- Autism Speaks
 - No show - Might want to speak with him once we have better idea of master plan
- Jason Watkins- Public Works Superintendent. The Department currently has 7 employees and looking for 2 more. Busy with winterizing the pool and preparing for leaf season. Leaf season entails 5 employees with 1 machine for 2 months. Sewer lateral repair list is down to just 2 jobs (from 50, completed since March.) Fall tree planting is underway. Crew is aware of large trucks going in and out of Deer Creek. Streamline stabilization project will be happening in Deer Creek Park throughout winter (not headed by Public Works). Board expressed appreciation for being provided a park maintenance schedule and commended the Public Works Department on their excellent work, especially with fall leaves and clearing snowy roads. Laine asked Jason to identify some specific tasks the Park Board and community can help/participate in. Jason mentioned the Park Board sponsored weeding day in August was a tremendous help. Public Works has partnered with the community in the past (the middle school's sustainability class prepared the planter pots within the business district). Bob mentioned previously helping to provide free lunch for the Public Works staff. He asked that Board members think about doing something like that in the future.

VIII. Open Discussion

- Park Master Plan - Tiffany apologized for a miscommunication with the Board. An email was sent in May detailing issues with the splash pad contractor. The members that were appointed after May did not receive the email.

The Park Board previously met with the 2 firms that submitted proposals and after discussion among the group, the Board decided to recommend Planning Design Studio. Anthony wanted to make sure the Board was aware that Planning Design Studio was the company that oversaw the splashpad project and as such they should be held responsible for the project being delayed. Anthony stated the Board could still recommend Planning Design Studio; however, he will have to mention the problems that were experienced with the splash pad project in his memo to Council. Problems such as (1) Cost estimates provided by PDS were 29% higher than actual cost which led to the City making cuts to offset the difference. Most importantly, the city had to take the housing unit for the equipment out of the overall project so the equipment is currently open to the elements; (2) The City had to repeatedly ask PDS to cut landscaping and ;(3) PDS did not ensure the subcontractor pulled all the necessary permits which led to the County shutting the project down; therefore, delaying the splash pad completion date.

The Board discussed Traxler's comments. The Board mentioned PDS did not comment on the current splash pad project during their presentation, but they did mention Sutton Loop Park. The Board decided to change their recommendation from PDS to SWT Designs even though SWT Designs was higher in price. Anthony stated he would reach out to SWT Designs to see if the price could be negotiated and Laine mentioned a muni grant the City has received in the past as possible solutions to offset the overall cost.

- Yale Movie Night (10-16-21) - Parks Board members Beth, Becky and Sarah attended. Enjoyed chatting with community members and letting them know the Board is interested in their input, especially as it relates to the empty lots. Full list of suggestions for the space are as follows (italicized items were suggested by two or more people): *BBQ grills, swings, playground for older kids/rock wall, garden, picnic tables, bathrooms, basketball court, playground for younger kids, dog park, soccer field/goals, benches*, pool, tennis court, trees/shade, tetherball, food/coffee, signage, skatepark. Requested items will be discussed during the park master plan process.
- Sarah requested discussion for a balloon glow event be added to next month's agenda

IX. Adjournment

- Becky motioned to adjourn, Megan seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm. The next meeting will be November 18, 2021.

Respectfully submitted- Beth Newman