

Medina Park Commission Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2017

Medina City Hall

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The Park Commission of Medina, Minnesota met in regular session on March 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Medina City Hall. Park Commission Vice Chair Elizabeth Weir presided.

**1) Call to Order**

Commissioners Present: Michelle Beddor, Lisa Cole, Elizabeth Weir, John Jacob, and Jeff Rumsey. Youth members Ella Kingsley and Lauren Lubenow.

Commissioners Absent: Steve Lee and Lori Meehan

Also Present: Assistant City Administrator Jodi Gallup and Public Works Director Steve Scherer

**2) Additions to the Agenda**

None

**3) Approval of the Minutes from:**

February 15, 2017 Regular Meeting

- *Page 1 – Michelle Beddor should be listed under “Commissioners Absent”.*

*A motion was made by Jacob and seconded by Beddor to approve the minutes from February 15, 2017 with the noted change. Motion passed unanimously.*

**4) Public Comments** (on items not on the agenda): None.

**5) City Council Update**

Gallup read City Council Member Lorie Cousineau’s update report on recent City Council actions.

**6) Park and Trail Master Plan Review**

Gallup stated that City Planner Dusty Finke had prepared an updated “Future Facilities Map” and an updated cost analysis for planned improvements vs. future fee revenue from Park Dedication based on the updated 2020-2040 Comprehensive Plan.

The Park Commissioners reviewed these documents and discussed the need to further reduce the amount of trails in the trail plan to balance the costs. It was suggested to hold a work session later this year to specifically address future trail planning.

The Park Commission discussed the trail along Medina Road, noting that it only has a paved shoulder on one side of the road. Discussion took place if the Park Commission should add paving the other shoulder to the Capital Improvement Plan.

Cole stated that we should give priority to trails that make connections to other parks or trails.

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The Park Commission would like to make a connection from Deerhill Preserve to Baker Park when the opportunity arises.

It was noted that the proposed circular turf trail in the middle of the rural area of the city (trails 34, 35, & 36 on the 2013 Trail Plan) is not practical because of its rural nature and the number of easements that would need to be acquired to build it. It was noted that it would be a beautiful trail, but would likely never be completely built.

*A motion was made by Beddor and seconded by Jacob to remove the proposed circular turf trail (trails 34, 35, & 36) from the future facility planning map. Motion passed unanimously.*

Jacob requested that the 2013 Trail Plan document and map be updated by the May meeting to show the completed trail segments and delete the removed segments. The cleaned up version of this document will help guide the park commission in further updating the text describing each trail, the need for the trail, surface type, and opportunities and contingencies to build it.

The Park Commissioners discussed the three future park areas in the plan. It was noted that all three parks would be neighborhood parks up to ten acres depending on the land availability at each site. The features they would like to see at all three parks would include:

- Active playground equipment with separated age appropriate features for younger and older children.
- Pavilion/picnic area.
- Open space to run and play.
- Circular path around the park and trail connections from the park to the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Basketball Hoop.

The Park Commissioners agreed that additional ice rinks were not necessary in future neighborhood parks. They noted that a sledding hill would be nice if the terrain allowed for it. It was noted that a future tennis court should be planned for in the Northwest circle, but not in the southern circle because of its proximity to the tennis courts at Hamel Legion Park and Hunter Lions Park.

The Park Commission discussed if they should add passive park study area circles back to the map. It was also noted that the city tends to acquire nature areas as development

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happens and it makes sense as part of some developments to dedicate a piece of land to the city.

Weir brought up the Friends of the Park policy and stated that she would try to rework it to be more inviting.

Park Commission Chair Steve Lee could not be in attendance at the meeting, but provided some questions for the Park Commission to consider. Below are the questions and responses that took place as part of this agenda item:

1. What does our comprehensive plan tell us our city will look like in 20-25 years? Slower growth than originally projected.
2. How should our master plan reflect and support this vision? The new plan needs to show less parks and trails than the old plan.
3. How do we balance the interests of the current and future landowners along our trail & park system with the interests of other citizens living in our city? It seems to currently be balanced.
4. How does having the Baker Park impact what we should build in the remainder of Medina? It is a wonderful asset to have the amenities of a regional park within our city limits.
5. What kind of trail system do we want (mix of asphalt, shoulder, gravel dirt/turf)? Do we want them on roads or through some more scenic areas? The trail plan accounts for future paved, shoulder, and turf trails. A mix of roadside and scenic trails would be nice, but it is difficult to acquire the land for the scenic trails.
6. How many miles of trails do we plan to build? Approximately 20 miles.
7. What kind of community parks should we construct in the areas where future parks are targeted?  
Answered above on page two.
8. What actions should be considered by the city council to protect the city's options for trails and parks in the future?
9. Should we secure easements from land/homeowners when they sell or develop their land even if we don't plan to build a trail or park at the time of the sale? Yes, this is a good idea, which is why it is critical to have a realist/practical plan.
10. And finally how will our plan be financed? What options are available to fund our plan? Page 43 in the Master Plan addresses financing parks and trails. Discussed adding a section on naming rights.

The Park Commission will continue discussing the Park and Trail Master Plan at future meetings.

**7) Volleyball Court at the Park at Fields of Medina**

Scherer reported that he visited the Park at Fields of Medina to determine the best location for the sand volleyball court. He proposed to put it between the wetland and trail on the west side of the park. The orientation would be slightly northeast/southwest instead of straight north/south to accommodate the correct playing area dimensions of 50 x 80. Scherer stated that this location was flat land and would not require any grading.

Cole questioned why the location to the south would not work with the addition of a little grading. Scherer stated that the park swales down toward the drainage pond and it would be difficult to place the volleyball court right where the water runs through.

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There was a general consensus of the Park Commission on the location that Scherer proposed for the volleyball court.

Scherer questioned if the Park Commissioners would like to see a finished edge/border around the court or if they would prefer straight sand to grass.

It was determined that sand to grass was the preferred playing method to avoid injuries on the hard edge while diving for a ball.

**8) Dugout Covers at the Park at Fields of Medina**

Gallup stated that the Hamel Athletic Club (HAC) has been requesting dugout covers at the quad fields in Hamel Legion Park since 2012 to address safety issues from foul balls and provide shade from the sun. She noted that the City currently has \$20,000 of Park Dedication funds budgeted in the Capital Improvement Plan to address the safety concerns. HAC solicited a bid from a vendor for vinyl covers and fencing upgrades for the eight dugouts in the quad fields that came in at \$28,560. The City solicited two additional quotes for fencing upgrades (not including canvas covers) that both came in well below the budgeted \$20,000. Quote A: \$12,600 and Quote B: \$12,125.

The Park Commission discussed the dugout cover options and recommended spending up to \$20,000 to address the safety concerns by providing fencing upgrades over the dugouts at the quad field and adding the lighted field dugouts. The Park Commission agreed that the City's responsibility is to address the safety concerns and felt that HAC can purchase their own canvas covers if they choose to provide shade from the sun. It was also noted that HAC is mainly an evening program and the heat from the sun really should not be that big of an issue at that time of day.

**9) Staff Report**

Gallup reported that a resident stated that the weeds are already growing in the new ag lime in Maple Park. Scherer stated that he would take a look at the ball field to determine if it needs to be added to the city's annual weed spraying contract.

**10) Adjourn**

*A motion was made by Rumsey, seconded by Cole and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jodi Gallup.