CITY OF COLUMBUS
PARK BOARD MEETING
INTERACTIVE MEETING FORMAT
STATUTES SECTION 13D.021
02-28-2023

The 02-28-2023 Park Board meeting for the City of Columbus was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice-Chair Kris King at the City of Columbus City Hall. Present were Board members Brad Norling, Bob Bodene, Andrea Messina, and Steven Ray.
City Council Member Janet Hegland, Associate Planner Frank Koenen, and Recording Secretary Lorie Spangler were also present.

AGENDA APPROVAL:
Motion by Norling to approve agenda as presented.
Second by Messina.
Roll call vote: Ray – aye; Messina – aye; King – aye; Norling – aye; Bodene – aye. Motion carries**.** All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES:
Motion Norling to approve the minutes of the 11-15-2022 Park Board meeting as written.
Second by Messina,
Roll call vote: Ray – aye; Messina – aye; King – aye; Norling – aye; Bodene – aye. All in favor, motion carried.

CHAIR/VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS:
King nominated Norling as chair.
Motion by King to appoint Norling as chair of the park board.
Second by Messina.
Roll call vote: Ray – aye; Messina – aye; King – aye; Norling – abstain; Bodene – aye. All in favor, motion carried.
Bodene nominated Messina as vice-chair.
Motion by Bodene to appoint Messina as vice-chair of the park board.
Second by King
Roll call vote: Ray – aye; Messina – abstain; King – aye; Norling – aye; Bodene – aye. All in favor, motion carried.

DISCUSSION:
Park & Trail Master Plan: Associate Planner Koenen shared a power point presentation handout with the board members (attached to minutes). He recapped the previous meeting items that included vision statement which included budget funding, social gathering place, and bike/hiking trail accessibility. A vision statement will be drafted at tonight's meeting.
The three City parks were also discussed in the recap from the last meeting. A tour of the parks will be planned in the future to view the present amenities. The Council approved the sale of Howard Lake Park and presently the Planning Commission is looking at that process and Hidden Park's future will be discussed after the park tour.

Koenen also reviewed the 2021 park survey monkey results, noting walking was the biggest park use as well as expanding the trail system internally and externally was a priority, this could possibly be achieved through partnerships with Anoka County and the DNR. Koenen reminded board members that the Comprehensive Pan is a guideline that will be considered when going forward with the plan.

Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Definitions: Koenen went over the clarification of definitions that were listed in the handout for Pedestrian, Sidewalk, Foot Path, Boardwalk, Off Road Trail, Widened Shoulder Route, Shared Roadway, Striped/Marked Bike Lake, Shared Lane, and Separated Lane. The members agreed on these definitions and discussed that it was important to know the difference of each when planning what kind of infrastructure they may be including in the Master Plan.
Ray added that the trails in Shoreview are not fully marked with trail designation, as they are still in the process of dedicating the trails to their use. He also added his concern with dedicated trails that are defined "shared roadway" with bicyclist/walkers and motorized vehicles for safety reasons.

Vision Statement: To develop a Park Master Plan a vision of what the future of the parks and trails should offer needs to be defined before going forward with plans and goals. Koenen shared a standard definition of a vision statement to identify the contents of a statement. The park board members were given the opportunity to review three draft samples of vision statements and offer edits. Below are the three statements that the board reviewed and discussed.

1) To develop, promote and maintain natural spaces and trails for community-building and recreation, accessible to all citizens of Columbus and beyond.

2) Columbus is committed to develop and maintain quality accessible parks and trails that can serve as a central gathering space for the community.

3) to keep nature accessible to all columbus citizens – today, tomorrow and forever.

The board reviewed all 3 statements and chose #1 with the following edits: remove the word "develop". They discussed if "plan" or "partner" would be appropriate other than "develop". The board chose to remove the word "develop" and felt the essence of their vision was communicated in this statement.
Motion by King to adopt draft vision statement #1 with the edit of removing the word "develop". To promote and maintain natural spaces and trails for community-building and recreation, accessible to all citizens of Columbus and beyond as the Parks and Trails System Master Plan Vision Statement.
Second by Ray.
Roll call vote: Ray – aye; Messina – aye; King – aye; Norling – aye; Bodene – aye. All in favor, motion carried.

3) Goals & Priorities: Now that a vision statement is adopted, it provides the groundwork for developing the goals and priorities for the Park and Trail Master Plan. Koenen shared some goals that he received from previous meetings that the board members expressed. These were:

a. Financial Viability of the Plan

Maintain existing amenities.

Members added that increasing amenities to the tennis court side of the park. ie:a pavilion, disc golf. King stated that this was an important goal.

Bodene stated tennis courts themselves need immediate attention.

Finding new funding sources

Norling added identify partnerships.

Add Planning for future improvements.

b. Strategic and New Uses of Parkland

Disc Golf

Pickleball Court

- Norling would like basketball to be added.

c. Utilization of Existing Assets of Other Public Entities

Councilmember Hegland clarified that possibly a better way to state this goal would be change the goal to: Identify and Promote Assets of Other Public Entities

Howard Lake

Overlook on the Lake

Lamprey Pass

Bodene and King added that they need to pursue opportunities with the DNR Planner

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve

d. Better Connections to the Park

Trail connections to Columbus City Park from residential areas a priority

Sidewalk connections in the commercial districts

Norling added natural spaces & trails and Lamprey Pass

e. A Public Gathering Space

Events (i.e. Arts in the Park)

Koenen inquired if these goals compliment the newly adopted vision statement and asked if there were any additional goals to add to each topic. Given comments were added under each area. He added that these ideas will help establish goals for the master plan to bring forward for discussion at the May meeting.

Koenen informed the Board that a newsletter will be going out to the residents in the near future and a short survey will be included to solicit information from the residents, their input on park needs and wants. The Board requested Koenen to send them a sampling of the questions so they can have the opportunity to provide feedback questions to be included. There will be an online link option as well as sending their choices to the City.

4) Coon Lake Regional Park Long Range Development Pan:
Koenen had previously invited the Board members to partake in a survey provided by Coon Lake Regional Park. The potential plan includes that Anoka County is willing to work with local partners connecting trails to and from the park, there is already a regional trail planned for traveling south on Lexington, there will be no parking lot expansion, and they are proposing to expand year-round amenities and activities to include winter walking trails.

Park Board Comments:
Koenen asked for comments as well of any components that conflict with this plan and the Columbus Master Plan.
Norling states that he would love to see a connection path, however, the only viable path would be Broadway, and added that he felt it may be a disconnect as it is so remote and not a viable opportunity. Norling had no conflicts with their plan.
Bodene stated that the distance is 10 minutes and just seems not realistic.
King stated that the parking in that area is unsafe and dangerous on the roadway.

Trash Receptacles:
Spangler shared with the board that the present garbage containers in the park are unsightly, which are open barrels allowing the contents to blow out, collect rain and snow. She presented the board with a handout that had options available that offered a cleaner practical look. The board chose a trash receptacle that is covered and has a top that can be lifted off for ease of emptying contents. The board established that 4 containers are needed throughout the park.
Motion by King to recommend the purchase of 4 trash receptacles, to be placed throughout the park, priced at approximately $208.00/each plus shipping costs in the color forest green.
Second by Ray.
Roll call vote: Ray – aye; Messina – aye; King – aye; Norling – aye; Bodene – aye. All in favor, motion carried.

Park Board Members Open Discussion:
Messina commented that possibly an increase in meetings should be considered to discuss the projects on the board's agendas. Adding an April meeting was agreed upon to discuss lighting, tree girdling, and tennis court status.

Norling asked to inform the public works department to remove the plastic around the trees along the base line that girdling is occurring as soon as possible. He added that there is certain lights in the park that could possibly be moved to provide more adequate and safe lighting.

Bodene inquired the timing of pruning the newly planted trees last fall. Bodene offered to call Rum River to see if these trees are established enough this spring for pruning. He will contact Public Works Department if pruning isa advisable.

Fall Fest Information: Councilmember Hegland informed the Board that the City has 2 residents that have volunteered to co-chair the Fall Fest Committee and other City events. She stated that a roundtable discussion will take place at the joint Planning Commission/City Council meeting tomorrow evening, March 1, 2023, and invited park board members to attend, if interested. Ray

commented he would like to participate. Hegland added that at this time they are looking at a 3-day event, which may include bingo, food trucks, car show, Columbus Day at Running Aces, petting zoo, and ending with Lions Pancake Breakfast on that Sunday. The proposed date is the weekend of September 15-17th.

NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting is Thursday April 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Koenen informed the Board that he will be presenting goals and priorities for review at the May meeting and the board expressed that they would like to schedule a field trip and explore the Hidden Park, Lamprey Pass and the city park, to further establish ideas to develop more amenities. Items for the next meeting are tennis court repair, specific lighting, process for the girdling trees.

ADJORN:
Motion made by King to adjourn.
Second by Messina.
Roll call vote: Ray – aye; Messina – aye; King – aye; Norling – aye; Bodene – aye. All in favor, motion carried All in favor.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Lorie A Spangler
Lorie Spangler, Recording Secretary

PARK AND TRAIL SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

February 23 Meeting

Previous Meeting Recap

- Vision Statement
  - Budget/funding concerns for park maintenance of current amenities
  - Social gathering place and bringing people together
    - Activities in the park (grants, events)
  - Bike/hiking trails accessibility (connections between citywide assets)
    - Direction to reach out to other entities (DNR, Anoka County, MnDOT, adjoining communities)
- City Parks
  - Columbus City Park – Future tour for possible amenities
  - Howard Lake Park –Park sale recommended to City Council
  - Hidden Park – Decision on the future of the park

Previous Meeting Recap

- 2021 Survey Monkey Results
  - Walking is biggest park use
    - Expanding Trail System internally/externally highlighted as priorities
    - We discussed looking at options of extending the trail externally
      - Potential Partnerships (Anoka County, DNR)
- Comprehensive Plan Review
  - The framework for the Parks and Trails Master Plan
- DNR Land
  - Carlos Avery
  - Lamprey Pass

Definitions – Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure

- Pedestrian—a person on foot, in a wheelchair, on skates, or on a skateboard. (FHWA)
- Sidewalk – that portion of a street between the curb line, or the lateral line of a roadway, and the adjacent property line or on easements of private property that is paved or improved and intended for use by pedestrians. (FHWA)
- Foot Path – An unpaved path for pedestrians
  - Boardwalk – Elevated footpath to cross wetlands
- Off Road Trail – Paved or Unpaved. A trail separated from motorized vehicles.
- Widened Shoulder Route – An unmarked route that utilizes existing or newly constructed roadway shoulders
- Shared Roadway—a roadway that is officially designated and marked as a bicycle route, but which is open to motor vehicle travel and upon which no bicycle lane is designated. (FHWA)
- Striped/Marked Bike Lane – a portion of a roadway that has been designated for preferential or exclusive use by bicyclists by pavement markings and, if used, signs. (FHWA)
  - Shared Lane – a shared roadway lane that is designated and marked for bicycle use.
  - Separated Lane - a preferential lane or other special purpose lane that is separated from the adjacent general-purpose lane(s) by a pattern of standard longitudinal pavement markings that is wider than a normal or wide lane line marking. The buffer area might include rumble strips, textured pavement, or channelizing devices such as tubular markers or traversable curbs, but does not include a physical barrier. (FHWA)

Park Vision Statement Definitions

Cambridge Dictionary: A statement of what a company or an organization would like to achieve in the future.

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission: This is a clearly defined, concise vision the defines the "why" of the facility based on regional information and public engagement.

TO DEVELOP, PROMOTE AND MAINTAIN NATURAL SPACES AND TRAILS FOR COMMUNITY-BUILDING AND RECREATION, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL CITIZENS OF COLUMBUS AND BEYOND.

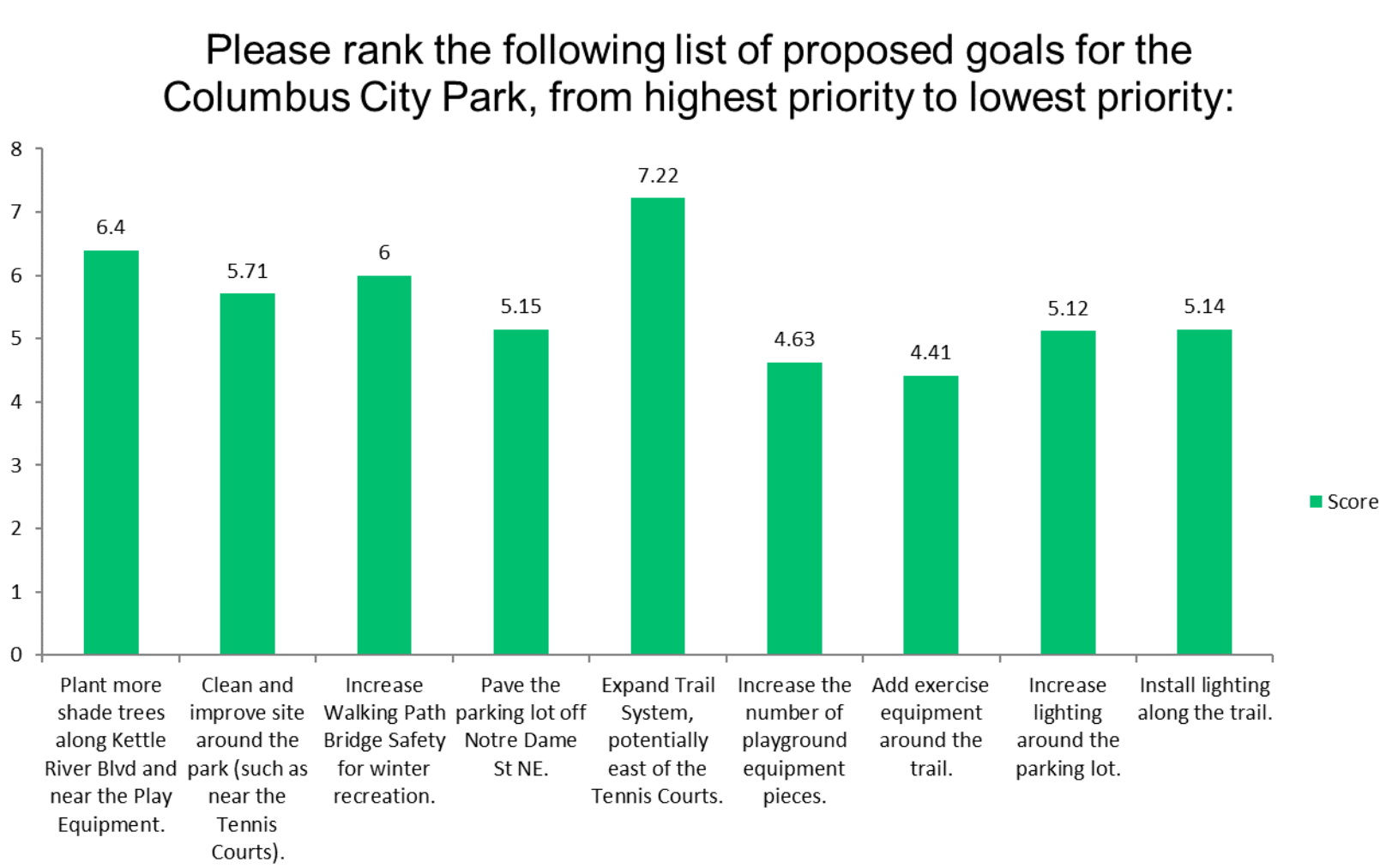
COLUMBUS IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN QUALITY ACCESSIBLE PARKS AND TRAILS THAT CAN SERVE AS A CENTRAL GATHERING SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

TO KEEP NATURE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL COLUMBUS CITIZENS – TODAY, TOMORROW AND FOREVER.

Draft Vision Statements

Columbus Park and Trail Goals

- Financial Viability of the Plan
  - Maintain existing amenities
  - Finding new funding sources
- Strategic and New Uses of Parkland
  - Disc Golf
  - Pickleball Court
- Utilization of Existing Assets of Other Public Entities
  - Howard Lake
    - Overlook on the Lake
    - Lamprey Pass
  - Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve
- Better Connections to the Park
  - Trail connections to Columbus City Park from residential areas a priority
  - Sidewalk connections in the commercial districts
- A Public Gathering Space
  - Events (i.e. Arts in the Park)
- ***Do these goals compliment the chosen Vision Statement?***
- ***Are there further details I am missing in the context of these goals?***
- ***Are there other goals you would like to see included?***



COLUMBUS PRIORITIES

Coon Lake Regional Park Long Range Plan

- County is willing to work with local partners connecting trails to and from the park (Columbus, Linwood, East Bethel)
- East Anoka County Regional Trail already planned travel south on Lexington
- No Parking Lot Expansion (boats will likely continue parking on the shoulder)
- Addition of Westbound Right Turn Lane
- Expansion of Year-Round Amenities and Activities (Winter Walking Trails)

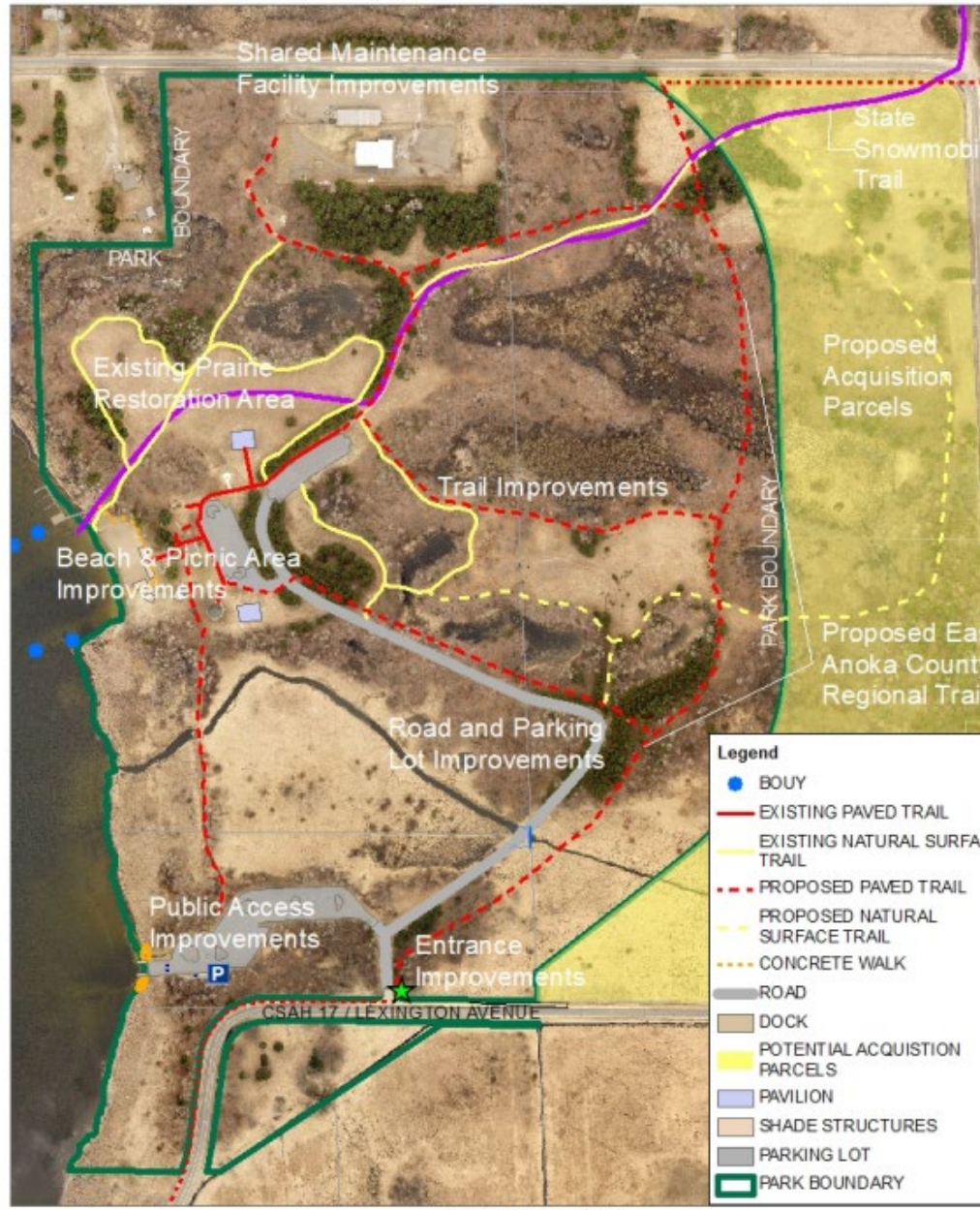


Figure 4: General Development Concept

Coon Lake Regional Park Long Range Plan

- Are there components of this plan you believe will conflict with what you envision for the Columbus Parks and Trails Master Plan? Does the Coon Lake Regional Park Long Range Plan conflict with the Columbus Parks and Trails Master Plan?
- Do park board members have recommendations about the plan to the City Council?

- Potential Conflicts Presented the in Plan - Boating Behavior on the Lake, Boat/Swimmer Conflicts, and Vehicle/Trailer Parking on Lexington Avenue

- Next Steps for Columbus
  - ***Draft Comments from the City***
  - Comment Period Ends March 17
  - Resolution of Support

Next Meeting – May 25

- Short Inventory Presentation
  - Hidden Park
    - What questions do we have about the park? What do Park Board members need to make decisions?
- Presentation of Drafted Goals and Priorities
- Discussion on planned outreach
- Discussion of Measuring Success (time permitting)