CITY OF COLUMBUS
PARK BOARD MEETING
INTERACTIVE MEETING FORMAT
STATUTES SECTION 13D.021
05-25-2023

The 05-25-2023 Park Board meeting for the City of Columbus was called to order at 5:31p.m. by Chair Brad Norling at the City of Columbus City Hall. Present were Board members Bob Bodene, Steven Ray, and Andrea Messina.
City Council Member Ron Hanegraaf, Associate Planner Frank Koenen, Public Works Director Jim Windingstad, and Recording Secretary Lorie Spangler were also present.
Absent: Kris King

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

APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES:
Motion Norling to approve the minutes of the 04-20-2023 Park Board meeting with changes.
Second by Bodene.
Roll call vote: Ray – aye; Norling – aye; Bodene – aye; Messina - abstain. All in favor, motion carried.

INFORMATION:
Public Works Director Windingstad went over the park concerns the Park Board had regarding maintenance in the park. Public works repaired the loose board and applied anti-skid glow in the dark tape on the metal edging to each end of the bridge. Windingstad commented that there has been some wash out areas under the bridge and his intention is to temporarily close the bridge to repair this area. A suggestion was made to place a temporary seasonal gate at the tennis court parking lot to prevent access in the winter, as this lot is typically not plowed. Windingstad recommended as the board considers goals in their park master plan, paving the parking lots which would help with maintenance in the winter.

Fence: The board previously requested Windingstad to research some options to replace the broken posts that line the perimeter of all parking areas. A quote of a 400-foot length/ 3-foot-high fence for $16,930.00 (price does not include gate or the labor of public works removing the existing posts). This fence price is only for the main parking lot. Windingstad stated that all 276 posts would be replaced if the decision was to replace the posts with new posts. A rough estimate of cedar toned posts including labor would be approximately $23,000.00. Messina shared that a fence seems to give off an “unfriendly” vibe but likes the idea of permanent vs posts to be replaced in future. Ray commented parents may feel that the children are safer as they are contained from cars in the parking lot.

Lights: Windingstad provided a map of the placement of the 4 lights that are in the park that are paid by park funds. Two are in the main parking lot and the other 2 are in the park area along Kettle River Boulevard, however, one of these lights shines into the trees not providing any benefit, which the board would like to move to another pole. Windingstad gave the board pricing from Connexus to move this light to another pole ($155.00) and pricing to add a light on another existing pole ($357.00). Norling asked what the monthly electrical charge is for the four lights. Windingstad stated that the monthly cost is $30.00. Ray commented if the board chose to add a light off 165th where there are residence, they would need to be informed. Norling stated that he would like to receive a quote for a 4-foot-high fence and added that the board will discuss this information regarding lighting and fence options during the park road tour meeting next month. The board greatly appreciated all the information brought forth from Windingstad.

DISCUSSION:

Park & Trail Master Plan:

Associate Planner Koenen reviewed the goals that the board established at the last meeting. Norling commented that Koenen captured the essence of the goals from the board in preparing the Park Master Plan. The board evaluated the priority list and requested to remove winter walking bridge safety from the short term (1-4 years) list as it is included in the ongoing list under walking path and bridge. The board agreed to keep the parking lot paving priority in the mid-term list (4-7 years) as they felt the next large expenditure is the walking path and tennis court. Koenen shared an additional priority for the board to consider. Anoka County has been working on their Transportation Policy Plan (TTP) update which will be revised in 2024 for the 2050 Plan. The TTP sets policies based on goals and objectives for the regional transportation system. Safety, mobility, accessibility, and modes were included in the goals for Anoka County Plan. Koenen added that this is the time to think about what potential Anoka County projects the City could support and advocate in the Park Master Plan. Norling inquired as to what Anoka County plans are in the near future, so we don't miss out on an opportunity to tap into Anoka projects. Koenen will bring back some information regarding future Anoka projects at the next meeting Bodene noted that the upcoming Lake Drive project would be an opportunity to see if they are widening the shoulders for a bike lane. Councilmember Hanegraaf added that a 2" overlay on Lake Drive will be done this year and then replaced with a new concrete road in 2025, making it a 50-year road instead of a 30-year road because of the heavy truck traffic. He shared that the transportation bill went through in this last legislative session and Columbus will receive yearly funding for roads from this bill.

Koenen shared an example of a master plan that is a template from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. Koenen added Columbus pertinent information in the areas that would not change. The board will review the contents and add information on an ongoing basis as information is collected. Additionally, Koenen stated that this example is for a regional plan and they will need to draft to their master plan to reflect a city plan.

Outreach:

Newsletter Questionnaire Survey: 82 responses were received as of date. The results were as shown below:

"In the year 2022 which parks have you visited in the City and estimate # of times visited
If a park was not visited in the response a 0 submitted".

Park	Average # of Visits	Total # of Visits	Responses
Columbus City Park	30.8	2219	72
Hidden Park	0.8	46	56
Coon Lake Reg Park	3.0	178	60

Farmers Market, Concerts and Arts in the Park were noted as the top 3 social activity interests from the survey and bicycle and pedestrian trails within the City had the highest response for any additions to the Parks and Tails System that residents would like to see.

Additionally, there were 22 who stated they would be potentially interested in participating in a focus group about planning for the future. Koenen inquired to the park board as to what information would the park board deem important to receive. Norling stated he personally had not put much thought into this process, or how we would utilize a focus group and Ray added that a skilled facilitator would be important to carry this out.

Future Hidden Park Survey:
The board discussed the future of Hidden Park and the possibility of reaching out to immediate residents in the area with a survey. The consensus of the board was to hold off on these questions until they visit this park on the upcoming road tour to review the amenities and discuss future use possibilities. The board is considering what their options are with this park and if they are even able to liquidate this park asset.

Park Board Members Open Discussion:
Trees: Norling asked Windingstad if the gator bags would be placed around the new trees planted last fall. The board commented on how well the trees handled the winter. He stated the bags will be placed next week and felt one more year would be helpful and added that the trees have had bug deterrent spray and granules applied as well. Messina commented that Upper Cut Tree Services excavated and repaired the root bound trees for the quoted amount of $1,850.00.

Future Road Tour
Koenen reminded the board the tour is June 6th and that will be the only thing on the agenda. Both Columbus City Park and Hidden Park will be toured, and Hornsby & Zurich pedestrian structures may be included.

NEXT MEETING:
Park Board Road Tour – Tuesday, June 6th 5:30, meeting at the Columbus City Park picnic shelter.
The next scheduled meeting for Thursday July 27, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., is rescheduled to Tuesday July 25, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Lights, fencing and Hidden Park will be discussed at the next meeting.

ADJORN:
Motion made by Bodene to adjourn.
Second by Messina.
Roll call vote: Ray – aye; Messina – aye; Norling – aye; Bodene – aye. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lorie A Spangler

Lorie Spangler, Recording Secretary