

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF OAK CREEK PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
September 8, 2022**

1. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call

Chairperson Schreiber-Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. The following members were present at roll call: Secretary Beyer, Commissioner Bautch, Commissioner Theys, and Commissioner Druckrey. Also present was Zoning Administrator Jack Kovnesky, Senior Planner Kari Papelbon, Community Development Director Seymour, DPW Director Trebatoski, and Jeff Wendt, Supervisor of Parks Maintenance. Alderman Guzikowski and Commissioner Thiel were excused.

2. Approval of Minutes - August 4, 2022

Commissioner Theys moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2022, meeting. Commissioner Bautch seconded. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

3. Significant Common Council Actions Report - NONE

4. New Business

a. Information Item – 2022 Parks & Open Space Maintenance Budget Overview

Zoning Administrator Kovnesky went over the budget briefly (see report for details)

Chairperson Schreiber-Johnson stated that she appreciated the report provided from the staff.

Director Trebatoski stated that the facility rental jumped out at him and that covers the rentals of the equipment like port-a-Johns and most of it is allocated for the private bathroom in DTS. Tourism also covers for half of the facility rental for DTS as well.

Commissioner Theys asked how many employees work just for Parks. Mr. Wendt answered 3 full-time (1 is a mechanic), 1 part-time, and 7-8 seasonal employees. Director Trebatoski says that is impressive for a community this size compared to other municipalities he has worked in.

Commissioner Theys asked if there is any recommendation for more staff. Mr. Wendt stated that they are not able to add any additional staff due to the hiring freeze. Director Seymour said that the hiring freeze is affecting across our organization.

Secretary Beyer questioned about using volunteers. Mr. Wendt said that a lot of time is spent working with volunteers and volunteers are hard to come by. Director Trebatoski mentioned that DPW part-time staff help with set up and take down

throughout the DTS events. Using volunteers would be great, if volunteers were reliable. Secretary Beyer stated that would be a great to get the kids and residents involved. Mr. Wendt stated that it also depends on what they could do.

Chairperson Schreiber-Johnson asked if there is a standard of how many Parks employees is needed per the population. Director Seymour stated that there is a possibility that is required but not attainable given our situation.

Secretary Beyer brought up the gas and oil remains the same. Director Trebatoski stated that it is better to remain the same instead of changing it when the prices fluctuate, and it is also reserved for pump maintenance or upgrades. Mr. Wendt stated that the last time the gas prices went up, the budget went up, but it never went back down once the gas prices went back down. It pretty much stayed the same since.

This item was informational only and a vote was not required.

b. Information Item – Update on North Bluff Planning Study

Director Seymour introduced Edgewater Resources to present the study.

Nick Stefani from Edgewater Resources briefly explained the permit process and how the bluff will be stabilized. Then talked about the public engagement from National Night Out. The key features from the public engagement are swimming, getting close to the water, and relaxing views. He mentioned there are a couple of beaches that are not utilized much and want to work those areas into the plan.

Dennis Carmichael from Edgewater Resources presented different concept plans featuring amenities that the community may be interested and could depends on the cost.

- The overall concept plan will have a high “road” (at the top of the bluff) and a low “road” (near the water) with many paths for walkers and bike riders down the slope.
 - The slope would create a few levels from the top of the bluff to the water.
 - Each level will have some sort of amenities that would be passive or active in nature.
 - Shelter picnic area with the roof at the level above to be able to walk out onto.
 - Natural play equipment for kids to climb,
 - Some type stone for seating and/or climbing.
 - A possible landmark bridge over the ravine that would connect Lake Vista and the North Bluff.
 - The paths would be both paved and unpaved and would be wavy to have the feel of being on the water.
 - A few piers for people to walk and fish on
- There were a couple of rough concepts of what the main section.
 - Concept 1: Showed 2 embankment slides with a large area of steps ion between to create like an auditorium seating. At the bottom is a giant “sandbox” that is stope by a breakwater. From there is a revetment of

- large stones going into the water.
- Concept 2 showed a wading pool at the bottom of the slope. A horseshoe shaped path that could double as a walkway and a fishing pier that is out into the lake. Some sort of tower that is accessible from the parking lot at the top row. Along the slope would be revetment of stones that would provide climbing and seating.

Commissioner Theys asked if there will be any access to get into the water without climbing over big boulders.

Mr. Carmichael said that adding another beach would not be ideal since there is a beach at Bender Park with restrooms and lots of parking spaces and a beautiful beach north of the treatment plant.

Mr. Stefani stated that the bluff needs considerable protection against erosion and contamination and the only way is with revetment.

Commissioner Theys asked about the wading pool and what the source of the water.

Mr. Carmichael said that it would need to be portable water and is about 8 feet higher than the lake.

Comments from the Commissioners:

- Liked:
 - The bridge since it would connect the two sides and making it a landmark.
 - The slides.
 - Climbing wall.
 - The embed and flow of the path.
 - The sand area.
 - The few piers that are going out onto the water.
- Disliked:
 - The circular path out into the water because having people on the path would block the view from the main area.
 - The idea of the wading pool because of the maintenance and cost.
- Concerns:
 - Accessible for wheelchair users
 - The swaying of the bridge
 - Making this a reality because of the cost
 - Paths that are connected to the piers from the slopes
 - The safety and maintenance of the bridge
- Suggested:
 - Moving the pier from the main section, possibly to the south near the handicapped parking.
 - Sledding hill.

This item was informational only and a vote was not required.

c. Information Item – Update on Abendschein Park Pavilion

Director Seymour stated the bid packages came back substantially higher (4 ½ million

dollars) than what was envisioned (3.2 million dollars). He truly believes that the Common Council would not accept the price range because that there are other capital improvement needed across the City.

Secretary Beyer asked if the project could be done in phases. Director Seymour stated that it could be explored.

Director Seymour stated that parking lot and roadway to the park improvement is being proposed as part of the CIP projects for next year (2023). Since the pavilion will be funded by park impact fees, the Council will not want to spend that large amount money.

Commissioners stated that it is disappointing as Andrew Vickers stated that the funding would be provided, and the company who would have thought about the cost after all the time and money was spent on the project.

Director Seymour said that the Council did not appear to like the building being utilized as a beer garden and a pavilion. The next step would be for the design/construction team to go back to the drawing board and discuss about what is important to have at the park and how to use it.

Secretary Beyer asked if the parking lot and roadway improvement would include the landmark or signage to the park. Director Seymour answered no.

Secretary Beyer stated that she wondered how the community could be more involved in the creation of the park instead of using vendor. Suggested Knights Construction could possibly help with the building or building the sign. Secretary Beyer wondered how the Commission could provide more creative solutions.

Director Seymour stated that has been considered having some partnership with volunteer groups. Knights Construction typically build houses but was not sure if they would be able to come up with plans or build that type of building.

Director Seymour stated that the construction companies also felt that the timeline of completing the project was unrealistic as well.

Secretary Beyer stated that regardless of the building plans, the entrance to the park needs to be redesigned and have better signage to show where the park is.

Commissioners discussed briefly about doing it in phases, should it be a beer garden, a pavilion or both, is a structure necessary and what can be done to keep going forward.

Planner Papelbon suggested having some guidelines with options you would like to see for each monetary amount and plan for more if you can.

Chairperson Schreiber-Johnson stated that the projected plans were done few years ago and the plans have scaled back tremendously since then because it was already too much money. The plans continue to change when finances become available or not available. She wanted to know what could be done to get this project become a reality.

This item was informational only and a vote was not required.

d. Discussion Item – Discuss options for location of a potential oversized chess board

Zoning Administrator Kovnesky briefly presented the donated chess game (see report for details).

Zacharia Ncinda was inaudible.

Commissioners ask Mr. Ncinda some questions. Mr. Ncinda's responses were inaudible.

Commissioners discussed having it in Drexel Town Square and it could come out during the events.

Secretary Beyer suggested the chess club at the high school.

This item was a discussion only and a vote was not required.

5. Adjournment

Commissioner Druckrey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Theys seconded. All voted Aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Prepared By:

Respectfully Submitted,



Kari Papelbon
Senior Planner



Anne Beyer
OCPR Secretary

