

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF OAK CREEK PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
November 2, 2023 - DRAFT**

1. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call

Commissioner Steve Bautch called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. The following members were present at roll call: Commissioners Steve Bautch, Jerry Krist, Anne Beyer and Nicole Druckrey. Chairperson Schreiber-Johnson, Commissioner Mike Theys and Alderman Guzikowski were excused.

Staff also present included Director of Community Development Doug Seymour, Public Health Specialist Sabrina Einhorn, and Parks Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Wendt. Josh Wohlreich and Ryan Swingruber, representing HeyDay Oak Creek were also present.

2. Approval of Minutes - August 3, 2023

Commissioner Krist made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Beyer seconded. All voted aye. Motion carried.

3. Relevant Common Council Actions Report

Director Seymour briefed the Commission on the recent activity by the Council regarding the lakefront project. The Commission was also informed that the Abendschein Park Pavilion project was not recommended for inclusion in the 2024 Capital Improvements budget.

4. New Business

a. Offer to Dedicate Parkland – 2231 W. Puetz Road

Director Seymour briefed the Commission on the history behind the HeyDay residential development. Josh Wohlreich and Ryan Swingruber, representing the development gave a summary of the project. The Commission was made aware of the City's tree preservation requirement in the Municipal Code. Since this development would have required a considerable number of replacement trees, the developer instead proposed to dedicate a 12-acre wooded parcel to the City. The Plan Commission and Common Council, as part of the approved planned unit development, agreed with this approach and required the woodlands on the property to be preserved through dedication, deed restriction or conservation easement. Staff is seeking the Commission's recommendation as to whether this property should be dedicated to the City, or whether it should remain privately held with the appropriate easements and/or deed restrictions.

The Commission discussed how this property, if accepted through dedication, would give the City future options to utilize this parkland. Such options would be more limited or precluded if it were privately held with a conservation easement or deed restriction.

The Commission discussed how the site would be accessed as well as potential future uses for the site. The consensus was that acceptance of the dedication was the preferred option.

Commissioner Krist made the motion that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend the acceptance of the dedication of the property at 2231 W. Puetz Road to the Plan Commission and Common Council. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Druckrey. All voted aye. Motion carried.

b. Oak Creek Health Department Park and Trail Map Project

Sabrina Einhorn, Public Health Specialist for the Oak Creek Health Department addressed the Commission on a project currently being undertaken by the Health Department to document and promote the walking trails in our community. The City, as part of its Recreation Guide does have an older map and list of neighborhood walking options, but it is out of date, and focuses on neighborhoods rather than connection to the community's park and trail resources. She mentioned a comparable map that was developed by the City of Franklin showcasing their park and trail connections.

The Commission thought that this was a worthwhile project and expressed its support for the continued development of such a resource, noting that improvements to trails and neighborhood connectivity are part of the City's Strategic Action Plan and should be a big part of the forthcoming update to the Parks and Open Space Plan.

No action was required.

c. Report on 2024 Parks and Open Space Maintenance Budget

Parks Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Wendt presented the Commission with a summary of the proposed 2024 City Operating Budget for Parks & Open Space Maintenance and was available to answer any questions.

The Commissioners inquired about the proposed increase in expenses related to facility/equipment rental. Supervisor Wendt explained that the change resulted from increases to the rent charged to the City for the operation of restrooms at Drexel Town Square – which is part of this budget line item.

No action was required.

5. Adjournment

Commissioner Druckrey made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bautch seconded. All voted Aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Prepared By:

Respectfully Submitted,



Doug Seymour
Director of Community Development

Anne Beyer
OCPR Secretary

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