

MINUTES OF THE PARK COMMITTEE

March 6, 2019

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The members present were Mike Guadagnino, Nancy Larkin, Steve Saliani, Sandra Coira and Councilman Robert Knapp, liaison. Absent: Lee Haymon - voted to be excused motion Saliani seconded Larkin, all in favor
2. Salute to the Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mike read the meeting announcement: *This meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, duly announced, advertised and posted in the municipal building.*

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

Open to the public:

Anthony Smid: 110 Hiawatha Boulevard. Shade Tree Commission member. He spoke in support of the dog park. He also spoke on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission which has committed to plant a minimum of 20 trees for the dog park.

Erich Kamm: 9 Greenway: Inquired about the slope and drainage and whether it was towards or away from the C1 stream. Ryan explained that this area used to be Muller's park barn and it is a disturbed area but it will be made up of impervious surface.

Peter Kikot: 20 Minehaha Boulevard. Detailed that the park will be outside the 300 buffer zone.

4. **Dog Park presentation:** Ryan Schwertzfeger presented the current concept for the dog park. The park will have a special kind of engineered wood fiber that is similar to mulch but lasts longer. The trees that are invasive species will be removed and replaced with native trees and the Shade Tree Commission continues to help.

5. Work Session

1. **Great Lawn:** Tom Potash is working with DPW and Frank Rossi on the great lawn. The seeds and hay will be ordered.
2. **Band Shell:** The Committee is planning on consulting an acoustics engineer to help with the installation of the band shell.
3. **Bird and Bat Houses:** no update.
4. **Planting:** Carol Peterson had applied for a grant to plant trees along the stream which was approved.

Open to the public:

Peter Kikot: a member of the Environmental Commission. He mentioned that some of the trees and shrubs are toxic to animals and the Environmental Commission will provide a report detailing its recommendations. The report also includes recommendations about non-native species and how to mitigate their growth. The commission also made recommendations about possibly changing some of the shade trees to better suit the dog park and for safety reasons. The Commission also recommended an irrigation system and cautioned that if water is needed for the dogs or for humans then it has to be potable water. The Commission also asked for more information from the engineer on possible environmental impacts.

Fred Burks: believes the dogs are smart enough to not eat the wrong plants.

Erich Kamm: is personally opposed to the great lawn. He believes that the Committee is not adequately taking into account the environmental impact of the great lawn.

Council Liaison Robert Knapp: mentioned that the Committee is returning the area of the great lawn to its former state and that it is not disturbing the area.

Josephine Cukla: mentioned that she lives on the river and uses no chemicals on the lawn and it

Charlie Delma: mentioned that the recreation fields have chemicals added and they are non-toxic.

Peter Kikot: mentioned that all chemicals used on lawns are harmful.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The next meeting will be held April 3, 2019, in the Danny D'Elia building at 7:00 p.m.