



**City of Newport
Park Board Meeting
July 28, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members present – Emily White; Anita Perkins; Heidi Tweeten; Paul Hansen

Board Members absent – John Graber

Also present –Matt Yokiell, Executive Director;

3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

A. Park Board Minutes of May 26, 2016 Regular Meeting

Chairperson White - The Park Board did not make any recommendation for the fishing pier. We discussed it. Our recommendation was to have it on Cedar Lane. Wherever it is, it should be accessible and ADA compliant. I just wanted to make that clear.

Heidi Tweeten - Did it go to the Council?

Chairperson White - Yes.

Vice-Chair Perkins - I know they're spending quite a bit of money to have that looked at again.

Motion by Perkins, seconded by Hansen, to approve the May 26, 2016 minutes as presented. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Chairperson White - I'd like to have Heidi present on what she's been working on before we discuss Pioneer Day.

Heidi Tweeten - This is in regard to the tree labeling project that we've been talking about. I had a meeting with David from the MN Landscape Arboretum. We did a tour and learned a lot about the signage. They offered to make labels for us for a cost. They also contract with other places. From what I saw and the expense and durability, they're a gated facility so they have the ability to have very luxurious signs. I also visited a different arboretum in Washington. They did something really simple (showed example). This is my recommendation, it's very simple. We can pick and choose the material. It's high enough on the trees so it's out of reach. There aren't any posts. I'm concerned about the health of a tree if we screwed the sign into the tree. I believe this material lasts about two to three years. I thought this was the most budget friendly and practical. They designated some champion trees in the community as well. I thought that was kind of interesting.

Chairperson White - Wouldn't that be a fun program? Someone could nominate their tree.

Heidi Tweeten - I thought we could start publicizing that at Pioneer Day and have someone from the Heritage Preservation Commission help.

Chairperson White - If you want to find out what they're made out of.

Heidi Tweeten - Will do. I have a contact at Gerten's who is training to be a tree spotter that could go on a walk with us to identify all of the species.

Chairperson White - We could do this for bushes as well. So if you want to make a recommendation on this under your report, that would be great.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING PIONEER DAY

The Park Board discussed Pioneer Day, which will be August 14, 2016. Chairperson White brought in a board for the adopt-a-park program and has applications as well for people that would like to sign up. Executive Director Yokiel will find some buckthorn to have on display at Pioneer Day. The Park Board will also have pictures of garlic mustard and information about Buckthorn Day at the table. John, Heidi, and Paul will work at the booth.

The Park Board discussed publicizing the champion tree program at Pioneer Day for next year. The Park Board will have something in the winter or spring newsletter about it. Heidi will create a flyer for this for Pioneer Day.

Motion by Tweeten, seconded by White to ask the community to nominate champion trees for labeling as champion trees. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson White - I did send out the goals, nothing has changed except to get more people for the adopt-a-park program.

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. Anita Perkins - Nothing to report.

B. Heidi Tweeten - The ash trees seem to be sick, has anyone else noticed that? The leaves are curling up and dropping early. I was told it was a fungus. Is there a way to treat that? I noticed it in Pioneer Park and all around the twin cities.

Chairperson White - That was supposed to be the tree to replace the elm.

Paul Hansen - I have three ash trees and they're just as healthy as can be.

Heidi Tweeten - Can a community effort be made for beetles?

Chairperson White - In the garden, we do the plastic bottles upside down.

C. Paul Hansen - Nothing to report.

D. John Graber - Not present to report.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Yokiel - We put up a small sign at Bailey for the solar power. We also received bids for the concrete tables for the ped landings. We're waiting for their schedule to open up, they should be done any time now.

Vice-Chair Perkins - We were talking about the lighting or sprinkler system for the ball fields, is there any update?

Executive Director Yokiell - No, we presented the bids and haven't heard anything else. We're waiting to hear from Northern Tier.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Perkins, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn at 6:29 p.m. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Emily White, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz
Assistant to the City Administrator