



**City of Newport
Park Board Meeting
August 25, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members present – Emily White; Heidi Tweeten; John Graber

Board Members absent – Anita Perkins; Paul Hansen

Also present –Matt Yokiell, Executive Director; Dan Lund, Council Liaison

3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

A. Park Board Minutes of July 28, 2016 Regular Meeting

Motion by Tweeten, seconded by Graber, to approve the July 28, 2016 minutes as presented. With 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, the motion carried.

4. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LOVELAND PARK

This item was tabled to the September 22, 2016 meeting.

5. MILL POND DISCUSSION WITH THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Robert Vogel, City's Historic Preservation Planner, was present for this discussion. Mr. Vogel has been the City's Historic Preservation Planner since 1992. The Mill Pond is one of the last undeveloped areas along the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities. Mr. Vogel provided the attached documents to the Park Board. The mill was damaged in the 1991 and 1993 floods. Today, the Mill Pond is an embayment surrounded by steep bluffs. Since there is no obstruction at the mouth of the Mill Pond, the River fills it in every year. The City has been working to acquire the Mill Pond and currently owns the land surrounding it. The Heritage Preservation Commission would like to work with the Park Board on what should be done with the Mill Pond in the next Comp Plan. The Park Board asked Mr. Vogel to keep them updated on what needs to be done and agreed to a joint meeting with the Heritage Preservation Commission in early 2017.

Mr. Vogel also asked the Park Board to look at how they can help with the heritage landmarks located at the parks throughout the City.

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson White - Pioneer Day was on August 14th. I think it was very successful and the weather was great. Thanks to Heidi and John for staffing the booth. We had our adopt-a-park map there. Thanks Matt and all of the staff for everything. Everyone seemed to be happy. Anita couldn't make it tonight but she wanted me to say that we got two new families for the adopt-a-park program. The Dueffert family is doing 12th Street and Leslie Kresbach who is doing south Hastings. We still have open spaces for anyone out there that wasn't to adopt a trail or park area. It's pretty easy to do, you just pick up the trash and litter twice a year. I know my church is planning on picking up trash in October.

7. BOARD REPORTS

A. Anita Perkins - Not present to report.

B. Heidi Tweeten - My report has to do with the labeling the trees in Bailey School Forest. I talked with you, Mr. Vogel, at Pioneer Park, and you mentioned that there was a biological survey done 10 years ago.

Mr. Vogel - Yes, we hired some biologists and master gardeners in 2004 to record what was growing in the City.

Heidi Tweeten - I would like to do an online map where people could view this. At Pioneer Day, we had three nominations for trees. The one at SA, a willow tree by the foot bridge along Cedar, and a couple others. The things in this book will be fantastic.

Mr. Vogel - It gives you the idea of what's out there. We also have aerial photos from the 1930's. We also have a database of every survey. We've been waiting for someone to come along asking for the information. There is a lot of interest in historic gardening and reintroducing heirloom plants.

Heidi Tweeten - Yes, I talked with Jamie at the Library about having a heirloom plant library in the Library.

C. Paul Hansen - Not present to report.

D. John Graber - Nothing to report.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Yokiel - We poured the pads for the concrete picnic tables at the ped landings and across from Fire Hall #2. We'll place the tables in the next week or so. I was also wondering if we would like to host anything for the volunteer pruners and adopt-a-park volunteers.

Chairperson White - We've sent letters in the past to the adopt-a-park volunteers but we could think about doing something in the Spring during volunteer appreciation week. The pruners have done a great job. I've seen them out a lot of Saturdays.

Executive Director Yokiel - I was going to post information at the park informational boards about mulch around trees. We want to keep the mulch away from the trunk and people keep moving it closer to the trunk.

Chairperson White - I have two other things. The Grove Street Overlook is looking great. Pauline and Steve Schottmueller have spent a lot of time redoing it this last summer. At the end of the overlook, Newport on the Move put in two flood markers. We had kids doing the numbers and mosaics. This fall, we should have them completed and we want people to go look at them because they are beautiful. They mark the 10 highest floods in Newport. Secondly, Newport on the Move has five little libraries and we're hoping to get them up soon. They'll be at Pioneer Park, the Library, Lions Park, Loveland Park and Bailey School Forest. A member of Newport on the Move will monitor those.

Heidi Tweeten - There are a couple things in the bulletin boards that are faded, can we update those.

Councilman Lund - We have a preliminary budget and a part of that, Bruce reported that the electric for our skating rinks is failing. It's pretty expensive to replace. It looks like for this year, we'll only have one skating rink.

Chairperson White - I was disappointed to see that. I hope it's just for this year.

Executive Director Yokiel - It was about \$60,000 for Lions.

Councilman Lund - The current proposal is to get the lights at Lions repaired.

Chairperson White - Will we still flood both rinks?

Executive Director Yokiell - You can but it's about having a warming house attendant.

Heidi Tweeten - Is that required?

Executive Director Yokiell - I think that's the most responsible way to go.

Chairperson White - But we've never had the warming house open in the day.

Councilman Lund - Part of the issue is that it's very time consuming to flood the rinks and we've had some poor winters the last couple years. Sometimes it seems like Public Works is spending more time trying to get the rinks ready and less people skating.

Executive Director Yokiell - We need a cold snap early on. Last year, we didn't make ice until January and only got a month out of it.

Councilman Lund - There was no decision there but that's what we heard from staff.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Graber, seconded by Tweeten, to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. With 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Emily White, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz
Assistant to the City Administrator