



**City of Newport
Park Board Workshop Meeting
February 23, 2017**

1. ROLL CALL

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

Board Members absent – Anita Perkins;

Also present –Bruce Hanson, Public Works Supt.; Dan Lund, Council Liaison

2. 2017 PRIORITIES AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET

The Park Board discussed the 2017 priorities and capital improvement budget as outlined in the February 23, 2017 Park Board workshop packet. Updates on the priorities are as follows:

Loveland Park:

- **Horseshoe pits** - Staff is redoing the entire horseshoe pit area in Loveland and installing concrete pits. The concrete pits are for maintenance.
- **Upper trail benches** - There has been a request to place benches in the upper trail. These will be installed in 2017.
- **Parking lot overlay** - The east lot needs to be overlaid. This will be done in the future.
- **Ash tree replacement** - Susan Lindoo has been working on a tree inventory in Loveland Park and the City. Loveland Park is primarily made up of Newport Ash Trees that were designed by Bailey's Nurseries. Bruce does not plan on replacing them until something has happened to them. As of today, they are healthy trees.
- **Sprinkler system** - This is an ongoing possibility in the ball fields.

Pioneer Park:

- **Paved parking area** - The existing gravel will be paved in the future.
- **Play structure** - The play structure is about 25 years old and needs to be replaced in the near future. It was about \$70,000 to install the current structure. Heidi Tweeten noted that a new one should be accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- **Water to the large pavilion** - Staff is waiting to see how the water system at Lions Park works before installing a similar one to the large pavilion.

Lions Park:

- **Asphalt hockey rink for inline skating** - This has been looked at several times in the past. It would help with keeping water in the rinks in the winter.
- **Hockey lighting** - The lighting needs to be replaced, it'll be about \$70,000. Staff is waiting until a decision is made about reorganizing Lions Park to replace the lighting.
- **Reroof the pavilion** - The roof is holding up. Staff is recommending that this not be replaced until it needs to be.
- **Play structure** - Staff has been talking about replacing this with something similar to what will go in at Pioneer Park. Additionally, staff has been talking about putting a splash pad in at Lions Park. Staff would need to research how to recycle the water for the splash pad. Jared Flewellen noted that the City of Eagan is looking at installing one and it's about \$280,000 and that the splash pad at Bielenberg in Woodbury was about \$500,000. This is on the Parks Capital Improvement Plan for 2020.

Busy Beaver Park:

- **Install small shelters** - This is currently in progress. The shelters have been ordered and will be installed this year.
- **Concrete** - Staff will install a concrete approach this year as well.

Misc. Park Ideas:

- **Future Cedar Lane Park plans** - The City currently owns 1605, 1625, 1629, and 1645 Cedar Lane for this future park. There are three additional properties to acquire and the City may be acquiring one of them this spring. The Park Board should start thinking about plans for the park. Anything that is placed in the park needs to be able to withstand floods.
- **6th Street Overlook/Pier** - There are currently discussions of a fishing pier going in at the end of 6th Street. This will come to the Park Board eventually.
- **Trail sealcoating** - The cracks along the trails will be filled this year and sealcoated in the future.
- **Disc golf** - The Park Board discussed whether or not a disc golf course is wanted in the passive area at Loveland Park. Jared Flewellen noted that trees do get damaged from the discs.
- **Dog park** - The Park Board discussed whether or not there should be a dog park in Newport. Supt. Hanson would not like to have it at the Loveland Park ice skating rink because kids play in it. A double gated entrance is needed for a dog park. The Park Board likes the idea of using either the Raceway to Fun pond south of 10th Avenue or the pond at 10th Avenue and Glen Road. Both of these sites are already fenced and would just need a double gate. The Park Board asked staff to look into whether or not there should be a cost to a dog park.

Summer Rec and the Newport Athletic Association

Per the City Ordinance, the Park Board is responsible for reviewing the summer rec program and Newport Athletic Association. Staff has met with the City of Woodbury on both of these items in the past year. The current summer rec program is available to Newport residents for free and attendance has been fairly low in the last couple years. Staff is recommending that we discontinue the summer rec program and advertise the City of Woodbury's summer rec program. Chairperson White does not believe that kids will participate in Woodbury's summer rec program due to stigma, cost, and location. The Park Board discussed adding a fee with a low-income option. Supt. Hanson will discuss this with Asst. to the City Admin. Eisenbeisz to see if it would add more time.

Supt. Hanson would also like the Park Board to look at a policy in the future about field reservations if the City partners with Woodbury to share fields. Additionally, Supt. Hanson noted that the Newport Athletic Association should come to the Park Board to discuss program and field options. Mayor Lund noted that Steve Bern, the only member of the NAA, would like to have the City take over the field reservations.

Mayor Lund and Bill Sumner asked Jared Flewellen what amenities Eagan offers for adults in regards to recreation. Jared Flewellen noted that they offer leagues such as softball and volleyball.

Bill Sumner also noted that he's met several people walking along Hastings Avenue who come here to train for rollerblading. He would like the City to look into connecting with a rollerblade club and have an event every year.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING PARK MASTER PLANS

Supt. Hanson presented on the attached concept plans that were completed in 2008. Mayor Lund asked if the Park Board would be interested in looking at a two-hoop basketball court at Pioneer Park. Jared Flewellen mentioned making it a multi-purpose court to allow for basketball, tennis, or pickleball. Bill Sumner asked that the City look at shading the play structures so they do not get hot in the summer.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Signed: _____
Emily White, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz
Assistant to the City Administrator