

MINUTES
CITY OF MAPLEWOOD
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
January 21, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:02 by Bob Harsh.

II. ROLL CALL: Members: Lisa Parks, Bob Harsh, Megan Dougherty, Patricia DeForrest, Jonathan Taylor, Cathy Edmond. New member; Laine Schenkelberg, Tiffany Hyde, Assistant Director also in attendance. Dan Noonan excused. Catherine Maloney, not excused.

III. WELCOME TO VISITORS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS – Mary Kunce

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Patti DeForrest motioned to approve amended. Jonathan Taylor seconded. All approved.

V. PARK MEMBERS REPORTS ON PARKS- Currently, 2 playgrounds are open per the playground reopening plan submitted to the County (Ryan Hummert Memorial and Central Park playgrounds). Both are currently being sanitized twice a week per the plan. The playground at Ryan Hummert Memorial has an adjusted capacity of 34 and Central has an adjusted capacity of 20. (Tiffany sent an email after the meeting confirming the playgrounds at Hummert and Central are open, not Greenwood).

- Ryan Hummert Memorial Park – Park is being used on nice days. The park is well maintained. Lighting may be something to look at in the future.
- Lindbergh Park - Large limb needs to be removed.
- Kellogg Park - Dog park looks OK. Fewer unhoused individuals have been observed.
- Yale Park – Good. Gate needs repair, only 1 side can be opened, the pole on the other side has snapped off. Trash cans, fencing and benches need to be painted. Laine has been assigned Yale Park.
- Greenwood – NA
- Trolley Park– Good.
- Central Park –Good, sign that says closed until further notice lying on ground.
- Deer Creek Park– Good.
- Sutton Loop Park- Looks good.

VI. OLD BUSINESS –

- Tennis Court Update- Work should be finished early part of spring. Both courts will have the pickleball layout as well.
- Dog Park Hearings- no update from City Council.
- Splash Pad for Pool- tentatively scheduled to be completed the week of May 17th.

VII. NEW BUSINESS-

- Park Communications - Community members want more information regarding the status of parks/playgrounds (i.e. opening, cleaning, etc.). If the information is on the FB/Community page, that should be sufficient. Playgrounds are cleaned every Tues/Thurs. Laura Miller

does Facebook postings and public relations for the City of Maplewood. Tiffany is open to suggestions to increase communications. The Board feels the City could benefit from having a weekly or biweekly email blast to get more information out to residents (the Heights email blast was mentioned as an example).

- Playground Reopenings – The Community wants to know when parks will reopen. Best guess is the County may relax requirements so parks can open in March/April.
- Park Restrooms Open All Year- Restrooms have to be maintained and during the summer months, there are more resources. This needs to be a Council discussion since it involves resources. Right now, we don't have the resources to open/close the restrooms all year long. The restrooms are generally only closed for 3 months (December-February). They reopen mid-March (weather dependent). The question of how many job openings there are for the public works department. There are currently 6 fulltime employees at the garage, in past years there have been as many as 9 or 10, so Tiffany is not sure. That would be a question for Anthony. There are no job openings on the web site.
- Park Accessibility & Inclusivity- The Board is interested in developing short/long term plans for the parks to include equity, accessibility and inclusivity. The focus shouldn't necessarily be on just ADA. Autism, sensory, etc. Tiffany will ask if funds can be set aside for someone to develop a master plan for all of the Maplewood parks. May not be possible in the upcoming 21/22 budget.
- Ordinance Changes – Park Rules (The Council is seeking volunteers to go through sections of the code. Laine will likely volunteer for this)
 - ✓ 36-80(1) it states no person over the age of five years shall use the restroom and washrooms designated for the opposite sex. It doesn't consider gender identity or ability. Patty thought there may be a reason for this language as they have signs at Clayton's facilities that says the same thing, but it starts at age 6 not 5 (Table this one)
 - ✓ 36-83(4) no person in a park shall appear in a bathing costume at any place in the parks except within the limits of designated bathing places or areas. Equity issued raised as this would probably be enforced more against women in bathing suits vs. men in swimming trunks (Should be reviewed for clarity)
 - ✓ 36-83(5) no person in a park shall dress or undress on any beach, or at a swimming pool or park or in any vehicle, toilet or other place, except in such bathing houses or structures as may be provided for that purpose. Unable to pinpoint the exact issue with this one. Some members think it's needed so people don't change their clothes anywhere they like (Should be reviewed for clarity)
 - ✓ 36-86(4) No person in a park shall occupy any seat or bench, or enter into or loiter or remain in any pavilion or other park structure or section thereof which may be reserved and designated by the superintendent of parks and recreation for the use of the opposite sex. Exception is made for children less than 5 years of age. Board wasn't sure what this is supposed to mean (Should be revised; outdated verbiage)
- Elections - Add election of officers to next month's agenda

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Lisa Parks motioned to adjourn. Megan Dougherty seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m. Next meeting will be Thursday, February 18, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Parks