

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF MAPLEWOOD**  
**PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

August 19, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:07 by Bob Harsh.

II. ROLL CALL: Members: Bob Harsh, Laine Schenkelberg, Megan Dougherty, Sarah Walker, Julie Francois, Beth Newman, Becky Flynn and Tiffany Hyde, Assistant Director in attendance.

III. WELCOME TO VISITORS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS – Mayor Knapper and Councilwoman Schmidt. No Comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Corrections were proposed for the July minutes. Laine motioned to approve as amended and Megan seconded. All approved.

V. PARK MEMBERS REPORTS ON PARKS-

- Central Park- Equipment coating is cracked. User of that park say the diggers are too heavy for small kids to use. They are also rusted and chipped. Users would like the park rules installed inside the park, they are currently outside the park. They would also like the trash and poop bags put near each other.
- Deer Creek Park- Graffiti on picnic tables in the North pavilion and there are pavilion roof shingles missing from the South pavilion.
- Greenwood Park – Good.
- Hummert Park – Good.
- Kellogg Park - Dog Park is not being mowed and the grass is tall, there is a big shrub by the bathroom that needs attention, there is paint on the sidewalk (marijuana leaf) that needs to be removed.
- Lindbergh Park- Lindbergh has dead tree limbs that need to be removed, trees near the picnic tables need trimming and will the parking lot be striped?
- Sutton Loop Park-EFS will be out next week to look at the sunflower charger. The weeding event will be on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Piano donation is still being worked out.
- Trolley Park- Trolley paint is missing from the stairs on the equipment and the stairs have a lot of rust. Grass needs mowing. What about the property across the street? It belongs to MSD.
- Yale Park - The lower water fountain is not draining.
- Skate Park – Permanent trash/recycling structure is needed. Shade should also be considered as it is in the sun. Something needs to be placed in the area where the grass isn't growing. There is money in the budget for that. The Board would like something other than asphalt and they will submit surfacing ideas.

VI. OLD BUSINESS –

- Tennis Courts-The contractor has been working on the punch list items. There are probably 3 items remaining.
- Splash pad- Latest email states the concrete will be poured on Friday 8/21, with the nozzles installation and line flushing being scheduled for the following Monday and Tuesday.
- MRH Youth Sports- Mrs. Strong provided an update. The City stated volunteer labor can be used; however, City staff will still need to oversee the installation. The City will pour the concrete pads needed for the dugouts. The City would need to join the Keystone Group in order to get a \$2,500 discount on the needed materials. It was decided it would be best for MRH Youth Sports to write a check to the city and have the city purchase the materials. Although MRH Youth Sports would be providing the majority of the funds, the dugouts would be a city asset open to the public for use and the City will be responsible for maintenance. The Board asked since the pool bonds are paid off, can the City pay for the entire dugout project with that extra money? This would allow MRH Youth Sports to keep

these funds to do other things. Tiffany will ask Anthony to respond to this question. The goal would be to have the dugouts installed before the new season begins in March.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS-

- Introductions- Everyone briefly introduced themselves (work they are currently doing or work they have done, the organizations that have or are currently involved with, family, relevant experience, what they can bring to the board and why they are interested in serving on this particular board).
- Officer Selections- Laine is the new chair, Julie is the vice chair and Beth is the secretary (although no one really wanted this position).
- Communications/Agendas-Anyone can propose an agenda item. Packets are sent out the Friday before a meeting, so agenda items need to be received Monday the week before a scheduled meeting. If items are not officially placed on the agenda, they can still be discussed during a meeting under "open discussion" and the meeting minutes will reflect the topic was discussed. Email should be used to propose meeting topics and communicate general information. There should not be any communication about the topics themselves via email, discussion should happen at the meeting.
- Mission/Vision Statement-The Park Board does not currently have a mission or vision statement. These things will help set the tone and focus going forward. Mission-what is the purpose of the Board? Vision-what do we want the future to look like. The mission statement for the Parks and Recreation Department is --"The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide safe, affordable, quality recreational facilities and activities for all our citizens." This item will be discussed at next month's meeting.
- Yale Lot-the Board would like the residents in that area to help determine what the empty lot, or any available space in that area, should look like. We need to avoid a "this is what we are going to do" approach. The people in that area know what they need and they should be able to help shape what will be there, not all residents citywide and staff. Canvassing the area would be a great idea.
- Parks Questionnaire-it was proposed that members ask park users the following 3 questions when they encounter people in the park: (1) how do you use the park, (2) what's good about the park/what do you like about the park and (3) what improvements would you like to see in this park? Answers to those questions can be forwarded to Laine and she will maintain a document with those answers.
- Park Tour- Board decided to cancel the upcoming park tour that was scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a regular meeting held on that date instead.

## VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION-

- What kind of weed killer is the City using because it doesn't seem to be effective? If it isn't effective, why are we continuing to use it? Tiffany will let us know what they are using.
- The pool will be sandblasted before it is painted next year.
- There are 2 Eagle Scout projects currently being worked on. Both are for Deer Creek Park, (1) a gaga pit and (2) a bike repair post. Board would like these projects to be highlighted by the City when they are completed.
- The Board asked the process for determining what items/issues need to be discussed by the Board versus what's decided unilaterally by City staff. For instance, the Maplewood Day at the Pool, extending the hours for the new splash pad and the usage of the empty lots on Yale. Were the residents on Yale or in that area asked for their input. Anthony has mentioned that he will be attending a future meeting and he will cover that topic.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Julie motioned to adjourn. Becky seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm. The next meeting will be September 16, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted-Tiffany Hyde