



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
ci.northfield.mn.us

Meeting Minutes - Draft Park & Recreation Advisory Board

Thursday, November 16, 2017

7:00 PM

City Hall 2nd Floor Training Room

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chairman Dale Gehring called the November PRAB meeting to order at 7:00pm.

A motion was made by Board Member Ross, seconded by Board Member de Malignon, to approve the November 2017 PRAB agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes

1. [17-1107](#)

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes Oct-2017](#)

A motion was made by Board Member de Malignon, seconded by Board Member Ross, to approve the October 19, 2017 minutes as amended to include the discussion of alternative options for the pickle ball courts. All in favor. Motion carried.

III. Reports and Discussion Items

2. [17-1108](#)

Staff Reports

Attachments: [Nov PRAB Park Report.pdf](#)
[Comm Ed Report.pdf](#)
[Nov Recreation Report.pdf](#)

Streets & Parks - The parks have been winterized. Sechler and Babcock parks are closed for the season. Contractors have been working on the Babcock warming house. This work is being done with FEMA funds. The protection material in the north playground at Sibley Swale Park is being replaced with mulch. Seeding at Bridge Square will happen this fall if the funds are available.

Community Education - Staff attended the Minnesota Community Education Conference that was beneficial for future event planning. Jingle Jam has been scheduled for December 14 for pictures with Santa, snacks, games, crafts and a movie. Money raised at this event will go towards the scholarship fund. Broomball will be offered this winter on Thursday evenings under the lights at Babcock's outdoor rink.

Pool & Recreation - The new Zamboni was delivered. It is a heavier machine, and the staff seems to like it.

IV. Unfinished Business

3. [17-1109](#) Update on City Pool Attendance for 2017

Attachments: [Pool Report](#)

Allison Watkins, pool and arena supervisor, shared reasons for declining numbers at the outdoor pool over the past 5 years. She reported that weather plays a large factor in attendance. The pool was on track to match the attendance numbers of 2014 until wet weather caused the pool to close 12 days in August.

The pool was built when lap swimming was popular, so our pool was designed for swimming with four laps. Watkins feels to increase attendance we need to look at increasing amenities. The target age group for the Northfield pool is birth through 7th grade.

PRAB members discussed amenity ideas, which included adding a modest slide or splash pad. Plumbing for both options is in place.

Alternative pool pass options were also discussed. It was brought up that it may be beneficial to add monthly passes for families that take extended summer vacations. Passes are half price beginning mid-July.

Staff will look into prices of adding pool amenities to bring back to PRAB to decide on what will give the biggest bang for the buck.

4. [17-1110](#) Hauberg Woods Parking Lot

Attachments: [Hauberg woods.pdf](#)

[Hauberg Woods Land Use.pdf](#)

The cost to install a parking lot at Hauberg Woods, off Dresden Avenue would cost approximately \$53,768. The parking lot would allow access to the eastern portion of Hauberg Woods. The trails from the west side of the park cannot connect with the trails on the east side of the park because of the railroad tracks that separate the two sides. Currently the city receives \$130 an acre rent from the 8.73 farmed acres. Discussion was held on ways to fund the parking lot, which included reaching out to the friends of Hauberg Woods.

V. Adjournment

Future agenda items for PRAB meetings include:

- * Turf to Pollinator Program*
- * Way Park Picnic Pavilion*
- * Pool Amenities*
- * Hauberg Woods Driveway*

A motion was made by Board Member Jochen, seconded by Board Member Ross, to adjourn the November 2017 PRAB meeting at 8:25pm. The motion carried unanimously.