



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov

Meeting Minutes - Final Park & Recreation Advisory Board

Thursday, September 15, 2022

6:00 PM

PD Training Room

Note: Meeting time at 6:30pm

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Also Present: Adam Olson, Advisory Member; Tim Behrendt, Streets and Parks Manager; Alisha Hayes, Meeting Associate; David DeLong, Northfield Resident; Citizens for Central Park: Christie Clark, Barb Wornson, Jack Goldfeather; and Northfield Garden Club President, Elizabeth Olson

Also Absent: Melissa Bernhard, Recreation Coordinator of Northfield Community Education; Cora McBroom, Non-Voting Youth Representative

Chair Playter called the September 15th, 2022 meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) to order at 6:33pm

Present: 7 - Sebastian Bursset, Rebecca Peterson, Peder Jothen, Neil Lutsky, Nathan Knutson, Ben Playter and Emma Waldemar

Absent: 1 - Stacy Longwich Kleis

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Board Member Peterson, second by Board Member Jothen, to approve the September 15th, 2022 Agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Youth Voting Member, Emma Waldemar, second by Advisory Member, Adam Olson, to approve the August 18th, 2022 Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor. Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Elizabeth Olson, President of the Northfield Garden Club, introduced herself and asked the Board and Community Members if her presentation on the Kiosk Update at Riverside/Lions Park could be moved up on the agenda. It was requested by first scheduled presenter, Christie Clark, that the agenda remain in the order written.

V. PRESENTATIONS

[22-588](#)

History of Central Park Presentation

Attachments: [1- NewCentralPark.pdf](#)

Christie Clark, representative for Citizens for Central Park, presented on behalf of ongoing efforts to maintain and preserve the history and beauty of Central Park with the collaborative support and decision making ranks moving forward by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

The presentation consisted of slideshows that showcased the history, purpose, and ongoing efforts to preserve Central Park. Christie quoted that "Central Park is such a treasure for the community and it's our initiative to see it properly taken care and for the Park Board to consider that."

A common theme presented in dialogue between Christie and the Board Members was asking about the Heritage Preservation Site and what that all consists of. In that theme was an idea of having a "plaque" and that being of utmost importance to show "respect" and pass along the history of the park.

A few other ideas that were brought to the table for discussion were: a name change to symbolize its presence of more than 'just a park', asking Carleton College to play a more active role in funding and upkeep, the Park Board leading the charge with making decisions about what gets done and when it gets done, needing more trees planted along the sidewalk, replacing the limestone damaged in the circle, maintain weeds, and adjustment of vision to address more modern times.

The big question raised was "What are the next steps"--- The Board wants more community feedback from all neighbors and community members, so encouraged the Citizens for Central Park to fill out the Capital Investment Online Survey and to spread the word to get others to do so as well.

Tim Behrendt stated that the upcoming draft plan for Central Park consisted of a potential basketball court and gazebo and more restoration items at the next five year review but that plan is not concrete and it can be considered to adjust those wants/needs of Central Park based on community feedback and further discussion with the Board.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

[22-589](#)

Update on kiosk at Riverside/Lions Park

Attachments: [1- Kiosk Informational Material.pdf](#)

Elizabeth Olson, President of the Northfield Garden Club, presented on the implementation of the Riverside/Lions Kiosk project that continues to be a work in progress but making great strides. Elizabeth presented slide shows with visuals of what the kiosk will look like for public viewing. Elizabeth expressed that the goal of this project is to add to the "community umbrella for Arts and Culture in Northfield".

The Board engaged in dialogue with Elizabeth and a summary of the discussion included but not limited to the following: size of the kiosk, making it more interactive for kids, possibly including a Q& A section, adding a map, having a stronger connection to nature elements found in Northfield, including a larger aerial view of the three gardens, and adding a QR scan code.

In closing Elizabeth quoted that this kiosk project is "fluid, not static."

VII. STAFF UPDATES

[22-590](#)

Staff Reports.

Attachments: [1- September Park Report.pdf](#)
[2- September Rec Report.pdf](#)
[3- September Comm Ed Report.pdf](#)

Tim Behrendt reviewed the Park updates, which included the upcoming dates for the Community Engagements for the Park and Capital Investment Plan. Tim advised the Board that he would be attending all Community Engagement dates and would be the Liaison in passing along the information gathered to the Board. Melissa Bernhard was not in attendance so no updates given on Community Education/Recreation Department.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Board President, Playter, reminded PRAB members that all upcoming meetings will be the 1st Monday of every month from 6:00pm-8:00pm at City Hall Council Chambers. Board Vice President, Peterson thanked Tim and the Streets Department for all their hard work for DJJD. Peterson added the "dog swim was the most joyful experience ever". There was added banter about Pickleball taking off big time and Tim shared the Pickleball Courts will be painted with acrylics spring of 2023.

Motion by Board Member Lutsky, seconded by Board Member, Bursset, to adjourn meeting at 7:47pm. All in favor. Motion carried.