

CITY OF HOPKINS
PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 26, 2021

A regular meeting of the Hopkins Park Board was held on April 26, 2021.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kyle Kaczmarek, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Park Board members Kyle Kaczmarek, Emma Figgins, and Anna Pohmer. Meg Slindee was absent. Members attended virtually via Zoom video conference. Also present via Zoom video conference was Steve Stadler, City of Hopkins PW Director/Park Board City staff liaison.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the March 22, 2021 Park Board Meeting:

Kyle Kaczmarek made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Emma Figgins. **The motion passed with a 3-0 vote.**

IV. BUSINESS

A. Exploring Hopkins' Parks – Valley Park and Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail

The Board members agreed to move ahead with a second information/activity sheet promoting Valley Park and all the amenities in the Valley Park area. The goal is to release it in the month of June. Stadler is developing an aerial image of the Valley Park area where the various amenities can be outlined and labeled. It was suggested that we promote this next park via social media in advance of the activity sheet release. Information for the sheet will be provided to Emma Figgins by mid-May so that a draft document can be completed for review at the May Park Board Meeting.

B. Parks Capital Improvement Plan 2022-2026

Stadler reviewed with the Board members a document he put together showing what he sees as needed park system improvements for the near term, 2022-2024 and intermediate term, 2025-2030. Stadler stated that it will be a challenging time over the next few years for park improvement funding as franchise fee revenue has been diverted in order to help the General Fund and additional park dedication fees from redevelopment projects are very uncertain. As a result, Stadler stated that he would prefer to rehab the existing Shady Oak Beach picnic shelter rather than replace it with a new facility. The near term improvements include: Central Park picnic shelters rehab, Replace Central Park East Play Equipment, Rehab Valley Park basketball court, Rehab Cottageville Park basketball court, Rehab Shady Oak Beach picnic shelter and Rehab Oakes Park tennis courts. It was noted that the listed park system improvements do not include: Central Park Upgrade, Downtown Park Upgrade or the Minnehaha Creek Overlook/Plaza projects. It was agreed that during this period of funding uncertainties, the focus of the capital program needs to be maintaining/repairing existing park amenities vs. upgrades or new construction. Board members expressed concern about funding and being

able to maintain a quality park system. The Board thought it would be good to have a joint meeting with the City Council this year. It was noted that plans for a joint meeting in 2020 were disrupted by the COVID pandemic. After some additional discussion, the Board agreed to have Stadler propose a draft 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan for review and approval at the May meeting

C. City Comprehensive Plan and U of M student Capstone project recommendations

There was very brief discussion on this topic. It was agreed to continue to consider the recommendations to improve parks' accessibility and enhance the natural environment in the parks and to find opportunities to act on them.

D. Other Topics of Interest

Kyle Kaczmarek asked for an update on the unsolicited proposal for a public/private partnership to construct a dome covering two of the four Central Park tennis courts and converting the two domed tennis courts for year-round play on eight pickleball courts. Stadler reported that he had some difficulty making contact with the Hopkins School District but has now connected with them. As the property owner, the School District would be the one working more directly with the party proposing the dome. The City would have to agree to change its existing lease agreement covering the tennis courts. There is no update yet on how or if the School District responded to the proposal.

It was brought up that the Park Board could consider meeting in person at City Hall. Stadler will look into having the next meeting as both in-person and via Zoom, whatever is each Board member's preference.

F. Park Area Assignment Report

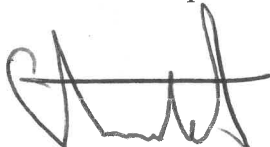
Kyle Kaczmarek:	Nothing to report (NTR)
Emma Figgins:	NTR
Megan Slindee:	Absent
Vacant position:	
Anna Pohmer:	NTR

V. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

The next regular Park Board Meeting is 6:30 pm on Monday, May 24, 2021 at City Hall, 1010 1st St S.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Kyle Kaczmarek moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Anna Pohmer. **The motion passed 3-0.** The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Attest: 
 Steve Stadler, Park Board Staff Liaison