

CITY OF HOPKINS  
PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
June 22, 2020

A regular meeting of the Hopkins Park Board was held on June 22, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kyle Kaczmarek, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Park Board members Kyle Kaczmarek, Emma Figgins, Megan Slindee and Kim Schlauderaff. Anna Pohmer was absent. Emma Figgins and Kim Schlauderaff attended virtually via GoToMeeting video conference. Also present was Steve Stadler, PW Director/Park Board City staff liaison.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the May 18, 2020 Park Board Meeting:

Meg Slindee made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kim Schlauderaff. **The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.**

IV. BUSINESS

A. Improvements Update – Park Fund – 2021 Park Improvements – Park Fund outlook.

Steve Stadler reviewed a handout which summarized projected end of year Park Improvement Fund balances given certain assumptions regarding upcoming residential redevelopment projects and with the assumption that gas and electric franchise fee revenue into the fund will end in 2020. Also, he summarized projected park infrastructure needs during the 2021-2025 time period. These needs were taken from a provided handout showing a park system infrastructure inventory and replacement/rehab schedule. It was stated that the estimated funds needed during this time period to maintain/repair/rehab existing park infrastructure is \$805,000. This represents about 75% of the total park improvement funds available given the estimated park dedication funds from the upcoming Cold Storage and Blake Road Station redevelopments. Stadler mentioned that the \$805,000 does not include upgrades to Downtown Park, estimated at \$240,000 or anticipated tennis and basketball court maintenance work. It was mentioned that the City can reasonably assume that there will be additional park dedication fee revenue as a result of future transit-oriented development related to the SWLRT Green Line Extension project, scheduled for completion in 2023. After further discussion, the Board approved the following park improvements for 2021:

- Design services - Shady Oak Beach picnic shelter replacement (\$40,000)
- Design services – Downtown Park Upgrades (\$45,000)
- Rehab of the two existing Central Park picnic shelters (\$45,000)
- Replacement of the 30-year old Central Park east play equipment (\$75,000)

- Play equipment options will be presented for consideration at a future meeting.

## B. Hopkins Parks & COVID-19

Stadler gave a rundown on the current status of park amenities and programs:

- Basketball courts/play courts: Recent MDH guidance allows for the return of outdoor youth basketball practice and scrimmages. Accordingly, the basketball hoops will be reinstalled this week at Burnes Park, Valley Park and Cottageville Park.
- The splash pad is open as of June 15 and there has not been any observed overcrowding or problems with social distancing.
- Pickleball and Tennis courts: The signs prohibiting doubles play were removed a couple weeks ago.
- Restrooms are open to the public during the hours of the park attendants, typically 10 am – 6 pm.
- Shady Oak Beach is open without life guards, concessions, restrooms.
- Softball and kickball league play will resume the week of July 6

## C. Promoting Hopkins' Parks – summer of 2020

Stadler reported that to-date there have been three weekly park features presented on social media - Cottageville Park, Valley Park and Burnes Park. He is planning to feature Central Park this week and after that it would have to be neighborhood parks. Kim mentioned that she appreciates seeing the background or history provided with the feature park. It was mentioned that a weekly feature could be a focus on a particular park amenity vs. a neighborhood park. Also, the Board agreed that there doesn't have to be a new park feature put out every week.

## D. Oakes Park hockey rink

Stadler reported that for the past several years it has been increasingly difficult to maintain reasonable ice conditions on the Oakes Park hockey rink. Also, the hockey boards have been heaving badly adding to the maintenance workload. He also mentioned that there is no organized activities on this hockey rink, unlike the rinks in the other parks. Further, the lights for this rink are the near obsolete, energy inefficient halogen fixtures. Stadler would like to remove the hockey rink and add an ice trail around the general skate rink at Oakes Park. The warming house attendees keep a record of ice rink users each season – this record will be used to confirm what is expected to be a very low number of hockey rink users. There was general agreement with removing the hockey rink and a subsequent discussion about the public outreach regarding this change at the park. It was agreed that a mailing targeting the residential areas around the park, a City website notice and social media postings would be used in the August timeframe.

## E. Park Area Assignment Report

Kyle Kaczmarek: People are making the most of the parks, which is good to see this summer. Nothing else to report.

Emma Figgins: Nothing to report (NTR)  
Megan Slindee: People are using the Downtown Park for informal meetings, lunch.  
Nothing else to report.  
Anna Pohmer: Absent.  
Kim Schlauderaff: NTR

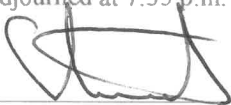
V. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

The next regular Park Board Meeting is 6:30 pm on Monday, July 27, 2020 at City Hall, 1010 1<sup>st</sup> St S.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meg Slindee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kyle Kaczmarek. **The motion passed 4-0.**  
The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_



KC Bond Chairperson

