

Breezy Point Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 9, 2024

The meeting was called to Order by Chair Arne at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call was conducted by Public Works Supervisor Joe Zierden with members Gail Arne, Deanne Trottier, Diane Williams, and Megan Zierden in attendance. Kimberly Slipy was absent. Staff present included Joe Zierden, City Administrator Allie Polsfuss, and Deputy City Clerk Deb Runksmeier.

Approval of August 14, 2025 Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the August meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

Megan Zierden made a motion to approve the minutes from August 14, 2025. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Presentation Parks Master Plan - Widseth

Jillian Reiner from Widseth Engineering presented an overview of the parks master planning process. She introduced her team, including Ryan Hermes, Zoe Hoffman, and Peterson Nick from the engineering side.

Jillian outlined the project vision and goals, which included exploring future opportunities for the park that are equitable, accessible, and provide a space for the community to gather. She presented a draft vision statement for the park and outlined key goals including improving accessibility, increasing recreational opportunities, strengthening community identity, and ensuring sustainability and maintainability.

Zoe Hoffman presented an analysis of the existing park conditions, highlighting challenges and opportunities. Challenges included limited visibility and access from County Road 11, underutilized space, a delineated wetland area, and limited ADA accessibility. Opportunities included existing mature trees, potential for additional amenities like benches and water fountains, and possibilities for expanded trails and recreational features.

The committee discussed several ideas and considerations for the park plan:

- Acquiring additional lots to the north to expand the park area
- Potential for future community center, though funding is a major challenge
- Incorporating minimum maintenance roads as trails
- Adding a nature play area and outdoor classroom space
- Considering 6 pickleball courts, though noise concerns were raised
- Improving the existing baseball field
- Adding a small sliding hill or mound

- Creating another pavilion or gathering space for events
- Improving ADA accessibility throughout the park

The committee also discussed the need for public engagement and the timing of an open house to present concept plans, likely in April to allow for more resident participation.

Jillian and Zoe agreed to develop 3 concept plans for the committee to review at their next meeting in January. They will also gather more information on the minimum maintenance roads and city-owned parcels.

Staff Reports - Community Garden

Public Works Supervisor Joe Zierden provided an update on the community garden:

- The application and guidelines were updated based on the first season's experience
- Sprinkler system issues were resolved
- 8 new raised beds were added
- The garden contributed 372 pounds of produce to the local food shelf
- Some minor adjustments to the rules and application process were discussed

The committee reviewed and approved the updated guidelines and application form with a few minor changes.

Committee Member Reports

Gail Arne reported on the initiative to create a park and recreation foundation through the Initiative Foundation. A meeting is scheduled for October 24th to discuss board members and potential donors.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted By: Deb Runksmeier
Deputy City Clerk