

**City of Breezy Point  
Parks and Recreation Committee  
April 10, 2025 – 5:00 pm  
Meeting Minutes**

## **Walk Through "City Campus"**

Committee meeting at 5:00 pm and walked around the City Hall Parks Campus.

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:46 pm.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **Roll Call**

Roll call was conducted. Toft, Miller, Slipy, Arne, Williams, and Zierden were present. Trotter was noted as absent. Staff present included Public Works Supervisor Joe Zierden and Deputy Clerk Deb Runksmeier.

## **Approval of Minutes**

### **March 13, 2025 Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes**

The committee reviewed the March 13, 2025 Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes. A motion by Zierden was made to approve these minutes, Second by Miller. Carried 6-0

### **April 1, 2025 Parks and Recreation Workshop Minutes**

The committee discussed the April 1, 2025 Parks and Recreation Workshop Minutes. A committee member requested an addition to be made regarding the community center, noting that it was mentioned in the last paragraph but not listed in the list on page 5. The committee also discussed adding bullet points for natural play spaces.

Williams moved to approve the April 1, 2025 Parks and Recreation Workshop Minutes with the additions of bullet points for the community center and natural play spaces. Slipy seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1, Toft opposed.

## **Summary of Council Discussion**

The committee chair Arne provided a summary of the recent council discussion. They reported that the community garden project was progressing well, with most plots sold and one being held in reserve. The committee received an additional \$1,500 grant from the county SHIP program. An article about the project was featured in Lakes Country Journal, which the council was not previously aware of. The committee also received donations from Ace and the Crosslake Community Garden.

The chair mentioned that they had presented their plans to the council, including discussions about pickleball courts, other amenities, and trails. The council agreed to allow the committee to seek bids for a concept plan map. The presentation was well-received, with no negative comments from the council. The council expressed appreciation for the committee's work on the garden project, research, and grant applications.

The committee discussed the timeline for upcoming tasks, including sending letters to potential partners and creating a map of the proposed plans.

## **City Campus / Master Plan Discussion**

The committee discussed the development of a master plan for the city campus. They considered the option of issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the project. The committee debated the pros and cons of using an RFP process versus working directly with their current city engineer, Widseth.

Committee members discussed the potential benefits of an RFP, including transparency, competitive pricing, and the possibility of finding new innovative ideas. They also considered the advantages of working with Widseth, such as their familiarity with the city's needs and their experience with grant writing for DNR projects.

The committee decided to invite representatives from Widseth to their next meeting to discuss the project further. They also planned to gather more information about the RFP process and sample RFPs from other municipalities.

The committee discussed the timeline for the project, considering the July 1st deadline for the Sourcewell grant application. They tentatively scheduled a workshop for May 22nd to further discuss the RFP process and make decisions after receiving more information at their next regular meeting.

Committee discussed scheduling a Parks and Recreation workshop on May 22nd at 5:00 PM to further discuss the RFP process and make decisions regarding the master plan.

## **Staff Reports**

Joe Zierden provided an update on the community garden project. He reported that the garden was on budget and should be open on time. There was approximately \$1,500 left in the budget, not including rule signs. The garden would have labeled plots, tools available for use, wagons with large tires for carrying plants, and wheelbarrows. The water supply was not yet complete but was expected to be finished soon.

The committee discussed the opening date for the garden, tentatively set for May 1st, with a mandatory meeting for gardeners scheduled for May 7th at 5:30 PM at the pavilion. They also discussed the need for locks on the gates and limiting vehicle access to the garden.

## **Committee Member Reports**

Kimberly Sliply reported on discussions with the Initiative Foundation about starting a project fund or community fund for Breezy Point. This fund could potentially be used for park and recreation projects without the need to establish a separate 501(c)(3) organization. The Initiative Foundation expressed interest in meeting with a team of people to help get the fund started.

The committee discussed the benefits of working with the Initiative Foundation, including back-office support, compliance management, and the ability to focus on fundraising and community events rather than administrative tasks. They also discussed the possibility of involving other community groups, such as the women's club, in fundraising efforts for park projects.

The committee member volunteered to participate in the initial meeting with the Initiative Foundation to explore this opportunity further.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.