

Breezy Point Parks & Recreation Committee
Thursday, April 11, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Breezy Point Parks and Recreation Committee was called to order by Chair Megan Zierden at 5:00 PM. In addition to Chair, members present included Gail Arne, Bill Toft, Deanne Trottier, Jim McKellar, and Diane Williams. Staff present included Assistant City Administrator Daniel Eick, Public Works Supervisor Joe Zierden, and City Administrator David Chanski.

Assistant City Administrator Eick took Roll.

All present stood for the pledge of allegiance.

Approval/Amendment of the Agenda

Committee Member Toft requested Ms. Wallin be given the chance to speak to the Committee regarding her concerns on the Disc Golf Course. Chair Zierden noted she was happy to hear from residents during open forum and explained she would not place a time restraint on today's speakers.

Committee Member Arne requested the Committee consider the question of portable restrooms on the Disc Golf Course when appropriate.

MOTION ARNE/TROTTIER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PROPOSED, MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Election of Committee Officers for the 2024 Calendar Year

Administrator Chanski explained the Committee did not elect officers during their last meeting as not all members were present. As such, the Committee would need to elect a Chair and Vice Chair at this meeting to serve for the remainder of 2024.

Committee Member Zierden nominated Committee Member Arne to serve as Committee chair. In response, Committee Member Arne Accepted.

Committee Member Toft nominated Committee Member Zierden to serve. In response, Committee Member Zierden declined noting personal commitments would not allow her to serve for another year.

Committee Member Trottier seconded the nomination of Committee Member Arne.

MOTION ZIERDEN/TROTTIER TO APPOINT COMMITTEE MEMBER GAIL ARNE AS CHAIR OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE FOR THE 2024 CALENDAR YEAR, MOTION CARRIED 4-2 WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS TOFT AND MCKELLAR OPPOSING.

Chair Arne nominated Committee Member Deanne Trottier to serve as Vice Chair. Committee Member Trottier declined.

Committee Member Toft nominated Committee Member Jim McKellar to serve as Vice Chair. Committee Member McKellar declined the nomination and nominated Committee Member Toft to serve as Vice Chair.

In response, Committee Member Zierden inquired if a Vice Chair was necessary for the functioning of the Committee. Administrator Chanski clarified, while the appointment is helpful, should they choose not to appoint a Vice Chair the Committee will need to appoint a presiding officer during any meeting the Chair is not present.

Committee Member Toft claimed he would be willing to serve as Vice Chair if the decision would move the meeting forward. Committee Member Zierden and Chair Arne noted, after clarification from Administrator Chanski, that such a motion lacked a second.

MOTION ZIERDEN/MCKELLAR TO NOT APPOINT A VICE CHAIR AND ELECT A PRESIDING OFFICER AT ANY METING THE CHAIR IS ABSENT IF THERE IS A NEED, MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Open Forum

Ms. Jeena Vermillion, address 32168 East Street, spoke regarding her support of the proposed Community Garden and presented information on the benefits of such a structure. These benefits included various health improvements mental and physical, an increase of healthy food consumption, and a decrease in "nature deprivation" among children. Additionally, she argued gardening provides increased food security, social connection, and an outlet for creativity which is priceless. She noted that while she has lived in Breezy Point for seven years it does not feel like a community to her and claimed she would be happy to participate.

Ms. Darcy Pender, address 8890 Breezy Point Drive, also spoke regarding the Community Garden noting there is no space in the condominium she lives in to maintain a garden. Furthermore, she noted she doesn't understand why it hasn't been built as everyone supports it and it should be a simple issue to resolve for the Committee.

Chair Arne asked how much the garden Ms. Pender currently has at Pine River costs. She explained the cost was nominal at \$10 for a 15 by 15 plot while the raised plots were \$15 each. She also noted the Pine River Garden has regular workdays where people care for the plots, and it has grown substantially. Finally, Ms. Pender explained she was aware of bonds and grants the City could apply for to assist in funding the Garden should the Committee choose to pursue its construction.

Ms. Valarie Wallin, address 31894 Blue Ridge Drive, spoke regarding the City's Disc Golf Course rules claiming they need to consider "known concerns" surrounding the course.

Chair Arne took the opportunity to explain to Ms. Wallin that the Committee has already heard her concerns surrounding the Disc Golf Course as she has spoken during open forum several times. Additionally, she explained someone has come before the Committee at every single meeting and claimed the Committee doesn't need to "hear all of that again."

In response, Committee Member Toft noted he would like to hear from Ms. Wallin explaining he would have requested she be part of the agenda otherwise. In response Chair Arne noted Ms. Wallin's comments needed to be limited to the permit, which they could not be, as Ms. Wallin cannot know what is on the permit as the Committee had not discussed the matter.

Ms. Wallin disagreed with Chair Arne's analysis noting the City's stance in the past has been to allow people to speak in Open Forum regarding any topic of relevance to Parks and Recreation. Administrator Chanski agreed noting the Committee had already allowed residents to speak on the Community Garden, an issue also on the agenda, which would set a standard allowing Ms. Wallin to continue with her comments.

Ms. Wallin continued explaining, while she was not trying to be oppositional, she lives on the Disc Golf Course and the Parks and Recreation Committee had not heard her experience. In response Chair Arne noted she had heard her speak at previous meetings "quiet extensively." Ms. Wallin explained the Committee had not heard from her since the City approved the Disc Golf Course, against her wishes, and corrected for the initial lack of public comment and participation. Furthermore, she claimed it was irrelevant as the City chose to move forward with the expansion on its land, which was not her decision, and claimed there are known concerns that need to be addressed as a part of their work plan moving forward.

Ms. Wallin requested the Committee consider making rules that protect all users of the Recreation Area, not just Disc Golf players, as it is a multi-purpose area. Additionally, she noted any rules the Committee creates need to be designed so local law enforcement can properly enforce them which has proven difficult. More specifically, Ms. Wallin's concerns include smoking and vaping, alcohol consumption, noise, and multi-use facility safety.

On the topic of safety, Ms. Wallin noted her concerns regarding weapons on the course as she has a case out of Saint Cloud with a Disc Golfer who played the City's Disc Golf Course. On March 2, 2024, according to UDisc, the individual was convicted of leaving a loaded weapon lying on the ground near a tee box. The individual in question's name was reported as Alex Schneider, online handle MVPShotCaller, and claimed the cases number is 73 CR-23-6106, State of Minnesota v. Alex Kimman Schneider. Ms. Wallin then read the case report into the record for the Committee.

Finally, Ms. Wallin asked the Committee to genuinely consider such concerns in their conversations and consider the rules and play rates of other similar municipalities across the state.

Committee Member McKellar explained he had questions regarding the noise at the course and asked what Ms. Wallin's remedy might be. Ms. Wallin claimed she did not have a solution to that aside from allowing the foliage to grow back in as the topography of the course allows noise to easily travel. McKellar agreed noting the Parks and Recreation Committee intended to allow for that to happen but explained it would take some time.

Additionally, Committee Member McKellar noted while memberships and passes like what other Cities employ would be helpful, the City lacks the ability to enforce those regulations at current staffing levels. Ms. Wallin explained her assumption is that most other City's have an attendant regulating those matters.

Committee Member Toft noted, while the Committee may not have the ability to resolve these issues, the course was installed at their recommendation. As such, he is not surprised problems are occurring as no one is willing to take responsibility for the course. In response, Committee Member McKellar noted you can hear rude conduct in any public space and the City should not attempt to police every instance of such behavior.

Committee Member Trottier claimed a use pass may work as the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) handles state ski paths in a similar manner. Ms. Wallin agreed such a system could be practical and viable within the City.

Committee Member Arne noted regular Disc Golf players utilize UDisc which tracks play and location, and most do not carry weapons with them. In response, Ms. Wallin noted the individual in question is a regular player and, while his behavior may be anomalous, it is of concern. Additionally, she noted if the City does intend to utilize UDisc to track player counts and information it could open the City to potential litigation.

Committee Member Williams requested Ms. Wallin clarify why exactly she believes people having to pay to use the Disc Golf Course would stop them from carrying weapons. Ms. Wallin explained that was not her intention instead noting she just wanted to bring the matter to the Committee's attention. Instead, she reiterated her suggestion the Committee design their rules so local law enforcement can uphold them properly.

Finally, Committee Member Williams asked Administrator Chanski if the City has any regulations regarding weapons on City property currently. Administrator Chanski explained while chapter 131 of the City Code of Ordinances does mention firearms the language allows individuals to carry so long as they have a state issued carry permit.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION WILLIAMS/TOFT TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING AS PROPOSED, MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway Presentation Update

Chair Arne explained the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway attended the Monday, April 1, Regular City Council Meeting and requested the Committee contact the Scenic Byway to update the City's information. Committee Member Trottier volunteered to contact the Scenic Byway and work with them to provide feedback.

City Council Direction on Disc Golf Course

Administrator Chanski explained the directives attached to the agenda had several items staff thought the Committee might like to provide direction on. As such, he asked the

Committee if they would like to be involved in the implementation process or if they would prefer staff implement the directives at their own discretion.

Committee Member Williams requested the City Administrator clarify which items required input from the Committee. Administrator Chanski clarified while the first 12 items on the list were nonnegotiable directives, the Committee could be involved in the design of specific items such as signs. Additionally, items such as the hours of play and/or further changes to City Ordinances would require input from the Committee.

Committee Member toft noted he would prefer the portable restroom meant to be placed at hole 10 instead be placed at hole 13. Public Works Supervisor Joe Zierden explained the location was selected for ease of access noting he would be willing to explore alternate locations if the Committee so desires.

Moving on, the Committee reviewed the relevant list of directives resulting in the following actions:

- MOTION ZIERDEN/MCKELLAR TO PLACE SILENCERS ON ALL DISC GOLF TARGETS THROUGHOUT BOTH COURSES, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.
- The Committee as a body agreed to place the residential area signs as directed by City Council along property lines and have staff execute without further comment.
- Public Works Supervisor Zierden will investigate placing the portable restroom on the west side of the course.
- Staff will perform additional research on the applicability of bans, fines, or tickets for the Recreation Area on individuals who violate course and/or park rules.
- Hours of operation for the Recreation Area will be the same as hours of operation for the Disc Golf Courses.
- The Breezy Point Police Department should continue to patrol and enforce park rules at the Recreation Area as time allows.

Committee Member Trottier requested clarification on the location and maintenance of the courses trash cans. Public Works Supervisor Zierden clarified trash cans on the course are maintained by staff but noted more could be placed if the committee so desired.

Committee Member Zierden inquired into the costs associated with placing a trash receptacle at every other hole. Public Works Supervisor Zierden explained the City would need 18 trash cans which would cost roughly \$2,000.

MOTION ZIERDEN/MCKELLAR TO PURCHASE 18 TRASH CANS TO REPLACE AND EXPAND THE NUMBER OF TRASH CANS CURRENTLY ON COURSE, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Chair Arne claimed she would like an update on the status of the renumbering of the course's holes and the construction of a path between the two separate courses. Public Works Supervisor Zierden explained, while it would be time consuming, it should be simple as the Public Works Department has pre planned most of the changes. City Administrator Chanski recommended these changes be delayed until 2025.

Finally, Chair Arne recommended the rest of the items the Committee have yet to discuss be brought to a workshop later.

Disc Golf Course Event Permit

City Administrator Chanski and ACA Eick walked the Committee through discussion on the history and current form of the event permit and took comments on the changes they would like to see. Changes the committee agreed to implement included:

- Shortening the permit down to a two-page document. Preferably into a one-page document if possible.
- Removal of the site plan documentation requirement that was to be submitted alongside the application.
- Altering the permit to separate reservation of the two Courses and restricting the ability of applicants to reserve only one course per day at a time.
- Clarify and condense elements of section A to allow for applicants to better specify reservation dates, times, and locations.
- Limit the ability of vendors operating on the course to perform operations only in the designated recreation area parking lot.
- Removal or restructuring of miscellaneous sections throughout the permit including sections B, C, E, F, and G.
- Directed staff to explore the possibility of banning weapons on all City property, updating the permit to reflect this, and updating the City's Code of Ordinances.
- Begin posting reservation notices for public amenities owned by the City to the City's website.

MOTION ARNE/TOFT TO SEND A RECCOMENDATION TO COUNCIL TO PASS AN ORDINANCE BANNING WEAPONS ON ALL CITY PARKS AND PROPERTIES PENDING REVIEW BY THE CITY'S ATTORNEY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

MOTION ARNE/WILLIAMS TO PUBLISH TOURNAMENT RESERVATION INFORMATION ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE CALENDAR PENDING COUNCIL APPROVAL, MOTION CARRIED 5-1 WITH COMMITTEE MEMBER ZIERDEN OPPOSING.

Finally, the Committee directed staff to implement the above listed changes, send to all members as a courtesy, and forward the amended permit to City Council at their next Regular Meeting with direction to not return the document to the Parks and Recreation Committee again.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

ACA Eick walked the Committee through the updated City of Breezy Point Parks and Recreation Master Plan and requested comments on the final version. Committee discussion resulted in several changes to the plan including:

- Removal of the Community Center site plans previously included in the Master plan at the recommendation of City Administrator Chanski due to lack of relevance.
- Removal of all references to Ex-Officio members and council liaisons from the plan and update the membership page to remove Committee Member Toft's name. The

rest of the Committee did not consent to this change despite the fact Committee Member Toft noted he was "vehemently against it."

- Specifically, Committee Member Toft requested his name be removed from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as he is "so against this community center that he doesn't want anyone thinking he has anything positive to say about it [or to think that he tried] to push this through."
- Chair Arne contested this notion claiming he "can't just be a ghost" as he has had input into other areas of the master plan and inquired why he was on the Committee at all if that was the case. Committee Member Toft agreed noting he had similar thoughts, especially given that Chair Arne had been appointed to her position, but intended to move forward from this topic.
- Scheduling of an Open House for Thursday, April 25th, from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM to discuss with and take comments on the Master Plan from the public.

MOTION TROTTIER/MCKELLAR TO APPROVE THE MASTER PLAN WITH THE EXCEPTION OF UPDATING THE COMMITTEE LIST AND REMOVAL OF PAGES 54 – 58 AND TO SCHEDULE AN OPEN HOUSE FOR THE PUBLIC TO REVIEW THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25, FROM 5:00 PM TO 6:00 PM, MOTION CARRIED 5-1 WITH COMMITTEE MEMBER TOFT OPPOSING.

Disc Golf Course Naming Contest

The Committee discussed the submitted options collected by staff and agreed the submissions made by Maxine Dullum, Monarch Trail (legacy course) and Agate Pass (new course), were the winners. Additionally, the Committee requested staff invite the winner to the next Parks and Recreation Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 9, to receive their prize and congratulate them on their victory.

MOTION MCKELLAR/ARNE TO RENAME THE CITY'S DISC GOLF COURSES TO MONARCH TRAIL AND AGATE PASS RESPECTIVELY AND SEND TO CITY COUNCIL FOR FINAL APPROVAL, MOTION CARRIED 5-1 WITH COMMITTEE MEMBER TOFT OPPOSING.

Recreation Area Sledding Hill and Snowshoe Trail

MOTION MCKELLAR/ARNE TO TABLE THIS ITEM TO THE NEXT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MAY 9, AT 5:00 PM, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Community Garden Update

Ms. Sandy Logelin, address 31694 Ranchette Drive, presented an update to the Committee regarding her presentation to the City Council on the Community Garden. She requested that whenever the Committee is ready to address the Community Garden, they make it a priority to designate a location for the garden prior to crafting a recommendation to Council.

Committee Member Williams requested City Administrator Chanski briefly present a background of the history of the Community Garden to the Committee. Upon hearing that history Committee Member Zierden noted she would like to see some additional feasibility

information on the Garden as they finalize the Master Plan. Committee Member Arne noted her desire to specify a location for the Garden ahead of any other decision.

City Administrator Chanski claimed if the Committee desired to move forward with developing the Community Garden as outlined in their draft Master Plan staff would appreciate a motion as such. Committee Member McKellar agreed noting his belief the Committee had considered the issue long enough to move forward.

Committee Member Williams requested further information on what exactly occurs if a person abandons a plot or fails to maintain their plot. Specifically, she noted her concern the City may have to take on the responsibility of maintaining the Garden which would incur additional costs. Ms. Logelin assured her those costs would be negligible as they are in the surrounding municipalities Community Gardens.

Committee Member McKellar requested clarification on where the Garden's water and electricity services would come from. Chair Arne responded explaining preliminary planning had already been completed by Public Works Supervisor Zierden. Committee Member McKellar noted so long as Public Works Supervisor Zierden had looked at the items, and believed them to be feasible, he was willing to make a motion to accept.

MOTION MCKELLAR/ZIERDEN TO DIRECT STAFF TO FINALIZE ALL EXPLORATORY RESEARCH ON THE COMMUNITY GARDEN AND BRING BACK INFORMATION TO THE MAY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING WITH THE INTENTION OF APPROVING A RECOMMENDATION AND SENDING TO CITY COUNCIL FOR FINAL APPROVAL IN JUNE, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Committee Member Williams requested clarification on whether the City had to place the Garden on a currently owned lot or if the City could purchase a surrounding lot. City Administrator Chanski clarified the City had engaged the surrounding property owners, but none had shown interest in selling their lots. Committee Members Zierden and McKellar noted that analysis was consistent with their memory. Chair Arne noted this was something the Committee could explore in the future if there was need.

Staff Reports

ACA Eick briefly mentioned the first edition of the Breezy Brief: Bulletin was scheduled to be mailed by the end of the week. City Administrator Chanski noted this mailer was different from the monthly e-newsletter as it is designed as a quarterly mailer.

City Administrator Chanski explained the new directional signs requested by the Committee for the Recreation Area had been approved by the County for installation along County Road 11 and are currently on order.

Committee Reports

Committee Member McKellar explained he, as a member of the Lions Club, had met with the Governor of the district regarding grant funds to install a playground either in the

City's Recreation Area or somewhere close by. The only caveat being the Lions Club would require recognition for their support of the new play area.

Adjourn

MOTION ARNE/MCKELLAR TO ADJOURN, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Submitted by Daniel Eick, Assistant City Administrator

DRAFT