

Breezy Point Parks & Recreation Committee
Thursday, January 11, 2023 – 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 5:02 PM. In addition to Chair, members present included Gail Arne, Sandra Logelin, Bill Toft, Deanne Trottier, 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

MOTION WILLIAMS/LOGELLIN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PROPOSED, MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Open Forum – No comment was provided.

Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Arne requested staff revise the December 2023 meeting minutes to include additional discussion on the proposed snow shoeing trail and sledding hill. Additionally, she requested it be noted in the minutes staff were directed by the Parks and Recreation Committee to bring the item forward for discussion during their February 2024 Regular Meeting.

MOTION ARNE/WILLIAMS TO APPROVE THE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023, MEETING MINUTES WITH THE ABOVE STATED CORRECTIONS, MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Appointment of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

City Administrator Chanski, at the request of Chair Zierden, explained the Chair and Vice Chair selection process as required by City Ordinance.

Committee Member Williams nominated Megan Zierden for Chair while Committee Member Arne nominated Sandra Logelin for Chair. Discussion ensued with Committee Member Arne explaining while Chair Zierden has done a good job there has been substantial conflict with scheduling which a new Chair would alleviate. Chair Zierden noted her disagreement with the assertion as she has only missed a single regularly scheduled meeting due to one of her children sustaining an injury.

Committee Member Toft noted his intention to abstain from the vote as opposed to choosing between either candidate.

Committee Member Arne additionally clarified there was a perceived conflict of interest involved with her husband, Joseph Zierden, serving as the City's Public Works Supervisor.

MOTION TROTTIER/WILLIAMS TO PROCEED WITH A VOTE FOR EACH CANDIDATE INDIVIDUALLY.

- MOTION TO APPOINT MEGAN ZIERDEN FOR CHAIR FAILED 2-0 WITH COMMITTEE MEMBER'S TROTTIER AND WILLIAMS ASSENTING.
- MOTION TO APPOINT SANDRA LOGELIN FOR CHAIR FAILED 2-0 WITH COMMITTEE MEMBER'S ARNE AND TOFT ASSENTING.

COMMITTEE MEMBER LOGELIN AND CHAIR ZIERDEN ABSTAINED FROM BOTH VOTES.

Seeing as the motion resulted in a 2-0 outcome for both candidates City Administrator Chanski advised the committee could attempt to appoint a Vice Chair to run the meeting or agree to have Megan Zierden Chair the meeting and postpone appointments to the February 2024 Regular Meeting.

Committee Member Logelin reiterated there is discussion within the community that Chair Zierden has a perceived conflict of interest related to her appointment. Additionally, she claimed a similar conflict of interest exists between Mayor Angel Zierden and her husband, Teddy Zierden, as he is an appointed member of the City's Planning and Zoning Commission.

Additionally, Committee Member Arne noted their appointments were made out of necessity, not planning, as no other candidates were willing to apply. As such, her desire is to switch the Chair and Vice Chair positions year over year to maintain continuity and avoid confusion if the candidates are willing.

Committee Member Williams requested City Administrator Chanski clarify the definition of a conflict of interest. He explained while there may be a perceived conflict of interest from the public there is no bona fide conflict of interest here as no one in the proposed situation stands to financially benefit from any outcome.

MOTION TOFT/TROTTIER TO TABLE ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR TO THE FEBRUARY 2024 REGULAR MEETING AND ALLOW CHAIR ZIERDEN TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AS CHAIR FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING, MOTION CARRIED 6-0

City Council Direction on Disc Golf Course

City Administrator Chanski walked the Committee through discussions held by the City Council during their Tuesday, January 2, 2024, Regular Council Meeting. He noted while Staff were still developing a work plan for individual items, the Parks and Recreation Committee would be asked to discuss the specific nuances of certain items as directed by Council. As such, staff will create an action plan to present to the Committee during their February 2024 Regular Meeting.

Furthermore, he explained the items listed in the Council's adopted plan would be staff's primary focus moving forward and noted staff has very little Parks and Recreation bandwidth beyond these directives.

Committee Member Williams requested clarification on what of these items, if any, would require a City Ordinance or policy change. City Administrator Chanski explained items such as park hours or rule violation punishments could, and most likely would, require changes to the City's Code of Ordinances to specifically identify those items.

Committee Member Toft requested clarification on whether the Committee could make suggestions regarding the list. Specifically, Committee Member Toft noted the recommendation to place a portable bathroom at hole 10 may cause issue as six homes surround that hole. Instead, he recommended placing the portable bathroom closer to hole 13 as there are no homes currently surrounding that location. City Administrator Chanski explained while the Committee was welcome to make such suggestions and deliver them to staff, he would prefer they wait until staff can finish creating an action plan.

Committee Member Arne noted her desire to hold a separate Workshop or Open House related to the items on the list if possible.

Committee Member Williams requested clarification on what the Committee was empowered to alter, as per the City Council's direction, and where the "paths" mentioned in the plan are placed. City Administrator Chanski explained the "paths" as described are City roads and, as such, any signage alterations would be on those streets.

In response to a question from Committee Member Arne, City Administrator Chanski clarified Disc Golf Tournaments would not be permitted at the Disc Golf Courses at this time as per the City Council's Direction.

Finally, Committee Member Arne requested clarification on how these items might impact the Parks and Recreation budget. City Administrator Chanski explained he and Public Works Supervisor Joe Zierden were discussing the matter and would report back as soon as was feasible.

Master Plan Final Draft

Assistant City Administrator Eick walked through the revised Parks and Recreation Master Plan with the Committee and requested their input on the document. Areas of discussion included:

- Altering the names of all City Parks and Trails for greater consistency and to better match City communications.
- Condensing the Future Planning Section of the plan to avoid repetition and shifting items from the Future Planning Section up to the Parks Section where able.
- Updating extensive miscellaneous grammar, format, and design items throughout the document.
- Adjusting bullet points and verbiage throughout the document to better represent the Committee's desired approach to park management and planning.
- Adding a note to Appendix A to state its origins in the 2011 Master Plan and clarify the Committee's intentions to update the map in the future.
- Removing Appendix B from the document, or altering it in some way, to increase its relevancy. After discussion the Committee agreed to leave the appendix as is.

Disc Golf Course Naming Project

Chair Zierden introduced a draft form for the Disc Golf Course naming contest, ran through its content with the Committee, and noted she has been working with the local school districts to develop the document to qualify for Community Backpack.

Additionally, Chair Zierden requested feedback from the committee regarding several contest details including form delivery location, contest dates, age limitations, anonymity, and availability. The committee noted their desire to approve the document and suggested a few minor linguistic updates.

Once discussion ended, Assistant City Administrator Eick explained while the contest was still under development the Committee would eventually need to clarify what the prizes for selection would be. Chair Zierden noted Committee Member Arne has been working with Play It Again to provide a donation to the City to serve as a prize.

Finally, the Committee asked several questions regarding timing and publication of the document. Assistant City Administrator Eick recommended if the Committee desired to have the results of the contest back by their Thursday, March 14, Regular Meeting the document should be finalized and published by Thursday, February 1, to allow a month for potential responses.

Disc Golf Course Directional Signage

Public Works Supervisor Zierden briefly explained the purpose of the signage proofs before the Committee and took comments. City Administrator Chanski noted he and the Public Works Department had held preliminary conversations regarding signs throughout the broader park system and the timing of that development. The Committee agreed that while the sign was well put together, they would prefer to remove the language currently on the sign and replace it with an arrow or some other directional symbol.

Committee Member Logelin noted there was no mention of skiing as an activity on the provided signage. In response, Committee Member's Arne and Trottier explained skiing at the Disc Golf Courses would be difficult and the Committee agreed to remove language regarding skiing from the relevant section of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Committee Member Toft requested the Committee reconsider the directional signage's highway placement. He proposed an alternate route along Rainier Drive with six less residential homes claiming it would benefit the community as less homes would be disturbed, the route is shorter, and traffic would be more direct. Public Works Supervisor Zierden noted, based upon the Committee's prior discussion, the route along Winter Trail had been selected to reduce signage requirements and conjoin several alternate routes to additional park amenities.

Finally, Committee Member Logelin clarified this decision need not be permanent as the Committee could choose to alter, add, or remove signage should it prove insufficient.

MOTION TOFT/LOGELIN TO SHIFT THE DISC GOLF COURSE SIGNAGE TO FOLLOW A ROUTE EXTENDING FROM RAINIER DRIVE AND APPROVE THE SIGNAGE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE WITH THE DISCUSSED ALTERATIONS, MOTION CARRIED 4-2 WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARNE AND WILLIAMS OPPOSED

Staff Reports

City Administrator Chanski updated the Committee on several actions taken during the Tuesday, January 2, City Council Meeting. Those items included:

- Notification that the City Council removed liaisons from all City Committees. Instead, individual Council Members will attend meetings on an as needed basis or as they choose.
- Notification that two upcoming workshops will be held throughout January 2024. The first scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, at 5:00 PM will receive the formal report on the Organizational Assessment conducted last fall. The second scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, will host a workshop/Open House on the City Hall Design Proposal. Additionally, he noted both packets were forthcoming.

Committee Member Reports

Committee Member Williams noted her disappointment that Councilman Moroni would no longer serve as the Committee's liaison as she believed the position served a substantial benefit to the Committee. As such, she requested comment from the Committee on whether they should send a recommendation to Council to reconsider. Assistant City Administrator Eick explained the Committee could motion to request the Council to reconsider if they so choose.

Chair Zierden noted any individual could privately choose to make such recommendations to Council but explained she would like more time to consider the question before bringing a vote to the Committee as a whole.

Committee Member Toft noted he understood the Council decision and explained he was alright with seeing how things develop and revisiting the matter later if there is need.

Committee Member Arne noted she could understand both sides of the argument as the time demands could be great but there was utility in the appointment.

Committee Member Logelin recommended the Committee continue to function as directed, without a liaison, and to address the matter at a future date if it becomes problematic. She also noted the Council has made their decision and the Committee was now obligated to at least try the new process.

Committee Member Williams asked if the vote was unanimous among the Council. Assistant City Administrator Eick clarified he believed the vote was unanimous but was unsure without checking the record. Committee Member Williams then asked if it would be appropriate to add an item to the next Parks and Recreation agenda to discuss the matter

further. In response Committee Member Trottier claimed it may be simpler for the Committee to be more proactive and invite Council Members to attend on an as needed basis. Committee Member Toft agreed with this sentiment but recommended if the Committee were to do that, they should place the item early on the agenda to better respect Members time.

Committee Member Williams requested direction from staff on whether liaisons, as they have operated in the City of Breezy Point, were typical. Assistant City Administrator Eick clarified that, while they were not typical in his experience, City processes are generally unique across municipalities.

Committee Member Williams then asked if they dismissed all liaisons or if it was just City focused appointments. City Administrator Chanski clarified that, at least for the City Council, the only secondary appointment obligations are the Joint Powers Board and Heartland Cable Commission. As such, the only liaisons removed were for City operated and managed boards and commissions. He also specified that additional appointments may be made in the future dependent upon Council approval on an as needed basis.

Adjourn

MOTION ARNE/LOGELIN TO ADJOURN, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Submitted by Daniel Eick, Assistant City Administrator