



**MINUTES  
PARK BOARD MEETING  
July 17, 2023**

**Meeting Location**

Nelson Lakeside Park

**Present:** Chair: Donny Chillstrom; Members: Suzanne Caswell, Erika Leachman and Thomas Joyce

**Others Present:** Public Works Director: Sean Diercks; Residents: Dennis and Theresa Goettsch

**Welcome and Administer Oath of Office to New Park Board Member, Erika Leachman**

Public Works Director Sean Diercks administered the Oath of Office to new member Erika Leachman.

**Selection of Park Board Chair and Secretary Officer Positions**

All positions were decided to be kept the same, with Board member Chillstrom continuing as Chair, and Board member Joyce continuing as Secretary.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chillstrom at 5:38 pm.

**Approve Agenda**

*A motion was made by Caswell, seconded by Joyce, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.*

**Approve Minutes of October 24, 2022 Park Board Meeting**

*A motion was made by Caswell, seconded by Leachman, to approve the October 24, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: all.*

**Review of Nelson Lakeside Park Facilities**

Public Works Director Sean Diercks reviewed a few key updates / happenings with Nelson Lakeside Park, specifically that there was a tree that went through the park pavilion roof. In addition, there is a swing that needs to be repaired on the playground. A large cottonwood tree next to the pavilion will need to be removed as it is dying back and will continue to drop branches, which creates a hazard for parkgoers and is damaging to park amenities. There is a tree replenishment program that accounts for displaced trees, but Long Lake is way ahead of that program quota right now.

Member Caswell mentioned the Event Stage planned for Nelson Lakeside Park. Last update was that approximately \$58,000 had been collected by the Orono Lions to contribute to its construction.

A new swimming rope had been installed this summer for swimmers at Nelson Lakeside Park.

**Discuss Smarty Symbols Communication Board, Consider Recommendation to City Council for Acquisition and Placement of (1) Board**

The Smarty Symbols Communication Board was discussed extensively by the Park Board. Members were unsure whether \$1,200 is worth the investment, and generally would prefer to make an assessment if there are other areas/requests to invest for all-abilities access. The Board opted to table the discussion for now and seek out cost-efficient options. The Park Board would also like to get City Council Liaison Gina Joyce's feedback on this item.

### **Begin Discussion of Holbrook Park Holiday Tree Lighting Event Planning**

The Park Board has begun planning for the Holiday Tree Lighting Event. Caswell had a few suggestions; specifically, that we supply cookies rather than s'mores as cookies are cleaner. Also, a suggestion was made to light up the area where games are played, and the tree needs more LED lights and replace the old ones. It was acknowledged that coffee is likely not needed/necessary, and hot chocolate works well. Caswell volunteered to explore finding a group of carolers and a potential volunteer to get Santa in attendance. The Board also considered exploring the option for food trucks which may generate more interest and attendance, and local food truck Al Chile was mentioned as a potential option.

### **Other Business**

Member Caswell brought up the idea of an ice rink at Hardin Park. Public Works Director Diercks said that particular request would need to be surfaced at City Council because he would not have his crew build it again due to the difficulty of maintaining the rink for what has amounted to only a handful of uses.

Member Leachman mentioned that Hardin Park might utilize that same area to host a Easter Egg Hunt in the spring.

### **Adjourn**

Hearing no objection, Chair Chillstrom adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas Joyce, Park Board Secretary Officer