

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
PARKS COMMISSION AGENDA
Police & Public Works - 4058 St. Francis Blvd NW
October 30, 2024
7:00 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Parks Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Commission Member Greg Zutz, Commission Member and Chair Barb Anderson, Commission Member and Co-Chair Daria Shiffer, Commission Member Renee Wedan.

Also Present: Public Works Director Paul Carpenter and Streets/Parks Operator Tom Koep

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION BY: WEDAN SECOND: SHIFFER APPROVING THE MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 8, 2024.

Ayes: Zutz, Anderson, Shiffer, and Wedan

Nays: None

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION BY: SHIFFER SECOND: WEDAN APPROVING THE AGENDA.

Ayes: Anderson, Zutz, Shiffer, and Wedan

Nays: None

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Re-Leaf Grant Update**

Public Works Director Carpenter reviewed the Staff report and gave an update on the Re-Leaf grant. He shared that they have planted 139 trees that Staff is watering. He noted that they hope to receive the \$147,000 before the end of the year for this grant.

Shiffer asked if they are getting slow water feeders for these trees so it is easier on Staff. Carpenter said yes and explained that Staff has a system for doing this.

Carpenter shared that they will be reapplying for this grant in 2026.

B. Rum River Park Discussion

Carpenter reviewed the Staff report concerning the Rum River Parks. He stated some members of Council and Staff received an email from a resident in this neighborhood expressing their disappointment in the park. He shared the ideas for this park that Staff came up with, including a half-court basketball court, upgrading playground equipment, and a swing set.

Shiffer suggested adding some outdoor exercise equipment to this park. Wedan shared there is a park in Andover that has similar equipment. Carpenter noted the requests for improvements at this park have been from families with children.

Wedan asked if they had only received feedback on this park from one resident. Carpenter said no and explained that there are other families in the area that have given feedback on this park.

Streets/Parks Operator Koep shared that there was a small piece of equipment at this park that was broken and it took Staff quite a while to find the maker of this playground equipment to get the piece. He noted that during this time they received feedback from multiple different families in the area asking for more options to be available at this park.

Zutz asked about what kind of feedback they have received from residents about this park. Carpenter said the feedback has been requests for new equipment. He noted that there was a resident who requested specific items in an email, and he will forward it to the Commission for review.

Carpenter shared that a resident who reached out recently on this park expressed her disappointment that a new dog park was put in before this park was addressed and updated. He stated he wants the citizens to know that Staff and the Commission are working on this.

Zutz added that he likes having open space in parks for people to utilize. Carpenter said they can definitely consider this in the design.

Zutz asked if the demolition of the existing equipment could be a community event. Carpenter said they could definitely look at doing this. He added that the community helped put up the warming house years ago. Anderson shared that the community also helped with the playgrounds at the elementary school.

Zutz said this would be a great way to get this neighborhood involved in the park that they are asking for.

C. Ice Rink/Warming House Update

Carpenter reviewed the Staff report in regard to the ice rink and warming house. He shared that they hired the company SEH to do a fit test on the ice rink but they have not gotten the report back. He explained they will have an architect and engineer looking at the ice rink. He added that the engineer liked the warming house and sees lots of potential in it.

Shiffer asked if they have money set aside for this. Carpenter said they do have some money set aside, around \$250,000. He stated this project will likely cost more than that. He shared that he and City Administrator Thunstrom have discussed this, and they want to first get the design and project costs before moving forward on the project. He noted they will be keeping the Commission involved with the process as it moves along. He added that he would like work to begin on this project in the spring of 2025.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Disc Golf Discussion

Carpenter reviewed the Staff report concerning a potential disc golf course. He shared there are 40 acres that are yet to be developed off of Roanoke Street that could be utilized for a disc golf course. He noted that this would be something Staff could do with minimal funds as a disc golf course is mainly open space. He added that these 40 acres will be developed at some point so whatever they do in this area would need to be removed if it develops. He shared that Building Official Dahlheimer is an avid disc golfer and could help with the design.

Shiffer said this would be a great area for a disc golf course.

Wedan stated this is a great area with beautiful plants that she would like to preserve.

Zutz noted that having Dahlheimer's input would be incredibly helpful and at no additional cost to the City. He asked if the baskets would be cemented into the ground. Carpenter said yes.

Anderson added that this would require minimal maintenance and upkeep.

Carpenter said he will gather pricing for a 9-hole and 18-hole course and bring it back to the Commission.

B. Future Meeting Dates

Carpenter shared suggested future meeting dates of Thursday, February 13, 2025, Thursday, May 15, 2025, and Thursday, August 14, 2025. The Commission agreed with these meeting dates.

Wedan asked if they will be meeting at the new City Hall or at the Police and Public Works building. Carpenter said that would be up to the Commission. He stated they can schedule the next meeting at City Hall so the Commission can tour the building.

7. MEMBER REPORTS

Zutz asked about access to the new dog park. He noted that there is a densely populated neighborhood across the County Road on the opposite side of the park. He said it would be nice for the City to provide walking signals for people to cross safely to get to the park. He asked if they could approach the County with this suggestion. Carpenter said they can bring this to the County and discuss options for safe crossing.

Shiffer added that it would be nice a crosswalk over by the soccer fields off of 235th Avenue.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: ZUTZ SECOND: WEDAN TO ADJOURN THE PARKS COMMISSION MEETING.

Ayes: Anderson, Zutz, Shiffer, and Wedan

Nays: None

Chairwoman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.