

1. 7:00 P.M. Park And Recreation Advisory Board Regular Meeting Agenda

Documents:

[AGENDA AUGUST 16 2022.PDF](#)

2. 7:00 P.M. Park And Recreation Advisory Board Regular Meeting Packet

Documents:

[AUGUST.PDF](#)



Public Services

Cemetery, Engineering, Parks and Public Works

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

DATE: Tuesday, August 16, 2022
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Anoka City Hall – Council Work Session Room
2015 First Avenue, Anoka

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
 - a. Oath of Office – Bob Erickson and Steve Gunderson
2. APPROVE MINUTES
3. OPEN FORUM
4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Art Mural
 - B. Project Updates
5. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Upcoming Events
6. COMMUNICATIONS
7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING
8. ADJOURNMENT

If unable to attend, please call the Parks Department at 763-576-2980.

Auxiliary aids for handicapped persons are available upon request at least 96 hours in advance. Please call the Administration Office at 763-576-2740 to make arrangements.





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CITY OF ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Established Ordinance No. 1919-165 (see Chapter 24, Article II) and Ordinance No. 1976-584 (Chapter 24, Article II). Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at City Hall. Three-year terms expiring December 31. Nine members.

Staff Contact: Lisa LaCasse

763-576-2984

Email: llacasse@ci.anoka.mn.us

APPOINTMENT OR REAPPOINTMENT	NAME & ADDRESS	CONTACT INFO	EXPIRATION
12-20-1977	Joseph Anderla 752 Hull Road Anoka MN 55303	763-421-0387 H. 612-272-0046 jdanderla@msn.com - H Wife: Dianne	12-31-2022
8-2022	Bob Erickson 830 38 th Ln Anoka MN 55303	763-427-8163 H. bob@anokaicearena.com	12-31-2024
01-16-2018 Starting 2-21-2017	Derek Sebesta 649 Jackson St Anoka MN 55303	612-701-0058 Cell dereksebesta@gmail.com Wife: Cori	12-31-2023
01-03-2000	Steve Nelson 210 Yoho Drive Anoka MN 55303	763-576-9240 H. 763-350-9128 Cell 763-493-0099, Ext 103 W tornado47.43@gmail.com work: steven@cmsitechnologies.com Wife: Nancy	12-31-2023
05-07-2018	Sam Scott 509 School Street Anoka MN 55303	612-695-5896 Samuel.c.scott1@gmail.com Wife: Crystal	12-31-2023
06-02-1986	Mary Blankenship 1340 Oakwood Drive Anoka MN 55303	763-421-8622 H. 763-442-8634 Cell mlblankenship@gmail.com Husband: Tom	12-31-2024
8-2022	Steve Gunderson 1166 Cleveland ST Anoka MN 55303	612-751-6349 C gunderson.steve@ymail.com	12-31-2022
01-01-2019	Mark Beckenbach 633 Johnson St Anoka MN 55303	763-486-3752 C Bachbach001@yahoo.com	12-31-2024
10-1-2021	Don Rowell 752 Norwood Ave Anoka, MN 55303	763-433-8890 C Pheasantford@gmail.com	12-31-2024



Public Services – Parks & Recreation

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022
COUNCIL WORK SESSION ROOM OF ANOKA CITY HALL
2015 FIRST AVENUE, ANOKA MN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Steve Nelson, Derek Sebesta, Don Rowell, Sam Scott, Joe Anderla, Mary Blankenship and Mark Beckenbach

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa LaCasse, Public Services Administrator; Jon Holmes, Public Services Supervisor and Nickie Jenks, Recreation Manager

GUESTS PRESENT: Audrey Robeson and Eiana Zier, Graduate Students from the University of Minnesota

APPROVE MINUTES

There being no corrections to the May meeting minutes. A motion **was made by Scott, seconded by Rowell to APPROVE THE May 17, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD. 7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried**

OPEN FORUM

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Project Updates

Boat Slips:

The Akin North boat slips have been installed and lessees are using them. There are 20 renters at Akin, 6 renters are at Akin North, 3 at Riverfront Memorial Park, and 3 at Rum River Shores. People always seem to slowly trickle in throughout the season at Rum River Shores. Since Akin North was installed a few weeks late, a discount of \$300 was taken off of the lease fee for the season (per policy), Residents paid \$1500 and Non-residents paid \$2100. The gate for Akin North is on back order, the lessees agreed to lease without a gate for this season. No trespassing signs are posted on the dock system to deter people from climbing on peoples boats. There are 6 slips total for Rum River Shores (3 available), 4 slips for Riverfront Memorial Park (can be expanded if demand increases), and there are a total of 12 for Akin North with 6 installed so far.

Rudy Johnson Park:

An interior photo of Rudy Johnson was shown on the screen, the floors have been finished with an epoxy sealant. The doors and interior window frames have been painted



green to match the exterior roof/windows and coordinates with the floor color. There is a wedding shower booked already for early October. Staff is currently working with a company on getting the exterior door locks installed and they will be adding an “occupancy” dead bolt. Once those locks are in place they will be opened up for regular use during the day. The whole building needs to be re-keyed to the city key system. Staff is working with AMU for the hockey rink lights. The other piece that needs to be talked about is the natural playground element with trunk pieces and boulders. LaCasse is seeking board input on the necessity of this element at Rudy Johnson. It will essentially be a second play ground in this small park with fall surfacing required – even though it is ‘natural’ it has to meet current playground standards. The actual play pieces could be taken from trees removed and boulders stockpile that we have but the price will add up because the area needs to be excavated and then a border of some sort needs to be added for containment of the fall surfacing material. Tree stump pieces would need to be debarked, sealed and anchored to the ground. The original engineer estimate was about \$15,000. It is up to the board if they want to move forward with the original plan or decide to eliminate the element from the master plan. Some alternative options would be to let the area go a little wild and plant in some native plant species, a sitting area could be included, or a pollinator garden with boulder accents so people can still sit and/or climb on them but it wouldn’t be an official natural playground. Beckenbach like the idea of spending the money on trees and plants instead of another playground feature. Nelson asked if they should vote or table the idea. Lacasse said either it could be tabled or a decision could be made on the other ideas. An area of interest can be created without it being an official playground with fall surfacing and the works. A motion **was made by Scott, seconded by Beckenbach to CREATE A NATURAL AREA WITH PLANTS, TREES, AND BOULDERS INSTEAD OF INSTALLING AN OFFICIAL NATURAL ELEMENT PLAYGROUND. 7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.**

John Ward Skate Park / Restrooms:

The skate park task force met with Adam Eichorn from Spohn Ranch on July 7th and an open house was held at City Hall. There were about 16 people that joined at City Hall to hear about the project, make comments, share ideas, and select different elements that they would like to see as part of the design. Before the open house staff walked John Ward with Eichorn, the skate park will probably be designed to go in the current location. The next step is to get soil borings completed to make sure any mitigation of the soil doesn’t need to be done. They may be able to build on top of the existing blacktop and not have to excavate anything. We discussed the current location and option of moving the skatepark closer to the picnic shelter but the group that attended the open house commented that they like the idea of the skatepark being in a separate area from the playground so that little kids don’t run into the skate park. In August (tentative, date to be determined) 2 concepts will be brought forward based on input from the open house. The board and all stakeholders will be invited to the future meeting.

Staff is working on getting the materials for the sewer and water install. Cost wise, the best location for the bathrooms will be by the parking lot on Western because water and sewer come off of Cutter St through the park to Bean St. It will be a lot costlier to connect to those utilities over by the old shelter. A trail can be incorporated from the skatepark to the bathroom, it’s easier for the skate park users to “roll” over to the bathrooms than for the playground users to walk over. There will be a drinking fountain installed on the restroom building, but a separate one can be installed closer to the skatepark. The estimated delivery date for the bathrooms is September 9th, 2022. Excavation and prepping for water and sewer install for the slab will begin as soon as soil borings are complete. We can construct the shelter this fall and if we run into weather issues the sewer/water connection to Bean St can be made in the spring. Next

year it is in the budget for the old bathroom will come down. Staff expects that the budget of \$340,000 will be used if not, it will be reallocated to a 2023 project.

Station Park:

The playground at Station Park is fully installed. The city has the fence posts for the fence. The loop road and parking lot is being put off until next year. The neighborhood will be receiving an announcement regarding the new park and removal of the Garfield Tot Lot play equipment this fall.

Mississippi Riverbank Project:

- The Mississippi River Community Park Riverbank Stabilization is substantially complete. The willow sticks are leafing out. Everything stayed in place with the high water this spring. The trail has been graded and received its gravel base it will be paved later in July. For safety reasons staff recommends the closed signs remain until it is paved. Part of the city cost share of the grant is to plant additional trees, so the plan is to plant about 40 coniferous trees for wind blockage and to help fill the area in. There was a bench donated for the park by an individual in memory of a resident who used to fish at the park daily. The bench has been installed in the small shelter by the fishing pier.

Akin Park

The 2 remaining swing benches at Akin now have sponsors, so now all 3 of them at Akin have been sponsored and paid for.

Kindness Rock Garden

The new location for the Kindness Rock Garden is almost completed, it's at the bottom of the stairs next to City Hall. There were plants that were removed, some were salvaged and planted in other areas. It is a busy area and it is fun to watch new rocks come and go, its always evolving. Everyone seems to love it and there have been no complaints. An interpretive board has been ordered to go there explaining the history and meaning of the kindness rock garden, there are also a couple of QR codes that redirect to Facebook and Instagram. LaCasse will be drafting a management agreement with the group organizers to lay out who is responsible for what. They are very appreciative of the whole project and often say that they never would have imagined that it would be what it is today. Blankenship commented that it's a good example of city government enhancing something that could have had a negative association. It goes a long way for personal relations in the city and has become a beloved thing in the community. LaCasse said that people keep putting rocks on the cottonwood stump where the rock garden used to be, staff does move them over. It may just be by habit that they are doing it.

Anoka Nature Preserve – illegal tree removal

There have been issues with people cutting down trees along the Rum River trail in the nature preserve. LaCasse has been working with the conservation district to come up with something to send to residents in that area. They have created a flyer, an example was shown on the screen. It reminds the residents that they live adjacent to the conservation easement, what they can and cannot do, and includes part of the city code pertaining to cutting down trees and altering land on city property. It is sad that it's necessary and needs to be sent out. Staff is going to get the property lines surveyed and will put stakes, just like what was done on the North side for the Andover residents. Last fall a resident cut down 9 trees within the conservation easement, they were discovered because they didn't get a chance to dispose of the cut trees and they were still laying on the ground. Some of the trees that they cut were 18ft tall. The police and the attorney have been involved. Staff worked quickly to get the trees replanted, the biggest we could

get in the area were 8-10' tall coniferous trees and 3" Oaks. The hope is that the resident will agree to repay the cost of the trees/replanting and that prosecution/court will not be necessary. Council is aware of what happened up there. Staff is working on getting the cut trees and damage appraised by an expert. There are no major encroachments along the Nature Preserve, but there are along the Sunny Acres property line. There are a few people with structures and firepits encroaching over there. Rowell commented that there is a lot of yard waste on the north side of the Nature Preserve from the Andover residents dumping back there.

NEW BUSINESS

EAB Management Plan

Saloka has identified 186 Ash trees in total on public property to treat by injection with Rainbow Treecare. 103 trees in parks, including the cemetery and 83 on the boulevards. She explained that she was very picky in what was identified being good candidates for treatment. Any tree with major defects on the trunk or in the canopy, girdling roots, poor form (leaning or multi-stems), or on small boulevards were not chosen for treatment. Nelson asked what the estimated cost to treat the trees will be, around \$15,000 at the most. Nothing under 10 inches is being treated. Most are 12-23", a few larger than that. The inventory was updated to focus on the most hazardous trees when removals start again in October 2022.

An overview of the management plan included in the packet and main points are:

- Purpose
- Approach for private trees
- History of EAB
- 2021 drought impacts
- Public outreach
- Tree inventory will be completed in the fall
- ROW # of ash trees, # confirmed, and # removed so far
- Parks and Landscaping – 295 ash trees, 85 remain with active EAB infestation
- Woodland areas – focusing on trees adjacent to trails, within fall distance for removals
- Greenhaven – working with staff to identify trees that need to be removed, there are lots on the back 9 holes
- Chemical treatments – 2-year rotation
- City Code enforcement and removal assistance to homeowners.

A risk assessment was completed on the Championship Ash tree in Peninsula Point Park, removal was recommended. It has an extensive EAB infestation and is becoming increasingly unsafe to the public. The sign will be removed first and then the tree will be removed after October 1st. Staff will work to figure out if something can be done with the wood from the tree when it's removed.

A motion was made by Anderla, seconded by Blankenship to APPROVE THE EAB MANAGEMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED. 7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Anderla asked for staff to post and update the information for Rainbow Treecare on the website. Saloka and Jerry Tri are available to work with residents and evaluate trees.

West Rum River Trail Update

Staff has received confirmation that the city will be getting \$200,000 for grant assistance from the DNR Local Trails program. The original ask in the application was \$250,000. LaCasse asked for \$50,000 to be added to the original match for the 2023 budget. Currently \$140,000 is

budgeted for the match from park capital and assumed \$250,000 from the DNR for a total project of \$390,000. In order to not make any deductions or cuts from an already small project, staff has asked for an increase in match dollars to increase it to \$190,000 to make up the difference. The first trail segment on the West Rum River Trail will begin being built next summer. Blankenship asked where the trail will be. The Trail will begin north of the amphitheater and winds down and then goes back up, there will be stairs in various places to bypass the winding trail. The trail goes near the walker on the rum property and there is a segment that goes close to the stone houses. LaCasse stated that she was shocked that the city was awarded the grant as it is very competitive, a congratulations and work well done came from the board. The grant will cover construction of the 10ft wide trail, the road with the cul-de-sac is not part of it. Brush clearing will be done in the amphitheater property this year. Scott thinks that maybe with more people in that area once the trail is completed, they will start raising questions about the amphitheater.

Art Grant

A couple of months ago Jenks came to the park board asking for approval to apply for the Metropolitan Regional Art Council (MRAC) Arts Programming grant. Jenks applied for the full award amount \$15,000, and was awarded \$15,000. The grant will cover supplies to paint some murals on large concrete retaining walls around city hall, redo the tunnel, redo the mural south of the tunnel, and to cover the salary of an artist. Jenks has been working with Larry Weinberg from the Rum River Arts Center. An artist has been chosen, his name is Geno Okok of Brooklyn Park, he has done many murals around the Twin Cities. Some examples were shown on the screen of his work. He came out for a site visit with Jenks and Weinberg, the areas identified for mural work are:

- The tunnels
- The wall where city employees park next to the generator
- The garages
- The Kindness Rock Garden wall
- The wall south of the tunnel

This project will be community driven and Okok will work with other artists in the tunnel and the community will have opportunities to paint the murals after he draws them. Jenks and Weinberg will work with Okok to come up with a general theme, it will be brought back to council for approval. Blankenship asked if he is getting any direction for themes. Jenks said that when they originally met she mentioned not focusing on Halloween so much and finding some other themes that represent Anoka well, but also not just leaving it completely out of the theme. Any ideas that the board can come up with will be considered, and anything that he comes up with will be presented to the board. Blankenship would like to see concepts, and it would be nice if some of the history of Anoka was incorporated, like the saw mills. Jenks and LaCasse talked about the theme for the tunnel when it was last done, it was something like "Window of Times in Anoka" and showcased artists' impressions of Anoka. The tunnel artists will have to apply and submit ideas and concepts for the tunnel murals. Jenks is hoping that people of all ages in the community participate in this project.

ANP – Proposed Firewood Sale

LaCasse and Holmes have been talking about the potential for a firewood sale in the Anoka Nature Preserve. LaCasse has spoken with the Conservation District and has their support for such a project. There are a lot of trees down and that are in the way of getting the brush hog in there to take care of the buckthorn regrowth. LaCasse is proposing one or two weekends in the fall to allow City of Anoka residents to cut down trees for use as personal firewood. They could be charged \$50 or \$100 for a trailer or truck bed full, the price can be worked out at a later time. They would only be allowed to take trees that are on the ground or are severely leaning on another tree. It would be at their own risk and the crew would not help with cutting of the limbs or stumps. Allowing this would also clear up some fire risk in the area, especially with the dry

spells we have been having. It may be a feel good thing for the surrounding neighborhood to participate in. Nelson asked if there would be some sort of insurance disclaimer form. Holmes confirmed that they would have to sign a waiver that staff would create. There would be no city chainsaws available for the residents to use, and the most assistance that would come from the crew is maybe using a skid steer to move a log to make it more accessible to cut up. Staff would not help load trailers/vehicles. The crew would mainly be there for supervision and to give direction. The residents would be allowed to drive into the ANP, designated areas would be decided beforehand. The majority of the downed trees is Oak. Anderla asked if the residents would come in by appointment on those days or if it would just be open. That would have to be figured out. Holmes said there is plenty of room for multiple vehicles to be in there at one time. In the west corner of the nature preserve there is a significant sized area of Oak that has died. Armillaria root rot is present in that area per Tri and Saloka. If the board is in favor of the proposed firewood sale, then we could proceed with creating a registration system, waiver and set up a trial weekend. LaCasse will come back to the board with more finalized plan.

A motion was made by Blankenship, seconded by Rowell to APPROVE THE PROPOSED FIREWOOD SALE IN THE ANOKA NATURE PRESERVE. 7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Rum River Trail Riverbank Project

LaCasse and Holmes met with the Anoka Conservation District (ACD) about 2 weeks ago to discuss the area on the Rum River trail where the tree fell into the river and collapsed the trail. ACD has grant money set aside for riverbank projects along the Rum River. Staff have been monitoring this area and closed the trail section over the winter for concern of its instability and undermining. The board discussed the need for a reroute of the trail behind the pine trees last winter. The State of Minnesota owns the property. The City has an easement for the trail. The State of Minnesota is in favor of allowing the project and expanding the trail easement. The exact footage of the expanded easement isn't figured out yet but they are willing to work with 50-100 feet. ACD will take financial responsibility for the initial construction project and establishment period and then the City will be responsible for ongoing maintenance. They are also working with the DNR to see if the riverbank can be built back out into the river to make up for the 20 feet that has eroded away. Hopefully that is agreed to so that we don't have to reroute the trail. If the trail needs to be re-routed there would be a lot of trees affected and would need to be removed. Nelson commented that the maintenance can get pretty expensive on the riverbank restorations. LaCasse said that the maintenance agreement is for the useful life of the project and is considered to be about 10 years for hard armoring. If it is constructed like the Mississippi River Community Park restoration it will work well. The city considers the Rum River Trail to be of high value and City Manager Lee agreed that the terms of the project made sense for the city. LaCasse will keep the board updated. There is currently a partial closure on the trail and it is fenced off. The trail closed sign will be kept up to deter motorized vehicles because there have been issues with golf carts on the trails over there.

COMMUNITCATIONS

Nelson asked Jenks how the pool is doing. Jenks reported that the pool is doing very well, the hot weather is helping. Swimming lessons are busting at the seams. The school groups have started coming. There are over 1400 season passes sold. August 1st-11th is the last swim lesson session. The 4 day-week lesson schedule is not deterring anyone. There are a few staff leaving the first and second week of August. Financially, Jenks is expecting it to be similar to last year. There were a couple days that the pool had to close due to fecal contamination. There are 40 days left of the season. Next week, July 25th-29th will be the week off for swimming lessons and will be open 11am-8pm every day. It will help make up for lost time since the pool has been closing at 6pm every day. This Saturday July 23rd is season pass holder time in the morning.

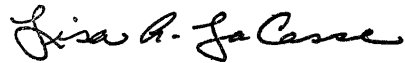
ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, **a motion was made by Sebesta, seconded by Rowell, to ADJOURN THIS REGULAR MEETING. 7 – AYES, 0 – OPPOSED. Motion carried.**

Time of adjournment 8:38 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa LaCasse". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lisa LaCasse
Public Services Administrator