

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
February 21, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Chair Lockhart at 7 PM.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Chair: Paul Lockhart

Commissioners: Glen Bearth
Jan Cunningham
Mark Giannini
Steve Meyer

Also Present: Monica Stiglich, Plan for 3M Priority 2 Settlement Presenter
Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent
Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent
Andy Morcomb, City Council

Absent: Glen Giacoletto, Vice Chair
Freddie Jiles, Commissioner

Quorum Present: YES NO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2022

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BEARTH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2022 AS PRESENTED.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

PLAN FOR 3M PRIORITY 2 SETTLEMENT – Monica Stiglich

Work groups were established to consult with the Department of Natural Resources and Pollution Control Agency on the distribution of money from the 3M Settlement. The work groups were broadly defined to include people in the area impacted by materials contamination, with Monica Stiglich serving as an Oakdale resident. City Engineer Brian Bachmeier and City Administrator Chris Volkers,

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and her predecessors, participated in workgroup meetings and kept the Oakdale Mayor briefed. 3M also participated to make sure the legal intent of the settlement was followed.

Monica shared her background as a proud Oakdale citizen living here since 1974, with her home being on the south border of the 3M waste site (on old Highway 5, near Hadley, Granada and the railroad), she is also a 3M alumni who worked two desks away from Art Fry, the famous “Mr. Post-it.”

The City of Oakdale had the foresight to develop the area with a city water system, separating storm and sewer drains, paving streets and installing curbs. Very few had private wells. In the 1980’s she received notification from 3M that they were digging the waste site out because levels of solvents were detected in city water from wells in the area.

The 2018 lawsuit was relating to materials we only knew how to measure recently. The material from the 3M waste site has migrated south and to the east, both above and below ground. Oakdale has the first carbon system in the nation and it is the proven way to treat the material. City Engineer Brian Bachmeier played a big role in mentoring other communities with what to do and cost of operation. The 3M lawsuit had two priorities to repair harm, priority one relating to drinking water with the bulk of the money, and priority two with \$20 million for natural resources.

Work group meetings for priority one in the 3M lawsuit began in July 2018 and are still underway. Distributing money based on population was suggested, however it was decided to distribute the money using technical information to determine the amounts and locations of water needing treatment. Oakdale’s quantity of water is in good shape, with the new challenge being the demand on water with the big development going in behind the old Imation site. Additional carbon treatment is the plan to have quality water for all. Oakdale is leading in treating water and other communities are catching up.

Two consulting firms were brought in to assist state agencies and work groups to create a plan for distributing money. Karen Carney, Abt Associates had experience with diverse communities and objectives when they helped the federal government distribute billions of dollars from the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill settlement. Wood Associates, Minneapolis Office, played a technical role tracking water movement above and below ground and using modeling to predict locations. Brian Bachmeier participated on the water supply subgroup and provided all the engineering detail needed to design water systems, such as the City’s pressure zones, flow rates of pumping, and well and water tower locations. The result of the meetings were a contribution on a national scale. Carbon is the only system recognized in Minnesota to treat contaminated water so it is suitable for drinking. Cottage Grove piloted an ion exchange system and found carbon was still needed to remove the material. Cottage Grove is moving ahead to get a permanent system in place. Woodbury had no carbon treatment until recently and has a temporary system.

Priority two will have a competitive distribution, with state agencies selecting the projects that get money awarded to repair natural resource damage. There will be a Request for Proposals process “RFP.” The timeline for priority two begins in January and February when eligible community members are being recruited by state invitation. New work groups will be established for priority two, and Monica has volunteered for Oakdale. City Administrator Chris Volkens will serve on the government/3M group. Workgroup meetings will begin in March and April. These workgroups will

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develop the criteria that state agencies will use to score the proposals. Then in fall, the system will be opened for proposals. 26 qualifying communities are listed as eligible to request funds. Washington, Ramsey, and Dakota Counties can apply, because materials have been found in the Mississippi and St. Croix, reaching as far as Hastings. Watershed districts will take a larger role. The limited funding will have competitive bidding and non-government agencies can apply. To avoid conflict of interest, the work groups will not see the project list or get a vote. Newport has pleaded for work group members to have the ability to write proposals because they don't have active participation in the community regarding the settlement. Proposals will be evaluated by the State co-trustees; the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Department of Natural Resources.

The work groups will revise goals for what projects should receive most emphasis, such as projects focused on restoring, protecting, and enhancing resources and wildlife habitats. Fish tissue contamination has been a big deal. Contaminated areas will be looked at for improvement and enhancement of outdoor recreation opportunities. Funding will awarded in a lump sum.

Monica encouraged the City of Oakdale to take priority two into serious consideration as there is a number of months to brainstorm what wish-listed park improvement projects may fit within the intent of the legal settlement. She will meet with the City of Oakdale Environmental Commission next. She guided thinking toward projects that may be on a Capital Improvement Plan for the next five or ten years. Selection may be weighted toward projects with detailed plans already in place. These projects would be ready to put in place if funding was awarded. Cost estimates are highly regarded. There will be separate solicitations for habitat restoration, fishing, and recreational use with the focus on wildlife and habitats on a regional scale, rather than jurisdictional.

CHAIR/VICE CHAIR VOTE

Chair Lockhart opened the nominations for Chair. He nominated Steve Meyer, seconded by Mark Giannini.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO ELECT STEVE MEYER AS CHAIR.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

Chair Lockhart opened the nominations for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Cunningham nominated Glen Giacoletto, seconded by Steve Meyer.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MEYER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BEARTH TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

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A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MEYER TO ELECT GLEN GIACOLETTO AS VICE CHAIR.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling

Ice Rink Issues – The current rink season has been horrible, and Mr. Koesling said Oakdale is not the only community in that boat. In 22 years of service, this is one of the top two worst years, maybe after 2005. One week will have 5 or 10 below temperatures, followed by rain and 47 degrees. Crews have done their best but March brings higher and hotter sun and the flooding doesn't take in late February and early March. The warming houses are not cheap to rent. No vandalism has been found. Photos are taken on arrival of the facilities' condition and they are inspected at the end of the season.

Winter Storm Snow Plan – The winter storm will be occurring in the next 72 hours. Crews will be in at 4 AM to do a full plow. The snow will lay down in the late morning and early afternoon with enough time to clean. Snow will come in force, heavier, tomorrow late afternoon through the evening into Thursday. Three to four trucks will stay to run mains for police, fire and medics to have mobility. There aren't enough trucks to run residential. In an emergency, public works will be contacted to plow access to the location. Following crews will come on at 3 PM and plow around the clock until done. There are 20 some staff that won't be ran past working a maximum number of hours. They need rest for a stressful job.

Fields – Parks Superintendent Koesling will touch on fields in early spring. Mark Giannini is the new field liaison for the Oakdale Athletic Association.

RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams

Spring Newsletter – Oakdale Recreation is taking registrations for spring programs, covering the months of February through May.

Summer Registration – Information will be available online for summer programs beginning in early April.

AARP Tax Assistance – The Discovery Center is a tax assistance site Mondays and Thursdays through April 13. All appointments have been booked.

Indoor Market – This great market season had record numbers at most markets. Remaining dates are March 4 and 18. Market Coordinator Nathan Timmons does a great job.

Snowshoe Rental – The extremely popular rental program had over 90 rentals since the end of December. Rates are \$5 per person for a two hour rental, with kids and adult sizes available.

Ice Rinks and Warming Houses – Skaters and rink attendants appreciate the warming houses and there may be a week or two remaining. Weather has made a challenging ice season.

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February Artist of the Month – The acrylic paintings of Lynn Kruger, a newly featured artist at the Discovery Center, will be for sale this month. The artist participated at the fall Oakdale Art Discovery Fair.

Sundae Bingo – These popular programs typically fill up and the next bingo will take place on Sunday, March 5 from 1 to 3 PM at the Discovery Center.

Best Snow Sculpture of Oakdale Contest – It is a great week to get out and build a snowman. Entries are taken through March 31 for the theme “Upside Down Snowman.” The winner receives a \$100 gift card to Target.

Employment Opportunities – Oakdale Recreation is hiring summer program instructors. Applications and job descriptions are on the website. It is hard to find staff. Applications will be taken through March with interviews in April.

2022 Rental Report – The Discovery Center was up by 20 permits from 2021. The picnic shelters were down by 10 permits from 2021.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Andy Morcomb

Willowbrooke and Commons Park – A lot of time and effort has gone into designing these parks. SRF Consulting was hired and has a tentative timeline of public hearings to discuss design and layout in March, working with City Council and Commissions at workshops in April and May, and the hope of bidding and awarding a contract for that park in June 2023.

Councilmember Morcomb replied to a question by Commissioner Cunningham, informing three total parks will be planned for Willowbrooke. The size of the parks makes them expensive endeavors so one will be done at a time.

Superintendent Koesling added that Commons Park is the main park and will be first.

Fertilizer in Parks – The City has contracted with TruGreen and the contractor suggested looking at organic options to be good stewards to of the environment. Quotes were obtained from Organic Bob Fertilizer and would be more expensive, so Guthrie Park will be a trial park this year rather than all of the parks. See if you notice any differences at the Guthrie lawn.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Oakdale Wellness 50+ - Commissioner Cunningham presented Wellness 50 events. A recycling series started last Thursday detailing what can be recycled, coming up on February 28 from 5 to 6 PM will be a tour of the Washington County Environmental Center, and finishing the series with a tour of the Newport recycling energy center on March 2 from 1 to 2:30 PM. Registration is at 651-747-3860 or www.oakdalefun.com. There is also a Meetup page for events occurring through Washington County at Wellness 50+ Twin Cities Meetup. All events are in the Oakdale Update magazine.

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Commissioner Bearth shared that Oakdale Wellness 50+ and the Maplewood Oakdale Lions will be at the Discovery Center on March 28 for the quarterly blood drive from 9 AM to 3 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED FEBRUARY 21, 2023, AT 8:04 PM.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Linzmeyer