

City of Winsted
Park Commission Work Session
City Council Chambers
October 12, 2015
5:00 p.m.

Present: Steve Ebert
Evelyn Fowler
Tim Fury
Petie Littfin
Bonnie Quast (Council Liaison)
Cindy Racette

Staff Present: Daniel Tienter, City Administrator
Raquel Kirchoff, Administrative Assistant

1) Call the Meeting to Order

Mr. Ebert called the Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

2) Park System Master Planning Process

Mr. Tienter distributed information regarding a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats exercise and explained the process to the Park Commission Members. Mr. Tienter then divided the Park Commission members into pairs to document their thoughts regarding Winsted's Park system into each area of the SWOT exercise.

After the pairs had worked together, the Park Commission members listed their ideas as follow.

The Park Commission members listed the following as what they perceived as Strengths of Winsted's Park System:

- Established, diverse Park Commission
- Good ball fields that are well used with many updates in the recent past. The City has a good relationship with Winsted Little League Association. The fields are tournament ready.
- Winsted Lake
- Trail systems
- Parks are well used
- Youth participation/use of parks
- Visitor friendly parks
- High number of parks compared to our community size
- All park land and equipment is owned – no debt for park equipment

The Park Commission members listed the following as what they perceived as Weaknesses of Winsted's Park System:

- Not all developments have a park in their area - Winsted on the Lake Development
- Ordinance requires park dedication land but a park is not always developed or the land is not always suitable for park land
- Not a lot of equipment/options for teenage, middle age and senior citizens in parks. Not accessible and user friendly for all ages.
- Demographics – Some parks in developments without many young children – Northgate, Shady Creek and Pheasant Run developments. Sparse or no park equipment for children on the west side of McLeod County Road One (1) – children in the Westgate and Grass Lake Farms developments.
- Poor maintenance of parks. Dying trees could have possibly been prevented with proper maintenance. Waited a long time for picnic tables to be repaired and repainted. It should not need to take public complaint to have the parks maintained. Mr. Tienter stated that he will discuss a more specific maintenance schedule, and a revised job description to specify park maintenance for the Public Works Department

- Donations from Winsted businesses are over-exhausted. The same businesses donating for many park needs. – Identify other revenue sources to fund projects.

Mr. Tienter stated that at the next work session, the Park Commission members can discuss the Opportunities and Threats of the parks system.

3) **Adjournment**

The work session dismissed at 5:55 p.m.

Daniel Tienter

City Administrator
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

Raquel Kirchoff

Raquel Kirchoff,
Administrative Assistant
City of Winsted