

City of Winsted
Park Commission Work Session
Winsted City Hall – Lewis Room
December 19, 2016
5:00 p.m.

Park Commission Members Present: Mr. Steve Ebert
Ms. Evelyn Fowler
Mr. Tim Fury
Ms. Cindy Racette
Ms. Bonnie Quast (Council Liaison)

Staff Present: Mr. Daniel Tienter, City Administrator
Mr. Steve Stotko, Mayor
Ms. Amanda Zeidler, Deputy City Clerk

1) Call the Work Session to Order

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

2) Draft Park System Master Plan

Mr. Dan Tienter, City Administrator, presented the Draft Park System Master Plan, including tables, maps and financial information.

The members of the Park Commission discussed the proposed plan and how it will be implemented. They discussed the process and timing of reviewing the plan from time to time, and how it is associated with the annual budget process. Mr. Tienter clarified that this plan will be utilized in conjunction with the budget process and the formulation of the Capital Improvement Plan.

The Park Commission also discussed the implementation of the new Master Plan and how it will affect improvement projects that were proposed for the year 2017. Mayor Steve Stotko informed the Commission that there may be an opportunity to search for grants to allow for the possibility of making some improvements in 2017 or 2018.

Mr. Tim Fury and Mr. Ebert stated that a plan has been created and now there is a roadmap available for the Park Commission to use for future improvements and changes. They noted that the Park System Master Plan is a major accomplishment and provides planning information for the next ten (10) years for the Park system.

The Park Commission briefly discussed the Trail Master Plan and how it coincides with the proposed Park System Master Plan. Mr. Tienter explained that there are two (2) separate Capital Improvements Plans and funds for trails and parks, noting that there is funding available for both. Mr. Tienter added that park funding will be the primary financing mechanism for supporting the parks CIP. He stated that connectivity and support for the 2008 Trails Master Plan is listed to make sure it is still getting full attention. Information has also been included regarding capital costs and assumptions about annual maintenance. Mr. Tienter stated that there is a need to address the operating side of the budget as well, while addressing the CIP.

Mr. Tienter stated that he has tried to accurately capture the thoughts of the Park Commission when drafting the Park System Master Plan. He continued to review the draft with the Park Commission. Mr. Tienter stated that he tried to capture broad statements Park Commission members have made over the course of the discussions and work sessions and tailor the plan to have an eye to enhance the natural space and feel of each park.

The Park Commission reviewed the following aspects of the proposed Park System Master Plan:

- Adding signage and receptacles at each park for dog waste
- Addressing the lack of parking and striped parking stalls that are lacking at many of the parks, since this is a safety concern.
- Barrett Park: Maintaining ball-related facilities is of high importance; repurposing or removing the existing basketball court at this location.

- Hainlin Park: Proposed improvements will not actually alter the use of the park; very few scheduled changes are included; renovating bathrooms could be a costly improvement; repurposing the concrete pad that once hosted the skate park; changes at this park may involve future public engagement to discuss options and gather comments and suggestions from the community.
- Mill Reserve Park and Lakefront Promenade: The main proposal is shoreline management; project can take different forms so the scope of the project can be suited to fit the budget and needs; consider improvements and policy to maintain water quality in Winsted Lake; includes sidewalk maintenance and the area by the dock; consideration to construct a permanent restroom area. Placement of public art.
- Northgate Park: Consider research and steps to make this park accessible and make parking available; fence replacement and maintenance concerns are also included.
- Southview Field: Dugout replacement or improvements; consider parking upgrades and availability; consider moving playground equipment to a different location in the park due to safety concerns; consideration to construct a permanent restroom area.
- Weinbeck Field: Basketball courts are utilized; consideration to adjust marketing strategies to create more uses and opportunities for this park.
- Westgate Park: Add additional spectator bleachers; consider adding lighting in the future; create a paved parking area with striped parking spaces and create accessibility to the park; playground equipment should be repaired or replaced; drainage issues should be addressed.
- Natural and Open Spaces: Two (2) known natural spaces currently exist; the goal is to improve the natural state and plant native grasses and plants; consider adding interpretive nodes, signs with pictures, descriptions of history, ecological information, etcetera; focus will be on natural resources; create soft surface trails and maintain the natural aesthetic of the area.

The Park Commission discussed trail connections to natural areas and the desire to connect to trails around Winsted Lake.

Mr. Tienter informed the Park Commission that he will make changes to the proposed Park System Master Plan, based on the comments received at this meeting. He noted that he will add more pictures and captions for the pictures. These updates will be reviewed at a future Park Commission Work Session.

The Park Commission agreed that the proposed plan is an excellent piece of work and creating an inventory of each park has been helpful.

3) Adjournment

Mr. Fury motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Fowler seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Daniel Tienter

Daniel Tienter,
City Administrator
City of Winsted

ATTEST:

Amanda Zeidler

Amanda Zeidler,
Deputy City Clerk
City of Winsted