

**AGENDA  
PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MONDAY, MAY 26, 2020  
6:30 p.m.**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL** (Members: S. Marotz, D. McDowall-Seyko, D. Peterson, L. Talvitie, S. Fisher, J. Brevig, S. Zettervall)
- 3. ADOPT PROPOSED AGENDA**
- 4. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES**
  - 4A. Approve Regular Parks Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2020
- 5. BUSINESS**
  - 5A. Playground Safety Discussion
  - 5B. Staff Updates
- 6. OTHER**
- 7. ADJOURN**

*Attendance at Meeting: All attendees are expected to follow CDC recommendations ensuring social distancing of at least 6 feet away from other persons. Some members of the Parks Committee may participate in this Meeting via telephone or other electronic means on an as needed basis.*

*Disclaimer: This agenda has been prepared to provide information regarding an upcoming meeting of the Big Lake Parks Advisory Committee. This document does not claim to be complete and is subject to change.*

*Notice of City Council Quorum: A quorum of the City Council members may be present at this Big Lake Parks Advisory Committee meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. No action will be taken by the City Council.*



## AGENDA ITEM

### Big Lake Parks Advisory Committee

<b>Prepared By:</b> <i>Corrie Scott, Recreation and Communication Coordinator</i>	<b>Meeting Date:</b> 5/26/2020	<b>Item No.</b> <b>4A</b>
<b>Item Description:</b> <i>April 27, 2020 Parks Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes</i>	<b>Reviewed By:</b> <i>Layne Otteson, Public Works Director</i>	
	<b>Reviewed By:</b> <i>N/A</i>	

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve the April 27, 2020 Big Lake Parks Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

#### **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

The April 27, 2020 Parks Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes are attached for review.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

N/A

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

04-27-20 Parks Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, APRIL 27 2020**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair McDowall-Seyko called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Committee Members present: Scott Marotz, Denise McDowall-Seyko via teleconference, Doug Peterson, Laura Talvitie via teleconference, and Scott Zettervall. Committee Members absent: Jason Brevig, and Shane Fisher.

Also present: Recreation and Communication Coordinator Corrie Scott, Streets and Parks Superintendent Nick Abel, and Public Works Director Layne Otteson.

**3. ADOPT AGENDA**

Committee Member Zettervall motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Committee Member Marotz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Committee Member Peterson motioned to accept the February 24, 2020 Parks Advisory Committee minutes as presented. Seconded by Committee Member Talvitie, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

**5. BUSINESS**

**5A. CODE REVISION TASK FORCE**

Scott reviewed that the Big Lake Community Development is creating a Code Revision Task Force in an effort to proactively discuss and recommend reasonable and necessary changes to the City Code.

Amy Barthel, City Planner, will be leading the Code Revision Task Force. Amy plans to bring her recommendations to the Code Revision Task Force for discussion. From there, she will be looking to obtain a solid recommendation from the Task Force to bring to the Planning Commission. At this time, Staff is looking for each Board to select a Member to join.

Committee Member Talvitie motioned to recommend Doug Peterson as a Member of the Code Revision Task Force. Seconded by Committee Member Marotz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

## **5B. DOGS AT LAKESIDE PARK DISCUSSION**

Scott reviewed that a Big Lake Resident recently asked staff why dogs aren't allowed at Lakeside Park. Scott reviewed a list of pros and cons that staff put together and outlined in the Parks packet. Staff is asking that the Parks Advisory Committee review the current rules about dogs at Lakeside Park and make a recommendation to City Council on whether to make changes.

Abel stated that he would prefer to keep the rules as they are. He stated that Public Works spends at least 3 hours daily in the summer cleaning the park and this would add a significant amount of time to their maintenance during the summer season. Abel also commented that this could be a sanitation issue.

Zettervall asked if other parks in Big Lake allow dogs. Abel stated that all parks with the exception of Lakeside Park are dog friendly as long as the dogs are leashed. Peterson asked why the rule of no dogs at Lakeside was originally put into place. McDowall and Marotz stated that dogs have never been allowed at Lakeside Park. Peterson stated that with all other parks being dog-friendly he feels that the need for dog-owners to have the ability to visit local parks is being met.

Marotz stated that if dogs are allowed at Lakeside Park it is likely that there will be a significant increase of dog owners visiting the park, especially for events such as Music in the Park, which makes it more likely for dog fights. McDowall stated that other trails and parks in Big Lake that allow dogs have a significant amount of dog waste.

Committee Member Marotz motioned that the Parks Committee recommend to Council that Lakeside Park continues to not allow dogs. Seconded by Committee Member Peterson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

## **5C. LAKESIDE PARK PARKING KIOSK UPDATE**

Abel reviewed that staff has been researching the viability of having an automated gate system installed at Lakeside Park which would help alleviate on-site staffing problems and capture lost revenue year round. While looking at options, a remote pay station was determined to be the best option. On April 17, staff found that there was a cost savings opportunity if the unit was purchased before May 1st. At the April 22nd City Council workshop, Administrator Wilfahrt presented information to the Council and requested approval to move forward with purchase and determine logistics. Council discussed and directed staff to move forward with purchase and installation this summer.

McDowall asked if traffic congestion would be an issue without having a gate or park attendant on-site. Abel explained that he plans to have arrows painted in the parking lot to direct traffic and alleviate traffic congestion. Peterson asked about boat staging without having a park attendant present. Abel stated that there will be additional signage and painted arrows specifically for boat trailers. Marotz asked about enforcement for those that park without paying. Scott stated that the police will have the ability to use software on their phones/computers to check if stalls are paid for and that they will also regularly enforce the parking in person at Lakeside Park.

Talvitie asked if season passes can be purchased at the kiosk. Otteson stated that season passes will be available at City Hall and Lake Liquors for purchase. It is easier to offer these for sale at City Hall and Lake Liquors so that clerks can check for proof of residency for those requesting a discounted resident pass. Talvitie reviewed her experience with a parking kiosk at Taylor's Falls and stated that their system worked very well and had various options for day passes and season passes.

McDowall asked if there will be staff or police enforcement on site to prevent hostility issues between lake-goers. Abel stated that Lakeside Park will be self-governed mostly, but that officers will be regularly visiting the park throughout the season. Otteson stated that the initial month of implementation as well as during peak times including holidays there will be staff on-site to ensure that everything goes smoothly. As the new system catches on, there will be less staff needed. Marotz commented that he thinks this will be a great way to cut costs and that after a few years of savings, there is a potential to give deeper discounts to residents.

Peterson asked about special events where the overflow lot is used and if there will be issues. Scott stated that the overflow lot is mainly used during special events like Music in the Park where there aren't fees to park or park attendants on-site. During these events volunteers direct vehicles to the overflow lot. Because of this, there shouldn't be any issue with lost revenue. Otteson stated that an additional benefit to the kiosk is the ability to take in parking fees year round and to discourage loitering.

## **5D. UPDATE FOR LAKESIDE PARK PARKING POLICY**

Abel stated that concerns were raised regarding a potential influx of Lakeside Park users due to park and boat launch closures in other communities due to COVID-19. This would likely have a negative effect on Park users on busiest days. Staff responded and provided information with a recommendation at the April 22 City Council workshop.

Council discussed and directed staff to develop a policy using Option 1 outlined in the April Parks Packet and bring back to the May 13th City Council meeting for adoption. A change in operations utilizing Option 1 would only happen if needed.

Talvitie asked if Council is considering closing Lakeside Park altogether due to COVID-19. Zettervall stated that City Council has not considered closing Lakeside Park as of April 27. Scott reiterated that the first action taken by Council will be to change parking to Option 1 in outlined in the April Parks Packet. Marotz asked how many parking spaces with Option 1 will be set aside for seasonal pass holders versus daily pass holders. Otteson stated that staff recommends starting with 98 seasonal and 68 daily pass parking spaces, but this is subject to change.

## 5E. STAFF UPDATES

### Summer Programming

**Farmers Market:** The March winter market and Community Fair joint event was cancelled due to the School shutting down all events in March. Because the State of Minnesota considers farmers markets an essential service, we were able to host the April market with a few changes to our usual operations. The City moved the market outdoors, encouraged social distancing, canceled music and kid's activities, provided a handwashing station, gloves, and hand sanitizer for customers and vendors to use, banned sampling and onsite food consumption, and provided barriers to place in front of vendor booths to discourage customers from touching the product displays. Most customers practiced social distancing and many wore masks, but there was some crowding around booths during peak times and a few customers that leaned over the barriers and touched displays. The April 2020 market was the most successful winter market to date with the highest number of customers and highest overall vendor sales. The summer market season will begin on Wednesday, June 3, 2020. Staff has scheduled music, food trucks, and activities as usual, but will alter these programs if needed to abide by CDC requirements.

**Library & 4-H Programming in the Park:** July and August events potentially will need to cancel or reschedule. Library has decided not to advertise for summer events, but are still allowing the use of their online registration software.

**Movie in the Park:** June and September events are fully funded. Staff will continue to advertise unless Stay at Home Order is extended. There is a potential to host a drive-in style event with the Cable Commission's equipment.

**Community Gardens:** Six additional plots will be added to the Community Garden site in 2020 expanding the total number of plots from 12 to 18. Tom has notified his waitlist and plans to have the full 18 plots filled by opening day on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Gardening 101 Series will continue, but instead of an in person workshop series where registrants maintain the same plot, they will participate in monthly Zoom calls where the Master Gardeners will focus on a specific gardening topic and be available for questions. All current registrants have their own gardens at home and have expressed great interest in continuing with the new layout this year.

**Music in the Park:** The Legacy Foundation has been seeking ways to continue with their Music in the Park series this summer. Keep an eye out for updates on the Legacy Foundation Facebook page in May.

### Park Rx Meeting

Gina Hugo and Janine Foggia met with Melissa from CentraCare and Brad from Wright Co. Parks and decided to push the informational meeting back. At this time, they do not have a date set, however, they do want to partner and make it a multi-county effort. They are currently working to secure one champion practitioner to attend the meeting and will keep the Parks Advisory Committee updated as the date for a meeting is confirmed. There is also a chance that this project will be postponed until further notice due to recent restrictions regarding COVID-19.

### **Rebranding Project**

Como Lakes Marketing was officially chosen by Council and EDA to be the consultant to lead a Rebranding Project for the City of Big Lake in 2020. The City will be provided with a new logo, tagline, marketing videos, photos for the website, and templates for a variety of items including business cards, PowerPoint presentations, social media posts, the City newsletter, etc... This project originally was to be delivered in-full by Como Lakes Marketing by the end of June 2020, but due to recent restrictions regarding COVID-19, the project has been postponed until further notice.

Scott also reported that there are currently 31 City lampposts on Highway 10. Only 30 banners were purchased last year, so there is one lamppost that is without a banner. The lamppost without a banner does have a bracket installed. Scott intends to ask Spud Fest if they are willing to sponsor the final banner. If they are unable or uninterested, she will ask the Finance Department if there is any funding in the Public Works or Recreation budget to use to purchase the two banners. Marotz asked if money from the Park Dedication fund can be used for this. Scott stated that she will look into this as a possibility.

### **6. OTHER**

Talvitie asked about Spud Fest and when a final decision needs to be made to cancel the event. McDowall stated that most of the vendors, aside from the fireworks vendor, have been open minded on when a decision needs to be made. She stated that there is a Spud Fest Meeting on April 28 where the Board plans to make their final decision.

Abel stated that residents will soon have the ability to pick up a key and permit for the Lake Mitchell boat launch. This should become available to the public by Memorial Day 2020. Once the keys are available, Scott will post updates on the City website and Facebook.

### **7. ADJOURN**

Committee Member Talvitie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member Peterson, unanimous ayes, meeting adjourned.



## AGENDA ITEM

### Big Lake Parks Advisory Committee

<b>Prepared By:</b> <i>Corrie Scott, Recreation and Communication Coordinator</i>	<b>Meeting Date:</b> 5/26/2020	<b>Item No.</b> <b>5A</b>
<b>Item Description:</b> <i>Playground Safety Discussion</i>	<b>Reviewed By:</b> <i>Layne Otteson, Public Works Director</i>	
	<b>Reviewed By:</b> <i>N/A</i>	

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Discuss playground safety in the City of Big Lake.

#### **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

Committee Member Doug Peterson has brought forward an article about playground safety that he would like the Parks Committee and City staff to review to ensure that efficiencies are being achieved.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

N/A

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Playground Safety Article

## Playing It Safe With **PLAYGROUND SAFETY**

By Christopher H. Kittleson

**Municipal park/recreation departments and school districts often fall short when it comes to playground safety because equipment is often not inspected. Regular and recurring inspections can identify hazards caused by lack of maintenance, vandalism, or normal wear and tear.**

Once hazards are identified via inspection, the safety professional can coordinate with the appropriate organizational department to have the hazard mitigated.

As safety professionals, we agree that playground injuries are preventable as well as a priority for protecting children from injury and death. According to CDC (2012), each year hospital emergency rooms treat more than 200,000 children age 14 and younger for playground-related injuries including abrasions, contusions and fractures, as well as traumatic brain injuries such as concussions.

Between 2001 and 2008, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC, 2009) investigated 40 deaths associated with playground equipment; the average age of those children was 6. The agency found that 27 (68%) died from strangulation and six (15%) died from falls to the playground surface. Strangulations involved head or neck entrapment, which can occur when a child is wearing a bicycle helmet on a playground. This increases the size of the child's head and can result in entrapment. Strangulation can also result from wearing loose clothing or clothing with drawstrings that can catch on equipment and become entangled. In addition, cords such as jump ropes, dog leashes or rope swing supports have the potential to cause strangulation if left attached or near playground equipment.

Many playground hazards relate to equipment, the environment and lack of supervision. National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) has identified the most common playground hazards, referred to as the "dirty dozen" (NRPA, 2019):

- improper protective surfacing;
- inadequate use zone;
- protrusion and entanglement hazards;
- entrapment in openings;
- insufficient equipment spacing;
- trip hazards;
- lack of supervision;
- age-inappropriate activities;
- lack of maintenance;
- crush, shearing and sharp edge hazards;
- platforms with no guardrails;
- equipment not recommended for public playgrounds.

An understanding of playground safety requires a review and understanding of several basic concepts, such as surfacing, maintenance and inspection, environmental hazards, and accessibility requirements. These are detailed here.

### Age Appropriateness

Playgrounds should be appropriate for the age-related abilities of children. More specifically, toddlers, preschool and school-age children differ in physical size, ability, intellect and social skills. Therefore, age-appropriate playground equipment/design should accommodate these differences relative to type, scale and layout of the equipment. For the purposes of playground safety, age groups are delineated as toddlers, which are children ages 6 months through 2 years old; preschool age, which are children 2 to 5 years old; and school age, which are children 5 to 12 years old.

### Inappropriate Playground Equipment

Some equipment is not recommended for use on public playgrounds. This includes swinging gates; climbing ropes that are not secured on both ends; animal-figure swings; multiple occupancy swings; rope swings; and trampolines.

### Surfacing

The surfacing under and around playground equipment can be a major factor that determines the severity of an injury caused by a fall. A fall onto a shock-absorbing surface is less likely to cause a serious injury than a fall onto a hard surface. Because head-impact injuries from a fall can be life threatening, the more shock-absorbing ability a surface has, the greater the likelihood of reducing a severe injury. Manufacturers and installers of playground protective surfacing should provide the critical height rating of the materials to help determine the required depth of protective material around each piece of playground equipment.

Examples of acceptable surfacing include engineered wood fiber, rubber mats, synthetic or rubber tires, unitary surface (poured rubber), sand or pea gravel, and wood chips. Unacceptable surfaces include blacktop, concrete, grass and packed earth.

### Adult Supervision

Young children are constantly challenging their own abilities and may not recognize potential hazards that could lead to an injury. Adult supervision of children on playgrounds helps ensure the age-appropriate use of equipment and helps prevent injuries. If an injury does occur, the adult can ensure that first-aid or medical attention is provided immediately.

### Proper Maintenance

To provide a safe playground, a systematic preventive maintenance schedule must be developed, implemented and enforced. Maintenance should address several concerns:

- There should be no missing, broken or worn-out components.
- All hardware should be secure.
- Wood, metal or plastic should show no signs of fatigue or deterioration.
- All parts should be stable with no apparent signs of loosening.
- Surfacing materials must be maintained.
- Check for signs of vandalism.

### Regular Inspection

Providing and documenting regular playground inspections helps to keep playgrounds safe by identifying unsafe conditions caused by wear and tear, vandalism, breakage, storm damage and litter, as well as environmental concerns such as flooding and stinging insects. In addition, playground inspections are essential to maintain the standard of care to reduce the potential for liability.

Playground inspections should be completed by trained staff, tailored to the type of equipment and surfacing, designed to document both problem and corrective action, and documented with easy-to-use checklists and forms based on the manufacturer's recommendations, as well as the owner's policies and procedures. Inspection protocol can be characterized as either low frequency, which is preventive maintenance, such as monitoring the depth of wood mulch, or high frequency, which is routine maintenance, such as replacing worn S hooks on swings.

## Environmental Hazards

Protecting the playground area from sunlight provides a dual benefit. Shading the playground from the sun provides a cooler play area, reducing the potential for heat-related illness. It also prevents playground equipment from reaching high temperatures, which could result in burns to the skin. Shading can be provided either by the natural landscape or by shades designed by manufacturers to assist in mitigating these sun-related hazards.

Older playgrounds may be painted with lead-based paints. These should be identified and a strategy should be developed to control lead exposure. Additional information can be obtained from the CPSC publication, "CPSC Staff Recommendations for Identifying and Controlling Lead Paint on Public Playground Equipment."

A significant amount of older playground equipment was constructed with pressure-treated wood that contains chemicals to reduce damage from insects and fungi. A chemical predominantly used in such applications was chromated copper arsenate (CCA), which contains arsenic. Also, CCA wood should not be used as playground mulch. CPSC (2019) provides additional information on CCA-treated wood in playground equipment.

## Accessibility Requirements

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) specifically states that "each service, program or activity conducted by a public entity, when viewed in its entirety, be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities." Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (also known as the Access Board) developed play area guidelines that are supplementary to the ADA Accessibility Guidelines. Based on these guidelines, operators/owners are obligated to provide individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to enjoy their respective play areas (U.S. Access Board, 2019). More specifically, ground surfaces along accessible routes, clear floor or ground and maneuvering spaces must comply with the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) F1951, Standard Specification for Determination of Accessibility to Surface Systems under and around playground equipment (ASTM, 2014).

## Public Playground Risk Management Program

Municipalities should consider formalizing playground safety through the development, implementation and enforcement of a comprehensive public



playground risk management program to help control exposures associated with public playgrounds. The program should address the following elements:

- playground safety policy;
- designation of a playground safety coordinator;
- documentation;
- safety audit;
- inspections and maintenance.

## Playground Safety Resources

National Recreation and Park Association sponsors a program through NPSI that offers the Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) course. This is a 3-year certification that focuses on the CPSC and ASTM guidelines and standards. CPSC, ADA and ASTM are the primary reference resources for those seeking information or guidance on playgrounds or playground systems.

## Conclusion

Safety professionals can directly or indirectly improve playground safety by having a better understanding of playground hazards and utilize the means and methods to protect children from injury while at play. This means taking an active role in reporting unsafe conditions at playgrounds as well as working within your organization to make the necessary program, policy and procedural changes to prevent playground incidents and injuries. Remember that our children are the future. Safe playgrounds are where imagination and spontaneity rule the moment and where play takes a major role in childhood development. **PSJ**

## References

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tems under and around playground equipment (F1951-14). West Conshohocken, PA: ASTM International.

ASTM. (2017). Standard consumer safety performance specification for playground equipment for public use (ASTM F1487-17). West Conshohocken, PA: ASTM International.

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**Christopher H. Kittleson, ARM, CPSI**, is director of loss control technical services for Public Risk Underwriters of Florida, where he provides loss control services for public entities in the southeastern Florida region. With more than 21 years of safety and health consulting experience in the public and private sectors, he has developed expertise in safety program development, return-to-work programs, regulatory compliance, incident investigation and safety training. Kittleson holds a B.S. in Engineering Technology from St. Cloud State University. He is a professional member of ASSP's South Florida Chapter, which he also served as president, and a member of the Society's Risk Management/Insurance and Public Sector practice specialties. In 2013, he received the ASSP South Florida Chapter Safety Professional of the Year award.



## Recreation and Communication Coordinator Updates

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### 1. Summer Programming

- a. **Farmers Market:** The summer market begins on Wednesday, June 3.
- b. **Backyard & Beyond:** Staff has restructured this program to be two separate day camp events at Highline Park that require registration through the Library. Maximum participants will be 10 individuals.
- c. **Movie in the Park:** Due to Governor Walz's recent update, the June Movie in the Park has been cancelled. The September event will continue as scheduled. There is a potential to host a drive-in style event with the Cable Commission's equipment.
- d. **Music in the Park:** The Legacy Foundation has been seeking ways to continue with their Music in the Park series this summer. Keep an eye out for updates on the Legacy Foundation Facebook page in June.

2. **Lakeside Park Metered Parking:** Metered parking at Lakeside Park will begin in late May/early June. Daily and Seasonal parking costs will remain the same. Information on the new parking meter have been posted on the City website and Facebook page.

3. **Fairy Houses:** Residents have been creating 'fairy houses' and placing them in local parks, mainly McDowall Trail. In April the City made a Facebook post encouraging that these 'fairy houses' be made with natural items to avoid hurting wildlife and the environment. Recently pictures of vandalized 'fairy houses' were posted in the Big Lake Forum. This poses a risk for Public Works staff who use equipment to mow the grass and maintain the trails and parks. Staff would like the Parks Committee to discuss ways to encourage eco-friendlier 'fairy houses' and potentially a week or two 'event' in the summer where residents can show off their creations and then remove them for maintenance and to avoid more vandalism on the trails.

4. **Park Maintenance Survey:** Staff is asking the Parks Committee to keep an eye on the existing parks in Big Lake and make a list of updates that should be considered for 2021. Examples include updated sidewalks, deteriorating park equipment, etc... Later in the Summer or Fall the Parks Committee will have a discussion on what parks should be considered priority for repairs and upgrades.