



**Parks Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, February 28, 2024  
6:00 PM**

The February 28, 2024 Parks Committee meeting will be held remotely and in person using the Zoom video conference application.

**Instructions for Participating in the Meeting Remotely Via Zoom**

Options for Joining the Zoom Meeting:

- **RECOMMENDED:** Use your computer, tablet or smart phone to join the meeting by logging on to
    - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81398728629?pwd=Y0drdjFkQ3NJcEVlbTJpNnNLcmV5QT09>  
Meeting ID: (813 9872 8629)  
Passcode: 266408
- Dial-in Number (to call in to the meeting)  
+1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 813 9872 8629

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
  - A. Minutes of the January 24, 2024 Parks Committee meeting
- 5. Business**
  - A. Park Dedication Fund Balance
  - B. Levee Plantings
  - C. Town Square Park
  - D. Skating Rink
  - E. Meadow Ridge
  - F. CARD Program
- 6. Adjournment**

City of Afton Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Grant Jensen, Karen Weiss, Lori Swanson, Jane Tar, Bob Dickie, Julie Zeidel, Nicholas Livingston; liaisons, Annie Perkins and Ron Moore

**Call to Order**

Chair Jensen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes by members Weiss and Tar

**Items of Business:**

**A. Park Dedication Fund Balance: \$350,332**

**B. Sketch Plan Review for Proposed Miller Subdivision**

Discussion ranged from whether any migration corridors or human trails would benefit. It is a 46-acre property with 2 parcels. The 27.2 ac parcel has tax value of \$425,000 and the 18.8 ac parcel has a tax value of \$294,000. Not sure how these valuations will be considered, but there is a total current pre-development tax value totaling 719,000. Estimated Parks Dedication Fund contribution would be around \$40k - \$50k.

After discussing open spaces versus parks and the dollar value, the committee chose to be open to both options as enough of us are open to the land option quotient. We prioritize the value of wildlife corridors and support looking into their value to determine what our priority will do.

**C. Levee Plantings**

*We got the grant!* The amended grant – to about an acre. This year spray and burn. Our chosen contractor will do the seeding and volunteers would do the 4000+ plugs mid-May of 2025. Jane Tar has mobilized Saint Thomas volunteers and provide transportation.

**D. Town Square Park**

After our exploratory meetings and discussions with WSB, we decided against pursuing an exhaustive and costly new park plan. Between City Council and the Parks Committee we decided to pursue simple improvements without any assistance from WSB. We will keep them in mind for larger projects such as rethinking the sport court and significant structural changes.

For the northeast corner of the park we decided to remove the tired and unused chain link backstop, the benches, the gravel, and all bases save a commemorative homeplate to anchor the possibility of pickup games.

Once the baseball diamond is removed, we will have the northeast corner of the park leveled to better host the skating rink in years to come.

Following this progress, to anchor the northeast corner and act as a welcoming threshold, we will explore some simple plantings and perhaps an arbor that could serve as a gateway and support climbing plants or at least frame up a passage way and establish a sightline inviting passersby into the park.

Nicholas agreed to provide some thoughts and designs to consider while it is still winter. ...

### **E. Skating Rink**

The rink was moved closer to Saint Croix Trail and further to the northeast corner to make it more level. If this remains the preferred position for the rink, we might want to have the ground leveled to a 3-inch grade rather than 10 inches when we remove the fence. The water has leaked a little onto the sidewalk. We might also want to replace the liner as skates cut it during the melts. Melting snow might require sandbagging to direct the water to a drain better.

After discussion we decided the actions between now and next winter include:

1. Level the ground
2. Replace the liner
3. Decide on ongoing maintenance.
  - a. We volunteered for the first year to snow blow and "Zamboni" the surface. Perhaps we submit a newsletter request to the community?
  - b. Perhaps add to the website: when it is open or not open. Perhaps with the forecast? Bob has been turning off the lights during this wet thaw.
  - c. Provide shovels and a list of instructions of what to do to help.
  - d. Put a sign up and next year solicit a group to adopt maintenance for periods of time?

### **F. Meadow Ridge**

We need to adjust the budget for the grant because of several years of drought. We'll skip the expense of disposing of the thinned red pines; Stantec will just leave them stacked. Karen may have someone who can come and get the downed pines. We'll still be able to add some native trees with this budget, just less than the original amount.

We will shift the money to mowing and spot spraying to maintain what's been planted through June of 2025. Grant will meet with Tara from WCD and Stantec to determine the steps and budget that the city will need to take on in order to maintain the plantings going forward.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Lori Swanson and seconded by Jane Tar. Adjourned at 7:00 pm

## **Parks Committee Memo**

**Meeting: February 28, 2024**

**City of Afton  
3033 St. Croix Trl, P.O. Box 219  
Afton, MN 55001**

To: Parks Committee Members  
From: Ron Moorse, City Administrator  
Date: February 21, 2024  
Re: Park Dedication Fund Balance

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The Park Dedication Fund balance as of January 1, 2024 is \$344,656.00.