



City of Afton

Parks Committee Meeting Wednesday, March 27, 2024 6:00 PM

The March 27, 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/81942171944?pwd=bENRY2FrLzNxYIFvSW85c09KSjNnUT09>
Meeting ID: (819 4217 1944)
Passcode: 784664
Dial-in Number (to call in to the meeting)
+1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 819 4217 1944

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes

- A. Minutes of the February 28, 2024 Parks Committee meeting

5. Business

- A. Park Dedication Fund Balance
- B. Miller Subdivision
- C. Levee Plantings Project
- D. Town Square Park
- E. Skating Rink
- F. Meadow Ridge
- G. What's the Rush Viewing
- F. CARD Program
- G. Establish One Consistent Meeting Date

6. Adjournment

City of Afton Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Grant Jensen, Lori Swanson, Jane Tar, Julie Zeidel, Nicholas Livingston; liaisons, Annie Perkins and Ken Johnson

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:07PM

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes by members Swanson and Zeidel.

Items of Business:

A. Park Dedication Fund Balance: \$344,656

B. Miller Subdivision

The committee still thinks a land dedication might still be a good idea but the specifics are yet to be determined. A chief concern is that it isn't a landlocked parcel as this is hoped to also serve as a trail for people in the greater Afton community – in a way that it might connect with future trails. If this doesn't seem possible, we might opt for the money to the parks dedication fund. We still think there is potential value for land dedication but depending on the contours of the next iteration of their plan.

C. Levee Plantings

The committee reviewed the RFP for contractors for this project and will send remarks back to Elissa at WCD. The questions/comments are:

- Is there a requirement to apply herbicides carefully near the water, maybe in conjunction with the Watershed District guidelines?
- We want to make sure we're not seeding the top, flat portion that people currently walk on and will hopefully be extended into a bike path. Maybe mark out that portion with flags?
- Will there be signage telling people what is going on?
- Do you happen to know where other levee planting are being done? Just curious about what they look like.
- Clarifying "not more than 5% invasives"

D. Town Square Park

Nicholas asked for feedback on proposed concepts to inform designs. We decided on figuring out the plan(s) before deciding to move Town Square Park sign. Consensus was not to shy away from plantings or limit the dimensions of plantings to the modest surrounding of the sign alone. Long stretches of plantings could include gaps on the side of the parking area and fewer gaps on the side facing Afton Trail South. Nicholas will bring two possibilities to discuss next meeting.

E. Skating Rink

Grant presented Bob Dickie's feedback on leveling the NE corner and expanding the dimensions of the rink which many liked but given there might be other locations that would not require it, we wondered of those could be explored.

For practicality and less labor each year, the land south of Selma's resurfaced as a possibility for a more permanent skating rink and possibly double as a volleyball court. Memory held that any concerns regarding the tribal concerns of the parcel were no longer active. We would still want to double-check to make sure there are no active concerns beyond our ken.

Ken will check in with Ron about the viability of the land south of Selma's.

F. Meadow Ridge

Grant will meet with Tara and Stantec in March to discuss what steps the City of Afton should expect when taking on maintenance next year.

G. Volunteer Opportunity

Chandler Inc. is offering a company volunteer opportunity perhaps as a quarterly event: Spring cleaning event, buckthorn removal, etc. We suggested the levee plantings in 2025 and the CARD roadside pickup when we have it up and running.

Other non-parks committee options might be Belwin, clearing the back of Town Square Park, and Mount Hope maintenance.

H. Homegrown National Park

In early March, the native plantings of the City of Afton and the parks committee will be featured in an article by Homegrown National Park about early adopter cities in the native planting movement. The city will share the article in the newsletter, website and Facebook page.

Chair Jensen proposed hosting a community viewing of What's the Rush, a presentation about native plants and the biodiversity crisis. Everyone was on board, and members Jensen and Swanson will reach out to Memorial Lutheran Church as a possible venue. We will aim for April 17th or 18th, a few days prior to Earth Day.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:23 pm

Parks Committee Memo
Meeting: March 27, 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: March 20, 2024
Re: Park Dedication Fund Balance

The Park Dedication Fund balance as of February 1, 2024 is \$347,710.00.