



**Parks Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 22, 2024
6:00 PM**

The May 22, 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/82972735003?pwd=VldmRkpUd0hHOG5tWmlxRS91OXRzQT09>
Meeting ID: (829 7273 5003)
Passcode: 617161
Dial-in Number (to call in to the meeting)
+1 312 626 6799. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 829 7273 5003

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes

- A. Minutes of the April 24, 2024 Parks Committee meeting

5. Business

- A. Park Dedication Fund Balance
- B. Levee
- C. Town Square Park
- D. Skating Rink
- E. Meadow Ridge
- F. Meeting Date
- G. Outdoor Lights for Migration
- H. Deer Control

6. Adjournment

City of Afton Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Grant Jensen, Bob Dickie, Lori Swanson, Nicholas Livingston, Julie Zeidel; liaisons, Ken Johnson, Annie Perkins

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:14PM

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March meeting approved by members Swanson and Dickie.

Items of Business:

A. Park Dedication Fund Balance: \$349,285

B. Levee

We received four bids, two of which were within the allotted budget. We recommend that the city council choose Edge Ecosystems because they have the most thorough plan and good pricing. This will be discussed at the special session on 3/25/24.

With the relatively low pricing for the services, we might have some extra money within the grant to expand the planting.

Washington County is working on the bike trail expansion, so there is no action needed by the parks committee at this time.

We discussed a previous step down to the beach at Steamboat where the kayaks and canoes load. The previous solution would prevent erosion.

C. Town Square Park

Nicholas presented the Afton Town Square Park Border and Sign Planting plan drafted by Jill Livingston. They will present the general concept at the next city council meeting.

While it has proven successful at Horta Culture's garden, if we find the Playskydd is not working in the park, in order to preserve our investment in plants and planting, we thought it worth including the possibility of needing fencing for the first 3 to 5 years while the shrubs and the trees establish themselves.

Grant will doublecheck with Ron to see if the budget for this project can come from the Parks Dedication Fund.

We may be able to use mulch from the Belwin project. Nicholas will ask Jill and Lori will follow up with Katie.

Ken suggested incorporating an irrigation sprinkler system that would be piped out of the bathroom. However, since the plantings are drought-tolerant once established, they will not require watering except in drought years. Therefore, initial watering and spot watering may be less expensive and less laborious than installing and maintaining an irrigation system, which would include blowing out, head maintenance, and smart technology to water only when necessary.

Bob also suggested looking into how the city might better control the deer population. Grant will ask Ron if there is any precedent by the city.

D. Skating Rink

This topic is on hold.

E. Meadow Ridge

Spring seeding was done and worked much better than the previous year. Grant will learn the exact steps the city needs to take when the grant timeline is completed in summer 2025.

F. Homegrown National Park

The What's the Rush event was well attended (approximately 65 people), and well received. Grant will look into putting a follow-up message with a web link in the newsletter.

G. Meeting Date

Proposed dates from Jenny are the 2nd Monday or Tuesday of the month. Tuesday does not work. Second Monday of the month seemed to work for those present. Grant will ask Angela, Karen, and Joe.

H. Outdoor Lights for Migration

Julie brought outdoor lighting as a message that the parks committee could spread to the public and check on the proper lighting for the city.

The Parks Committee wonders with St Croix Trail traffic being minimal in the evenings and less overnight, if the city lights could simply be turned off at those hours – at least during the months when migratory avian traffic is high: “from March 15 to May 31 and from August 15 to October 31” according to this article anyway: <https://www.stcroix360.com/2022/03/bird-lovers-encourage-lights-out-during-migration-season/>

I. National Resources Inventory

We were asked by the NRGC committee to come up with what we might want to include in the proposal for a new Natural Resources Inventory. Here is our list:

- Existing wildlife corridors.
- All city-owned spaces for the possibility of public and wildlife corridors.
- Open spaces involved in land trusts, also for possible inclusion in corridors.
- Wildlife numbers, especially deer.
- Indigenous sites / mounds

Adjournment: motion to adjourn was made by Jane and seconded by Julie at 7:41 pm

Parks Committee Memo
Meeting: May 22, 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: May 15, 2024
Re: Park Dedication Fund Balance

The Park Dedication Fund balance as of April 1, 2024 is \$350,803.00.