



# City of Afton

**Parks Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, October 27, 2021  
6:00 PM**

**Note: This meeting will be held in-person in the City Hall Council Chambers at  
3033 St. Croix Trail  
Afton, MN 55001**

## **Agenda**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
  - A. Minutes of the September 22, 2021 Parks Committee meeting
- 5. Business**
  - A. Meeting Setup
  - B. Meadow Ridge
  - C. Pollinator Trail at City Hall
  - D. Town Square Park
  - E. Bike Trails
- 6. Adjournment**

City of Afton

Parks Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 - 6PM

Attendees: Committee members; Grant Jensen, Bob Dickie, Karen Weiss, Julie Zeidel, city council liaison Lucia Wroblewski and Ken Johnson.

Approval of the July meeting notes, 5:0

Approval of the Agenda, 5:0

Business:

- A. **Meeting Setup.** The committee discussed the benefits of zoom versus in person meetings. There might be more community participation if zoom meetings continue. Also, it would be easier to get a quorum when committee members are traveling. But there are benefits to in person meetings as well; it is easier to discuss things more fully. The committee discussed the possibility of recording meetings; Mr. Johnson will look into getting a recording device from the city. The committee will continue meeting in person. Chair Jensen will work with city administration to add a larger section about the upcoming meeting in the newsletter to encourage more participation with the committee.
- B. **Meadow Ridge Pollinator Project.** After considering the input of neighbors and the recommendations of the parks committee, the city council elected to go with the Stantec bid. Stantec will create a pollinator meadow as well as an oak savannah, with greater biodiversity and also some tree thinning in an adjacent stand of pine trees. The costs would be approximately \$54,000 for the initial 3-year establishment period, followed by an annual maintenance fee. A grant will be applied for in November, with the project hopefully starting this winter. The Washington County Conservation District will manage the grant application process and the project going forward.
- C. **Pollinator Trail at City Hall.** The pollinator trail did not take off as planned this summer, due to drought and deer browsing. Also the back portion is full of black locust trees and shrubs, making it difficult to grow prairie. The project has been reinvented to address these concerns. The committee will meet in early October to plant out the next extension of the pollinator garden. Also a memorial bench and several trees have been dedicated to the project. The committee discussed orientation and location of the bench, the need to get a budget, and the need to secure the bench on a concrete slab.
- D. **Town Square Park.** The city council had decided to replace the grass around the ballfields in Town Square Park; however, drought has prevented this as well. It is planned for the fall. The parks committee discussed replacement of the pavilion; there was a bid that placed the cost at \$120,000 plus. A contractor was informally consulted and he made a number of suggestions to rehabilitate the structure at much less cost.
- E. **Bike Trails.** Bjorn from the Velo du Nord bike shop needs a map of all the city streets. Then he will annotate the map, to inform serious bikers of the difficulty of each road. The committee also discussed the need for signage on the family friendly bike trail behind city hall; too many casual bikers are using the sidewalks, which poses a danger due to blind driveways; pedestrians; parked cars; and traffic. The possibility of extending the bike trail along the length of the dike was discussed; more information is coming from the Army Corp of Engineers on this.
- F. **Motion to adjourn**