

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
August 15, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Chair Meyer at 7 PM.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Chair:	Steve Meyer
Vice Chair:	Glen Giacoletto
Commissioners:	Glen Bearth
	Jan Cunningham
	Mark Giannini

Also Present:	Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent
	Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent
	Andy Morcomb, City Council

Quorum Present: YES NO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes, July 18, 2023

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR GIACOLETTO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 18, 2023 AS PRESENTED.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

PARK TOUR – Steve Meyer

Chair Meyer announced the dates for upcoming Parks and Recreation Commission park tours. The first tour will take place on Saturday, August 19 from 8:30 to 10:30 AM, and will visit Golfview, Northdale, Furlong, Oakfield and Oakdale Bark Parks. The second tour will take place on Saturday, September 16 from 8:30 to 10:30 AM and will visit Garden Boulevard, Tilley Tot Lot, Tower, and Guthrie Parks. He encouraged the community to visit during the tour times to share input with the Commission.

Chair Meyer visited the volleyball courts with artificial turf installed in St. Paul. The single court on Minnehaha is harder than a football field, and he wouldn't recommend diving on it, but the court is meant for play involving kicking rather than traditional volleyball. On Duluth and Case there are

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three beautiful courts with the same turf, benches, and tall chairs for judges. On Maryland, there is a double court that looks nice as it blends into the grass. He would like to see the artificial turf used in a larger size court for actual volleyball. There is some wear on the courts installed in 2017/18, however for that age, they have held up. It may be the way to go over sand, but if possible, a softer surface would be desired.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN DRAFT – Julie Williams

Superintendent Williams announced the draft discussed by the Commission from the 6 PM workshop that took place and kicked off today. The Commission will need to approve their draft at the October meeting for Council to review at their November workshop. It will then be informally discussed at the year-end appreciation dinner. Work plan notes will be sent to the Commission for their next September workshop.

PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling

Transitioning to Fall Sports – Parks Superintendent Koesling reported that summer softball and baseball are over, and that 13 to 14 football and soccer fields have been installed. Skyview is still to be determined as a location to add a couple fields.

Seasonal Staff – The last seasonal employee is finishing on Friday. The six seasonal staff did a great job and have headed back to school.

Mowing – Rain, warm days, and cool nights cause the growth of grass to take off and crews have been keeping up on mowing.

RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams

Seasonal Staff – Recreation Superintendent Williams reported that camps wrapped up, and recreation was lucky to have great youth instructors making the summer programming special for the kids. This year had six returning staff and two new. The hope is to have them all back next year. They left for the season last Friday.

Movie in the Park – On Friday, *Minions: The Rise of Gru* will start at dusk; around 8:30 PM and ice cream treats will be available for purchase.

Commissioner Giannini reported that he saw comments on Facebook from attendees of the last Movie in the Park that experienced loud people, kids running amuck, and not being able to hear the movie.

Mrs. Williams replied that the speaker system is loud and there were some kids hanging out near the shelter area. Oakdale Police came through and will be requested about coming through again.

Fall Newsletter – In mid-September the newsletter will release with programming for the months of October through January.

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Farmers Market – It is peak season. Mr. Eggrill is a new food truck and Market Coordinator Nathan Timmons is looking to add more new food trucks in the coming weeks.

Summer Concert Series – The series winds down this month with two remaining concerts. The Smooth Sensation Band will perform tomorrow night, a rescheduled date from a prior rain-out. The Revolution 5 Beatles Tribute Band will wrap up the season on August 23.

Pop Up Splash Pad – The first ever pop-up splash pad was a great success with 200 to 300 kids attending from 1 to 3 PM last Friday. Oakdale Fire brought the water and fire trucks, and summer staff brought water balloons and games for kids. A couple dates may be added when the event returns next year.

Amped Up Entertainment – The series will wrap up Thursday with a performance by Brian Richards Family Magic Show at 10 AM. Look in the fall newsletter for the possibility of adding a few new amphitheater programs for fall, maybe over MEA break or on a weekend.

Touch a Truck – Trucks and vehicles are being finalized for the event on Tuesday, September 12, from 5 to 7 PM. The Maplewood Lions Club will be doing the concessions and participants will receive free ice cream.

Family Fun Flatables – Walton Park will have inflatables on Saturday, September 16 from 11 AM to 4 PM. Music will be provided by Kidsdance Family DJ. There will also be concessions.

Yoga – New instructor, Jen Vale, the former owner of YogaFresh in Woodbury will be bringing new yoga classes to the Discovery Center on Tuesday and Friday mornings, along with Thursday nights. The last Discovery Center yoga instructor has retired.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Wellness 50+ – Commissioner Cunningham shared that on Halloween Day there will be a “Thriller” theme line dancing event at the Discovery Center from 1 to 2:30 PM.

Park Maintenance – Vice Chair Giacoletto complimented Parks Superintendent Koesling and his crew on the park maintenance after visiting Oakdale’s parks.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Andy Morcomb

Budget Season – Councilmember Morcomb highlighted the importance of park improvements to Council. Willowbrooke Commons Park will be having equipment ordered and there are other parks like Tilsen in the CIP plan. It takes six months or more to receive equipment, and there are discounts to order in volume. There will be a lot of park projects next year, with equipment upgrades following the CIP. The walking paths surrounding the Commons Park are scheduled to be completed this fall.

Acorn Awards – Council is seeking suggestions for new properties to recognize and give awards to for landscaping achievement.

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Ice Cream Truck Ordinance – City Council passed an ordinance to allow ice cream truck businesses in the city again. MikMart, who attends Oakdale Recreation events, is the first vendor to pull a permit, and may send trucks around with ice cream beginning in August.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED AUGUST 15, 2023, AT 7:20 PM.

5 AYES 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Linzmeyer