

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL AND PARKS COMMISSION
JOINT MEETING
MAPLE PLAIN CITY HALL
April 16, 2018
5:30 p.m.**

1. WELCOME

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Julie Maas-Kusske, Councilmembers Mike DeLuca and John Fay, Parks Commission Chair John Time, Park Commissioners Lyle Brandt, Jeff Brown, Dana Oas, and Mike Rippberger. Also Present: City Administrator Robert Schoen and Assistant to the City Administrator Nicole Kathman.

Absent: Councilmembers Dominic Broda and Caitlin Cahill

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Each member of City Council and Parks Commission introduced themselves and shared how many years they have served as follows:

- Parks Commissioner Oas, 20 years
- Parks Commissioner Brandt, 18 or 19 years
- Parks Commissioner Jeff Brown, 5 or 6 years
- Parks Commissioner Mike Rippberger, 5 years
- Parks Commission Chair John Timpe, 45 years
- Councilmember John Fay, 2 years on City Council, previously on Planning Commission
- Mayor Maas-Kusske, member of City Council since 2016, Mayor since 2017
- Councilmember DeLuca, 6 years

4. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Parks Commission Chair Timpe, seconded by Councilmember Fay, to adopt the agenda. Motion passed, 8-0.

5. ROLES AND GOALS OF THE PARK COMMISSION

City Administrator Schoen introduced the topic and discussion. Schoen stated the City Council has had an ongoing discussion regarding the role of the Parks Commission. Schoen shared that Parks Commission provides recommendations to the City Council and City Staff on developing, improving, and maintaining all City parks. Schoen noted that it is the role of the City Council to hear all recommendations and providing reasoning for approval or disapproval. Additionally, Schoen emphasized that City staff shares the recommendations of the Parks Commission and is non-biased.

Next, Schoen covered parks funding. Schoen stated that there is not a specific budget line item in which all Parks Commission recommendations and projects are funded from making recommendations limitless. Schoen added that City Council and City Staff will determine how to fund all approved recommendations. Schoen then opened up the discussion to the City Council and Parks Commission.

Parks Commission Chair Timpe stated that having a Parks Commission budget allows for project planning. Timpe also added that there is an incentive to waste funds when the budget does not carry over from year to year.

Park Commissioner Oas stated that regular maintenance expenses take up a large portion of funds and that the Parks Commission wants to save funds in order to purchase ballfield lights.

Parks Commissioner Rippberger stated that having ballfield lights would make the City of Maple Plain qualified to baseball tournaments. Rippberger shared that the City of Dassel earned a net profit of approximately \$60,000 when they hosted a state tournament.

Councilmember DeLuca asked the Parks Commission for their vision for the parks as a whole. Parks Commission Chair Timpe shared some of the ideas of the Parks Commission for projects including bringing back volleyball courts to Northside Park and adding beanbag toss. Additionally, Timpe stated that Rainbow is envisioned as a family park and Bryantwood Park is seen as a neighborhood park that will not be expanded, but rather current equipment maintained and upgraded.

The City Council updated Parks Commission on the progress with the redevelopment of Northside Park. Councilmember DeLuca stated that the size of the Veterans Memorial will be scaled back and that City Staff is currently working on developing a proposal for project phases.

Mayor Maas-Kusske stated that the City needs a master plan that is long-term for all of the parks. Mayor Maas-Kusske also stated that the City Council would like the vision for the parks to come from the Parks Commission. Councilmember Fay added that the plan needs to be a continually updated document and that it needs to be more detailed than line items and include a benefit analysis. Councilmember DeLuca stated that a maintenance plan is also needed.

Park Commissioners shared that the Parks Commission has made plans in the past and establishes priorities every year.

Park Commissioners expressed that their needs to be more communication and interaction between the City Council and the Parks Commission. The City Council and Parks Commission agreed to hold a joint meeting annually.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember DeLuca, seconded by Parks Commissioner Jeff Brown, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed, 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.