

Chairperson
Judy Lissick

Vice-Chairperson
Brooke Thomson

Park, Recreation & Trails Commission
Laura Eck - absent
Alexa Farah
Kari Hauck
William Johnson
Erinn Robovsky

Alternate #1, Mark Otto
Alternate #2, Amanda McFarlane

Katherine Doll Kanne, Council Liaison
Kaylin Clement, Staff Liaison

The City of Vadnais Heights
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Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
Phone: 651.204.6000

**MEETING OF THE
PARK, RECREATION & TRAILS COMMISSION
Monday, May 15, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
VADNAIS HEIGHTS CITY HALL**

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Roll Call

6:01 pm called to order, Commissioner Eck not present

2. Approve the Agenda

Motion to approve by Thomson, seconded Hauck, all in favor

3. Approve the Minutes – April 17, 2023

Motion to approve made by Johnson, seconded by Farah, all in favor

4. Open to the Public

5. Gaga Ball Court/Light Recommendation Finalization – Asst. City Administrator, Kaylin Clement
Asst. City Administrator Clement presented staff recommendations for some of the top Commissioner inventory recommendations, including a light on the sledding hill at Kohler Meadows, gaga ball pit costs/potential locations, and benches at the Bridgewood pickleball courts.

LIGHT

Commissioner Otto inquired about the power connection to the proposed new light at Kohler Meadows, which Asst. City Administrator confirmed following the meeting, was going to be run from County Rd. F. The group discussed adding a switch or some other option to the parking lot area to illuminate people coming and going from the lit sledding hill.

Johnson wanted to note that the light would need to be set so that it could not be turned on after a certain time (10:00 pm) even if the button was pressed, as well as deactivated in the summer months when it is light longer into the evenings, as to disturb the neighboring homes as little as possible.

GAGA BALL PIT

Otto shared his children's thoughts on gaga ball, noting it's a dying trend. The group asked Asst. City Administrator Clement to gather feedback from other recreation departments in the area to see whether or not (if they have gaga ball pits in their public facilities) they are still popular/worth the investment.

If determined that the gaga ball pits are something other communities see as an asset in their parks, the Commission agreed to try one pit at Berwood Park, option A (from the map provided in the packet). Commissioner Lissick noted the other site locations for potential pits (Bridgewood and Wolters) would hopefully garner some other potential uses/wants from the community when/if a Parks Master Plan process begins. Commissioner McFarlane added the ADA accessible doors were a good option, and the mats vs. other surfaces will accommodate those with mobility challenges.

Robovsky noted people have requested volleyball at Berwood for some time. Asst. City Administrator Clement was asked to look into the volleyball discussion from a few years ago to refresh the group as to why that option was not recommended by staff when previously brought up.

BENCHES

Otto said aluminum benches are cheaper, and was concerned with the longevity of the proposed recycled composite benches recommended. Chairperson Lissick suggested leaving it up to staff, after it was explained that the composite benches will be friendlier to the court surface, and could be secured to the fencing via cable rather than anchoring them to the court itself. Hauck said the benches were a good idea, it's nice to have a place to put your things, and the composite benches would be less hot in the summer months.

Discussion on other potential improvements, such as a covered picnic table, mulched paths, benches along the trail to Centerville, and signage, was had, which will be discussed more in depth at the next (on-site) Commission meeting at Bridgewood Park on Monday, June 12.

Motion to move forward with light, benches in pickleball court, and one gaga ball Berwood site A if we have favorable feedback from other communities was made by Thomson, seconded by Farah, all in favor.

6. Select Next Meeting(s) On Site Locations

Bridgewood Park on site location – June 12, 2023 in lieu of regular third Monday of each month in observance of Juneteenth

7. Updates

- Adjourn at 7:15 pm

Motion to adjourn made by Thomson, seconded by Farah, all in favor.