



NORTH BRANCH

—Minnesota—

**PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE
COMMISSION
REGULAR AGENDA
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024 @ 6:00 PM
CITY HALL, 6408 ELM STREET, NORTH
BRANCH, MN 55056**

Charles Klopp
Chair

Bob Bernier
Commissioner

Farfum Ladroma
Commissioner

Lynn Wilson
Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF CHISAGO AND IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 6, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. REPORTS

- a. Parks, Trails and Open Space Capital Improvement Plan 2025-2034

ACTION

The Commission discussed the Parks, Trails and Open Space 10 year CIP.

Klopp inquired if the Council was considering a new police station and city hall.

Sondrol noted that the Council authorized a facility assessment that is currently in the process of conducting the assessment through the review of existing and future facilities and should be completed in mid-July 2024.

Klopp felt that if the City is considering alternatives to the Williams Park site, the expansion of building the fire station up and out should be considered to include other facilities.

Sondrol noted the one item added included lighting of the pickleball courts at Northwood. He added that the 2025 projects included the Williams park site, Wildridge Park, Harder and Roger Johnson Parking lot maintenance, Splash Pad, Central and Northwood Basketball Court resurfacing, CSAH 30 east side trail and crossing and the Flink Ave Trail from 392 to County Market, Malmquist Property acquisition and park improvement funding.. He noted that an appraisal and possible survey would need to be completed for this.

Ladroma inquired if it was calendar of fiscal year. Sondrol noted calendar.

The commission discussed that the Williams Park site would require bonding and that the amenities at the site need to be fully determined.

Klopp noted that he has heard a lot of community input for a combined fire and police station and that could impact the Williams Park development. Klopp inquired to the ownership of the land. Sondrol noted that the County owns the land where the library is located and that the city owns the remaining land. He noted that park dedication funds were used to purchase 10 acres of the Williams park land. He added that utilities do extend through the property from the west to east side of the property.

Klopp inquired who would be responsible for the removal of the house on the Williams Property. Sondrol noted that the city as a whole and would not anticipate park funds utilized for this. Wilson inquired as to how many acres of the site for park development. Sondrol noted that the master plan developed for the site showed a community center and indoor ice arena. He noted that park funds paid for 10 acres but there is not a defined boundary and park space occupied more than that on the master plan. The city council would have ultimate authority on approval of the site development.

The commission discussed the Williams Park site ownership and development. Sondrol noted that city council approved the existing master plan and the 10 acres refers to acreage purchased with park dedication funds. He noted that a minimum of 10 acres would need to be developed by state statute or if the land were to be used for something different, land of equal value would need to be obtained with those funds.

Wilson inquired what amenities exist today that do not need to be duplicated. The commission discussed an indoor ice arena. Klopp noted that a site in Stacy has been identified for an indoor arena and that an indoor arena may not be needed in North Branch.

Klopp felt that that maintenance related items are necessary for the 2025 CIP and the Flink Ave Trail has a grant that should be included. The commission discussed the development of Williams Park as a priority with a splash pad.

Wilson felt that the commission needs to identify what they want in a splash pad. She inquired about smaller splash pads at multiple locations and to have a larger one with the development of the Williams Park site. Ladroma noted that there is a difference between a spray pad and splash pad. He felt that there could be an art component to a spray pad and felt that a restroom is where the costs get significantly higher. The commission discussed locations where splash pads could be located logically. Ladroma felt that Central Park is the most centrally located park and highest used. Sondrol noted that Central, Wildridge, Williams and Meadows North Park are the parks that have existing municipal utilities available. He noted that Northwood, Harder and Roger Johnson all have private wells.

Klopp inquired if it would be possible to have a mobile splash pad that could be moved from park to park. Sondrol noted that is how the existing spray features were acquired and that those were brought from park to park. He added that water supply was the biggest issue and that could be explored in the future.

Wilson inquired if the features are available for rental. Sondrol noted that this could be further explored and added that the city discussed this previously and did not want to compete with the local rental companies. Wilson felt that the splash pad components are items that are not available currently.

Ladroma felt that the city should focus on one large splash pad. Wilson felt that multiple smaller spray pads throughout the park system and to have the larger one combined with the community center and

pool area. Klopp felt that the big unknown is what the city council wants to do with the Williams Park site.

Sondrol noted that splash pads have the ability to expand. He added that each site would determine overall cost noting, Wildridge does not have existing parking as an example and noted that the spray pads can operated on timers and be used as art and lit in non open times.

Motion by Ladroma to adjourn. Seconded by Wilson. Meeting adjourned.

5. ADJOURNMENT