



**Inver Grove Heights  
Park and Recreation Advisory Commission  
City Council Chambers  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
Wednesday, July 14, 2021  
7:00pm**

***Televised on Town Square TV***

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PRESENTATIONS –
  - i. Introduction of Recreation Intern, Dan Close
  - ii. Summer Program Update- Chelsea Swiggum, Recreation Coordinator
4. ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - A. You can find information regarding the City of Inver Grove Heights by visiting our web site at [www.ighmn.gov](http://www.ighmn.gov)
  - B. Find us on Facebook at Inver Grove Heights Parks & Recreation
  - C. Follow us on Twitter at @IGHParks
  - D. Follow us on Instagram: @ighparksrec
  - E. Next Meeting; August 11, Regular Meeting 7:00pm
5. CONSENT AGENDA – All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and have been made available to the Commission at least two days prior to the meeting; the items will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Commission member or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from this Agenda and considered in normal sequence.
  - A. Approval of Agenda
  - B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2021
6. PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items that are not on the Agenda. Please raise your hand to be recognized. Please state your name and address for the record. This section is for the express purpose of addressing concerns of City services and operations. It shall not be used to clarify individual's views for political purposes. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person.
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Items that are brought back to the Commission for action from a previous meeting.
8. REGULAR AGENDA - Items requiring action that are new to the Commission.
  - A. Recommendation to City Council to select park name for new Northwest Park #1.
    - i. Vista Pines Park
    - ii. Red Pines Park
    - iii. Pine View Park

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS - Items that need to be discussed without any actions.
    - A. Comprehensive Plan - Community Engagement Process Update
    - B. Sub Committee Assignment Review
    - C. Discussion regarding proposed meeting with City Council in the fall
    - D. Northwest Area Neighborhood Park #1 Update
      - i. Timeline
      - ii. Coordination of Construction
    - E. South Valley Park Update
    - F. Heritage Village Park – Bonding Update
    - G. Department Happenings
  10. COMMISSION COMMENTS – A chance for Commissioners to ask questions or make comments.
    - A. Commission Comments
    - B. Input from Commissioners on the Next Agenda
  11. ADJOURN
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*Since we do not have time to discuss every point presented, it may seem that decisions are preconceived. However, background information is provided to the Commission on each agenda item in advance from Staff; decisions are based on this information and past experiences. In addition, some items may have been discussed preliminarily at Work Sessions. If you are aware of information that has not been discussed, please raise your hand to be recognized. Comments that are pertinent are appreciated.*

*This document is available upon a 3-business day request in alternate formats such as Braille, large print, audio table, etc. Please contact Bob Bierscheid at 651-450-2587 or TDD/TTY 651-450-2501*

**THIS IS A PUBLIC MEETING**

**THIS MEETING IS TELEVISED ON TOWNSQUARE TELEVISION**

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**MINUTES ARE REVIEWED/APPROVED  
BY THE COMMISSION AT THE FOLLOWING MEETING**

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**City of Inver Grove Heights Minutes of the Proceedings  
Of the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission  
8150 Barbara Avenue  
Wednesday, June 9, 2021: 7:00 p.m.**

**Televised on Town Square Television**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Steve Cook called the June 9, 2021 Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

**Present via Zoom/Phone:** Chair Steve Cook; Vice Chair Niki Barker; Commissioner's: Sandra Christensen, Elaine Prickel, Derek Schwanz, Greg Stone, and Curt Ellingboe.

Recreation Superintendent Julie Dorshak, Parks Superintendent Brian Swoboda, and Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid.

**Absent:** Commissioners: Willie Krech and Kari Miller.

**3. PRESENTATIONS:**

**i. Introduction and Induction of New Commissioner**

Chair Cook introduced new Commissioner Curt Ellingboe.

Commissioner Curt Ellingboe introduced himself stating he has been a resident in Inver Grove Heights for the last six years. He moved here from Eagan, but had lived here for a couple of years growing up. After College he was in the Navy for five years. He was encouraged to participate at the Commission level by his friend Kevin Sethre. Knowing Kevin was on the Parks and Recreation Commission was a big part of his choice in which Commission he would participate in.

**ii. Congratulations to Reappointed Commissioners**

Chair Cook stated two Commissioners have been reappointed: Commissioner Barker and himself.

Chair Cook stated Recreation Superintendent Julie Dorshak would be giving the new and reappointed Commissioner's an Oath that all would read together.

Recreation Superintendent Dorshak stated the Commissioner's should be taking an "Oath of Office" when appointments begin as new Commissioner's. She provided copies of their Induction. The following three Commissioners were Inducted:

Commissioner Steve Cook

Commissioner Niki Barker

Commissioner Curt Ellingboe

After the Oath, each Commissioner signed the document along with Recreation Superintendent Julie Dorshak and Parks Superintendent Brian Swoboda as the Witness.

Chair Cook stated a term is for three years. For those in the Community watching, every year 1/3 of the Commission is up for reappointment or new Commissioners are appointed. This usually takes place in May with notice given prior.

**iii. Recognition of Outgoing Commissioner Sethre**

Chair Cook recognized outgoing Commissioner Kevin Sethre, who has been a part of the Commission since 2015. He presented a plaque to Kevin in recognition of his service. The plaque says: “Thank you for your dedication, service, and commitment, for the past six years to the City of Inver Grove Heights, given this ninth day of June, 2021 from the City of Inver Grove Heights”.

Kevin Sethre complimented Recording Clerk Sheri on the excellent job she does with the minutes. He stated it has been an interesting and informative six years. He definitely recommends that anyone interested in witnessing city processes seek a future City Commission opportunity. He was amazed at how many people watch these proceedings, either the night of, or at a later time. He stated the obstacles, project, proposals, and initiatives present in 2015 when he was appointed, remain with different titles and/or descriptions. The challenge will always be to ensure the interest of citizens and tax payers. Sometimes that means tough questions are presented. He said communication with the City Council to seek their input and expectations is crucial.

Speaking of citizen involvement, unrelated to the Commission, he wanted to plug other citizen available activity and encouraged people to engage with City Public Service Departments such as Law Enforcement and the Fire Department. In 2018 he participated in the Police Citizen’s Academy. This was a combined effort by the Inver Grove Heights and South St. Paul Police Departments. He highly recommends doing so. If the Fire Department offers a similar program he would sign up.

He stated Julie Dorshak and Brian Swoboda have done yeoman’s work in keeping the operation going. That is very much appreciated. He was out at the rinks this winter with his grandkids and they are participating in programs at the Grove. Everything seems to be going okay there. He commented he called there one day requesting information and the next day he received a call back. It’s encouraging to have dedicated employees. He commented he is not going away, but would disappear for a while, it was a good run, maybe he will be back sometime.

#### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. You can find information regarding the City of Inver Grove Heights by visiting our Website at: [www.ighmn.gov](http://www.ighmn.gov)**
- B. Find us on Facebook at Inver Grove Heights Parks & Recreation**
- C. Follow us on Twitter at @IGHParks**
- D. Follow us on Instagram: @ighparksrec**
- E. Next Meeting: July 14, 2021. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.**
- F. Introduce New Interim Parks and Recreation Director**

Chair Cook introduced new Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid, they are grateful to have him on board as Interim.

Bob Bierscheid stated he is the “retired” Parks and Recreation Director from the City of St. Paul where he served for seven years. Previous to that he was in the City of Roseville where he lives, and was the Director of Parks and Recreation there for 17 years and the Assistant Director for 5 years, for a total of 22 years. Previous to that he was the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Education for the City of Marshall, Minnesota. He is the proud Grandfather to six Grandkids. Even though he is retired, this is his 11<sup>th</sup> year of retirement. He remains involved because he believes so strongly. What the Commission is doing isn’t a nice thing at all, it’s an essential thing. Parks and Recreation for the health and welfare of every community is essential. People getting out and getting active, moving both physically, emotionally, socially interacting is crucial. He said what the volunteer-based Commission and Parks and Recreation Staff is doing is essential. He stated he is really thankful to be here. His last comment was for the Commission to know he is a “Hawkeye”

Chair Cook stated the Commission is glad he is here because they really need to have him involved in helping them and the city until a new Director is hired.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**A. Approval of Agenda**

**B. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2021**

**Motion by Commissioner Schwanz second by Commissioner Prickel to approve the Consent Agenda.**

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0      Motion carried.**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chair Cook stated Public Comment is where citizens can come and give input. It's an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items not on the Agenda. People are limited to three minutes unless there are not many in attendance to speak.

There were no public comments.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**8. REGULAR AGENDA:**

**A. Election of Officers**

Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid stated they would begin with the Election of Chair of the Commission. He asked for nominations for that position.

There was a nomination for Commissioner Steve Cook.

Interim Director Bierscheid asked for all in favor of electing Steve Cook to the position of Chair say aye.

**The entire Commission (7) said aye.**

Interim Director Bierscheid congratulated Commissioner Cook on the position of Chair.

Chair Cook appreciated the support of everyone on the Commission. This is a really good group of Commissioners. He encouraged the Commissioners to share things they would like to say, do differently, or better. He is open to hearing them.

Chair Cook opened nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

**Motion by Commissioner Schwanz second by Commissioner Stone to nominate Commissioner Niki Barker for the position of Vice Chair.**

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0      Motion carried.**

Vice Chair Niki Barker thanked the Commission for the nomination. She has really enjoyed the position and felt that Chair Cook has been doing a great job. She said it has been a pleasure working with him.

Commissioner Ellingboe pointed out the incorrect date for the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting. It should be listed as July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## **9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:**

### **A. Department Happenings**

Parks Superintendent Brian Swoboda updated the Commission on Park Maintenance:

- Spring is a busy time of the year. They have gone from doing a lot of mowing, to a lot of watering due to the heat and drought.
- Vandalism has been taking place. This takes Staff time.
- Heritage Village Dog Park:
  - The Friends of the Dog Park have raised money to build two shelters. One in the small dog park and one in the large dog park. Volunteers have started the process along with help from the Parks Department.
    - The structures and poles are in and wrapped.
    - Friends of the Dog Park are painting the posts and the ribbon.
    - Another group of Friends of the Dog Park are building the rafters.
    - In the near future the rafters would be installed, the roof will be put on, and electrical will be run to each.
    - Concrete work will be done under those.
    - Picnic tables will be placed.

He stated they have heard good things from the users. They are very excited because they are finally going to get some shade as the trees there are pretty small.

- The Grove parking lot project wrapped up. It turned out well.
  - Additional ADA, Veteran, and Expecting Mothers parking stalls were added.
  - With the heat, the sod is taking a beating. They are doing the best they can to keep it alive. Sprinklers run for 1.5 hours every night. Crews water by hand during the day.
- Community Study Survey:
  - Since the survey was done, they have heard from multiple people in the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood that there are suspicious things/activities going on in the evening at the park.
    - He has worked with several of the neighbors, the Public Works Superintendent, and Xcel Energy to get additional lighting near the entrance to 84<sup>th</sup> Street.
    - The light pole went in this week. It's close to being lit up during the night.
- Tree Trust started this week:
  - They have started on the set of steps that lead down to the lake at Seidl's Lake.
  - Last year due to COVID, their crews were very small, the project was unable to be completed.
  - They are optimistic they will finish that project up this year.
- Crews have been busy dragging ball fields, lining soccer fields, fixing irrigation systems, prepping for picnics, and cleaning shelters. They are keeping up with daily maintenance.
- Two baseball tournaments have taken place at Rich Valley complex. These went well.
  - They ran from Friday evening through Sunday evening.
  - There will be a softball tournament next weekend.
- Monthly playground inspections are done.
  - Finding a few things that need to be replaced. Mostly parts on playgrounds.
  - This is done daily.
  - Mowers pick up glass and trash.
  - There is a software program that allows them to go through the parks thoroughly.

Vice Chair Barker commented that last month it was stated there would be outdoor audits of playgrounds. She asked if those have happened yet. She asked if they have had time to compare those with what the city looks at on a weekly basis. Superintendent Swoboda responded they have started the process but have not received the results back yet. Staff is very interested in the results. They have found a few things they are debating if bad enough to replace or would last with a "band aid". He has spoken with the company that did the audit and determined they would do replacement.

Recreation Superintendent Julie Dorshak updated the Commission on the following:

## Summer Program Update:

- Majority of summer programming will begin on Monday.
- Orientation took place on Sunday night for approximately 80 seasonal Staff.
  - New people are hired. Also bring in current long-standing employees for Staff training and meet and greets.
- KIDS Rock starts on Monday.
  - 54 kids are signed up in the program.
  - This is 50% of what their normal numbers would be.
  - Typically have 80 kids attend daily in a typical year.
  - Currently have between 30-40 kids coming daily. Believe they will continue to receive additional registrations as time goes on.
  - There are still openings available.
- Swimming Lessons are going strong.
  - Receiving phone calls asking why there are no further openings. Tell people they will have to wait for the next session.
  - Lessons take place all summer long.
  - Still hiring Life Guards.
  - There is a Life Guard Training Course starting next week.
  - If anyone is looking for a summer job they are hiring.
  - Anyone is welcome to participate in the Life Guard Training Course.
- Numerous Summer Camps:
  - There are still opportunities to register for sports camps.
  - Some camps include: Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, and Lacrosse. There are arts classes and Ukulele Lessons and Vocal Lessons.
- Fitness Classes are back to full capacity.
  - Access to the gym will be restored in July.
  - July 1<sup>st</sup> the gym will be opened to have fitness classes.
  - National Guard COVID Testing ended June 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - There are repairs and work to do.
  - The National Guard have some trainings that will take place. Due to this they will not open the gym to the public until July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Bee Elite Gymnastics Studio lease is officially over as of tomorrow. They have been busy working to clear the space.
  - The space will become known as the Bright Side Studio.
    - Working on doing minor improvements to be presentable to the public and the KIDS Rock program along with any other programs that would be a good use to the space.
    - Have heard conversations from Hockey Club and Skating Club users that they may use it as dry land training over the summer and into the fall. Excited to see what opportunities they can come up with for the public with this.
    - Looking to see if they can bring back the Consultant to do a cost estimate for the space for renovations in moving forward into the next year. This would provide an idea of what the space could look like into the future.
- Membership Numbers as of June 1st:
  - Household Memberships are currently at 250. 55% of what the previous numbers were in 2019.
  - Single Memberships are at 112. 55% of the previous users.
  - Single numbers are slightly better at 65% or 187 single members.
  - Seniors 1,637. 91% of previous senior population.
    - 81% of them are Silver Sneakers. Free to those that participate in the Silver Sneakers program.
    - There is a per use fee that comes back to the Community Center for those participants.

Chair Cook asked if there were thoughts about how they may attract people back. Superintendent Dorshak responded during the Summer Membership Special people can enroll for free. There is no timeframe requirement. People can join and cancel at any time. She commented they are always looking for ideas.

Recreation Superintendent Dorshak stated they are doing the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

- As a part of that they would be doing a Recreation Program Assessment along with Community Engagement throughout the summer.
  - Staff will be out and about during different events.
  - Pop in Parks. If you see Staff out, stop by. They will be giving out popcorn, asking people to fill out surveys, and share ideas of favorite programs and facilities in the city. She asked that people help with what may be missing and how to plan for the future as the city grows.
  - People can also stop in at the Community Center and speak with Staff there.
- Food Truck Events.
  - Two Food Truck Events will be held this summer.
- The Farmers Market is held on Sunday's from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

She stated as Park and Recreation Professionals, they like to gather people together. In her past experiences, alcohol was offered in the parks if there was a Vendor that would sell beer and wine. The City of Inver Grove Heights does not offer this and are not able to have a Vendor sell. The Ordinance does not allow it. They posed the question to the City Clerk, Interim City Administrator, and the City Council about whether offering alcohol might be an interest they may want to pursue, especially for special events. As the city grows and finishes Heritage Village Park for example, if holding a special event there such as a band or outdoor movie, if it would be something the city would be interested in. She said when she worked for the City of Burnsville, they had a Classic Movie Night in the park and had a Vendor there that took care of beer, wine, and coffee. At that time, they hired the Vendor as the Caterer for the event. The vendor paid the fee to vend in the park and checked the ages of those purchasing. It was a popular event and are looking to see whether that is an option or interest the city may want to do.

Chair Cook thanked Superintendents Dorshak and Swoboda for all the work they have done, especially during COVID. With keeping things going, adjusting to the restrictions and mandates, and keeping things going for residents to continue to use and participate in a safe way. Now that they are moving out of restrictions, both Superintendents are stepping up. He appreciated both for what they have done. Vice Chair Barker agreed. She commented the Superintendents made it look effortless and she was sure it wasn't. With the departure of Eric Carlson, they have helped the Commission through the process and its appreciated.

Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bierscheid stated the role as Interim is very limited. It is limited to making sure projects go ahead. The Superintendents make sure the department operates at its fullest extent. He has been here a little over a week and is very impressed with what they have done.

Vice Chair Barker heard that the YMCA will be helping with the Comprehensive Plan and asked where things stood. Superintendent Dorshak responded she believed it was still on the table. She has not had any direct conversations with the YMCA. The former Interim Parks and Recreation Director Jon Oyanagi had been the primary person working with them, as well as Interim City Administrator Heather Rand. She believed that was still something they would like to pursue. As she gets the draft materials pulled together, she would share those with the Interim City Administrator and reach out to the YMCA and see how they envision participating and collaborating. Interim Director Bierscheid responded one of the discussions he has had on the topic is to look at the concept of partnership in general. The YMCA could be one, but there may be others within the community.

Commissioner Schwanz asked if Comprehensive Park Plan money was allocated for HKGi. Interim Director Bierscheid responded HKGi is helping lead the way. HKGi does the outline and makes sure the right questions are asked. The value of the plan is receiving input from the Commission and community to make sure that is what the community needs to move forward.

Vice Chair Barker stated the Comprehensive Plan Sub Committee met prior to tonight's Commission meeting. She commented that Recreation Superintendent Dorshak said once the outline is done, all Commissioners are needed to help get this out and get people involved.

### **B. Northwest Area Neighborhood Park #1 Concepts**

Parks Superintendent Brian Swoboda discussed the preferred design concept for Northwest Area Park #1. There was a neighborhood meeting via Zoom a few weeks ago where HKGi reviewed what the final concept looks like and what it includes such as:

- Full Court Basketball Court
- Nature Based Playground
  - Play area for 2-5 year olds
  - Play area for 5-12 year olds
- Nature Adventure Play
  - Include stumps and sticks
- Bike Skills Course. South of the area
  - Will have a zig zag, banks, rollers, and different features to make it more fun
- Smaller Bike Skills Course. To the north. For smaller kids
  - Includes wood and dirt features
- Bituminous Trail
  - From the parking bump out, heading south, coming out the main entrance of the park
  - Will circle around back to the playground
  - Have an eventual crossing to get across to the neighborhood over by Target

Chair Cook asked if the pictures of the playground were examples. Superintendent Swoboda responded yes; this wasn't exactly how the pieces would look. HKGi reached out to different vendors to receive different ideas for nature-based playgrounds. Three concepts were received. All were pretty similar with slides and shade canopies. Some had more swings than others, some had ziplines. Staff is currently going through the process of determining which vendor has the best product, most play features, shade canopies. They would be going through a checklist to see the quality and what the neighborhood requested.

He stated he met with a vendor on site today to discuss the skills course and how they would cut through the trees, how many trees to remove, how wide they would need it, and if they could start on that prior to the rest of the project. HKGi received the geotechnical information to see what they would be doing with stormwater. They are close to the concept's final details to be able to put it out for bids.

Interim Parks and Recreation Director Bierscheid stated with Northwest Park #1, the plan would be to take it before the City Council on July 12<sup>th</sup> and go out for bids in the first phase of the project. In order to do this, they would like the Commission's recommendation to move forward. If not, it would be pushed back. Some of the work can be done in the fall, but if it gets pushed too far it could be delayed. There is also a Grant they need to qualify for.

Superintendent Swoboda stated they found out today that the city would be receiving a DEED Grant for \$415,000 that can be applied towards Northwest Park #1. Previously it was thought they would need to use all Park Dedication money. DEED money needs to be spent by June 2022. It is critical to begin sooner rather than later.

Commissioner Schwanz asked if matching funds were required for the DEED Grant. Superintendent Swoboda responded no.

### **Motion by Commissioner Stone second by Vice Chair Barker to approve the revised concept for Northwest Area Neighborhood Park #1.**

Commissioner Ellingboe asked what guidance they have received from the City Council on the extra amenities included in a new park besides a playground and open space. Superintendent Swoboda responded there were several neighborhood meetings. They reached out to three different neighborhoods to determine what they would be looking for. Staff provided them with issues the property has, what they have to work with, the pipeline, and other utilities in the area. Staff listened to what was said and came up with the best concept. There were items the neighborhood wanted but were not possible to put there such as a possible pickleball court, tennis court, or splash pad. Looking ahead, Northwest Area Parks #2 and #3 are within 1-1.5 miles of each other for people to be able to reach an amenity they are looking for.

Commissioner Ellingboe asked if five or six additional amenities was considered the standard or a different level. Interim Director Bierscheid responded that was why they are redoing the Comprehensive Plan, that is where this would be addressed. The plan begins with an inventory of what is out there and looks to fill in the needs expressed or trends taking place throughout Minnesota. He stated one thing that is special about Inver Grove Heights is the topography. Some areas won't allow for certain amenities and in some cases the costs of that amenity would be out of place.

Superintendent Dorshak stated in this instance, this particular area has been without a park for a very long time. This is one out of four to six additional potential parks in the northwest area. They may be putting more features into this particular one because it's the newest one and a catalyst to get things going in the area. They want to be able to provide as many features as they could within the funding structure available. This is in line with what would be expected in a neighborhood park.

Superintendent Swoboda stated they compare the city to surrounding cities according to population and demographics. For example: A city our size should have a certain amount of hockey rinks, tennis courts, or baseball fields. The first thing people usually want in a park is a playground. Commissioner Ellingboe stated it seemed they would prioritize. Superintendent Dorshak said the type of park is important too. This is a neighborhood park not a community park. They wouldn't put a splash pad or skate park in this location because those are community features.

Commissioner Prickel commented the current plan says if there is a park within so many miles, that is the overriding factor. What's special about the northwest area is the geography. It doesn't have a park within walking distance to multiple communities. She asked what the park location radius is, she thought it was within ½ mile. Vice Chair Barker thought it was walking time. Interim Director Bierscheid responded both of those standards are in there. He didn't bring that information with him this evening, but needs to be re-evaluated again through this process.

Commissioner Ellingboe commented Parks Superintendent Swoboda referenced a document in terms of some of the standards on how amenities are distributed throughout the city. Interim Director Bierscheid responded there is a version of the Master Plan that is older which is why it needs to be redone. Chair Cook stated knowing what is current in terms of what the parks have would be helpful to have. Interim Director Bierscheid responded the issue is of timing, rather than wait to complete the plan, this area of the city is so underserved that is why it's important to move this forward. Waiting would result in losing Grant money plus the timing would push it out years.

Commissioner Ellingboe stated the necessity of the park at that location has been clear. It could almost be divided into two parts. The acquisition and basic layout. The final count of extra amenities would determine the overall cost. He commented it would be like multipliers as opposed to add-ons. He suggested possibly taking more time to determine that. Interim Director Bierscheid responded they would potentially lose the Grant money. Whatever is done in the park, something else would have to be used and would be pushed out extensively. Vice Chair Barker stated the plan is for three more parks in the area, if something wasn't addressed in the first park. People in the area have been asking for this for a very long time.

Interim Director Bierscheid stated parks are not static, they will evolve and change. Each amenity has a life span. Those will evolve, something in one park may go away, or not be replaced at all. Chair Cook said community input helped shape what was decided to be placed in the park. Adjustments were made based off community input. Space was another issue, what would fit, what would work.

Kevin Sethre stated the DEED Grant comes from the Department of Commerce. It has a shelf life. If recently approved, a lot are one year. The Park at the Community Center and the Skate Park are the nearest parks to the Argenta area.

Commissioner Schwanz asked what was included in the Motion. Chair Cook responded they were voting on the concept as described. The Park and Recreation Commission approves the concept and recommends to the City Council that they go ahead and approve. Interim Director Bierscheid responded they also go out for bids for the first part of the project. Commissioner Ellingboe asked if there was a step before final approval, or if this was it. Chair Cook responded this is the concept approval, then bids go out and those need to be approved.

Commissioner Schwanz asked what all the steps were in the process and where things currently stand. Chair Cook responded the City Council would put out bids. Commissioner Prickel said there were multiple proposals that had different features and attributes for what the park contained. The sub committee went through them and then brought back options to the full Commission. They went back to the community and tweaked it more. What they are currently looking at isn't the only option presented, they are trying to go forward. Commissioner Stone commented that was also his understanding and what he proposed moving forward with. Commissioner Prickel said expectations have been set with the residents in the area. Chair Cook stated there seems to be consensus with the residents that they liked how the concept evolved.

**Ayes: 6**

**Nays: 1 (Ellingboe) Motion carried.**

Chair Cook stated at the last meeting the Commission discussed name possibilities for Northwest Area Park #1. Feedback was received from one of the Native American groups who stated that Lakota would not be appropriate to use in the park name. Three names were going to be determined for residents to respond to and placed on the city website. Other names can be suggested if desired. Previous names were:

1. Lakota Pines
2. Lakota Park
3. Vista Pines

Chair Cook stated Vista Pines could still be a potential choice. Another option could be Hilltop Overlook. He asked for suggestions from the Commission.

Superintendent Dorshak believed the suggestion to not use the Lakota name came from the American Indian Affairs Organization. Staff was told of the need to share the rationale as to why the Lakota name would be used, why it would be an appropriate use of the name, and to look it up and come back with a rationale. When she looked up the name Lakota it appeared they mostly migrated in South and North Dakota. She did not see a huge reference for their placement here. She commented the Organization didn't seem very interested.

Commissioner Cook asked if there was an Indian Tribe in this area. Mr. Sethre responded there was. Commissioner Christensen suggested the name Argenta Pines. Chair Cook responded there was discussion about not having Argenta be a part of a park name, but wasn't sure of the reason. Commissioner Christensen stated she didn't like the name Vista due to the other neighborhood and because the people in the Argenta neighborhood have been waiting for a park for years.

Commissioner Christensen suggested Whispering Pines.

Vice Chair Barker suggested Pine View. Pine Ridge.

Chair Cook stated there was a woman on the phone who suggested putting two names together. He asked if anyone recalled the name she suggested.

Commissioner Schwanz thought the name included the word “red” because the pine trees in the area are Red Pines.

Red Pines Park was suggested.

Chair Cook listed the following recommendations:

1. Red Pines
2. Pine View
3. Vista Pines

**Motion by Commissioner Prickel second by Commissioner Schwanz to approve the following three names for Northwest Area Park #1:**

- 1. Red Pines**
- 2. Pine View**
- 3. Vista Pines**

**and to be open to other names as suggested by people within the Community.**

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0 Motion carried.**

### **C. South Valley Park Update**

Parks Superintendent Swoboda stated it has been a while since plans for South Valley Park’s renovation were discussed. Staff has been meeting with HKGi in recent weeks to discuss the building layout. He gave the following recap:

- Coming down the driveway into the parking lot. Replacing the parking lot and adding on 24 stalls. The goal is to have enough parking for up to 100 picnic users.
- Adding a bituminous ADA Accessible trail.
- Includes a courtyard performance seating area that could potentially be used for music festivals, small gatherings, and receptions.
- To the east would be a playground.
  - Nature themed.
  - Includes a 2-5 aged structure and a 5-12 aged structure.
  - A concrete walk would go around it.
- Keeping an area for pleasure skating.
- The sliding hill will remain.
- A berm would be left in a location that could slow down sleds and provide extra seating.
- At the backside of the plaza, there is talk of having outdoor fire pits.
- There is an area that would be known as a “main entrance” with landscaping and a set of steps to get up to the landing. There is an area that has ADA Accessibility all around the landing.

Commissioner Schwanz asked why the two trails were made of different substances. Superintendent Swoboda responded the blacktop trails are wider to support vehicles for maintenance and dropping off items at the shelter. The concrete sidewalk is narrower for foot and bike traffic.

Commissioner Ellingboe asked what the ages were of the existing shelter and bathroom building. He asked what the life expectancy is of buildings for parks. Superintendent Swoboda responded the shelter/building was built in 1980 with Grant money. The project came about because its life expectancy is at maturity, especially the parking lot. The playground is 28 years old and they are unable to get parts for it. The parking lot is in crumbles and needs to be added on. The current picnic shelter is too small, it can house 50 for a picnic. He stated the city has been receiving requests for larger areas that can hold an excess of 75 to 100 plus. The space isn’t big enough. The roof of the building leaks and the walls in the restroom shelter are crumbling. The septic

tanks are leaking. He stated it was determined to make it a package deal to renovate the whole park at once. Currently the playground sits behind the building, it's a terrible place and should be out front where everyone can see it. It made sense to redo everything and make it ADA Accessible. The original bathrooms had to have an additional stall added on to make it ADA.

Commissioner Ellingboe asked if 40 years was the expectation for other parks or specific to South Valley. In terms of ADA Compliance or due to playground location. Interim Director Bierscheid responded all those variables make a difference. Each park is different, each item within the park has a life span. You can't judge the entire park and say it should last as a whole. Part of the reason is the change or desire within the community. A typical playground, depending on the equipment, will have a lifespan of about 17-28 years. Commissioner Ellingboe asked about buildings. Interim Director Bierscheid responded it varies on how they were built. There is no one consistent stat to use. This building is hooked up to a septic tank that is in trouble. That is one factor. Chair Cook stated the new building would be going to city services, not septic. Interim Director Bierscheid responded when this is done, it is put into the asset management system. At that time, there is an expectation to say this location can expect however many years it would be there. Weather and other factors can cause it to deteriorate further.

Vice Chair Barker asked if there was a plan for shade in the playground area other than trees, for those not playing on the playground. Superintendent Swoboda responded the structures would have shade canopies on them. For those not on the playground, he could look into options.

Parks Superintendent Swoboda discussed the building layout:

- There were multiple different versions
- Discussions were had with the Sub Committee
- Area includes:
  - 2 Restrooms. One that can be entered from outside. The other to enter from inside.
  - There is a short hallway.
  - Mechanical Room. With exterior and interior access.
  - Kitchen:
    - Able to enter from the exterior and interior of the building.
    - Countertops, three sinks, possibly a microwave and refrigerator.
    - Movable island for preparing food or rolling down to the car to pick up items such as coolers and crockpots.
    - Cafeteria style type door that can slide up.
- Set of double doors.
- Along the counter top there will be a large window with the potential to have screens so they can be opened.
- Pocket doors to be able to open during the summer months.
- Two sets of pocket doors will look out at the performance area and playground.
- The back wall is where the long countertop would be with windows looking out at either a fire pit or skating rink.
- Drinking fountains are located outside and inside.

Vice Chair Barker asked if the bathrooms would be open all of the time or only when rented. Superintendent Dorshak responded as long as they can get electronic capacity for mobile opening and closing, they would be able to have it be open during the day. The same applies for the rest of the facility but not the kitchen.

Chair Cook asked if there would be one restroom or two for access from outside. Superintendent Dorshak responded one would be available when open. Superintendent Swoboda displayed a diagram of what the building would look like. Superintendent Dorshak stated the diagram shows all three sides open, but in order to program year-round, if the cost estimate comes in favorably to do it this way, that way it can be programmed in the winter time. Having all doors open like that they didn't believe the insulation would be as good. They

closed two sides so one would be open half way, and the other side closed completely with double doors leading out.

Commissioner Ellingboe asked what the schedule was for the project, when it would go to the Council, and final. Superintendent Swoboda responded the geotechnical work was just completed. That slowed details for design and specifications. It is currently being worked on now that they have the building layout determined. He stated they received a \$250,000 Outdoor Recreation Grant for this project. They are hoping to get everything approved mid to late August, begin demolition this fall, with hopes to put out for bids in January or February. Then Contractors come in. Interim Director Bierscheid stated there is another meeting with the Consultant on Friday.

## **10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

### **A. Commission Comments**

Vice Chair Barker stated it was nice to see everyone in person and she was glad everyone made it through and is healthy.

Commissioner Ellingboe thanked the Commission for inducting him onto the Commission. He looks forward to working with everyone.

Chair Cook stated there are Sub Committees that are still active. He will share that information with Commissioner Ellingboe and if any Commissioner would like to make a switch, let the Chair know.

Commissioner Christensen had no comment.

Commissioner Prickel welcome Commissioner Ellingboe to the Commission and said former Commissioner Kevin Sethre will be missed. Kevin Sethre responded he wasn't going anywhere.

Commissioner Stone welcomed Interim Director Bierscheid to the Commission and thanked him for coming on in the interim. He thanked Superintendents Dorshak and Swoboda for the tremendous job they are doing and keeping things moving during the interim.

Commissioner Schwanz welcomed Interim Director Bierscheid and Commission Ellingboe. He complimented Superintendents Dorshak and Swoboda on jobs well done. He said that Kevin Sethre will be missed.

### **B. Input from Commissioners on the Next Agenda**

Chair Cook, Vice Chair Barker, and Staff meet prior to the next months meeting to discuss the Agenda. Any information the Commissioners would like to include can be given to any of those that attend.

## **11. ADJOURN:**

**Motion by Vice Chair Barker seconded by Commissioner Christensen to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.**

**Ayes: 7**

**Nays: 0**

Minutes prepared by Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek.

**City of Inver Grove Heights**  
**2021 Park and Recreation Commission**  
**Subcommittee Assignments**

	HVP Master Plan	HVP Historical	South Valley	NW Area	Comp Park Plan
Ellingboe	X		X		X
Cook		X		X	
Barker	X				X
Schwanz	X			X	
Stone			X		X
Krech	X	X			
Christensen			X		X
Miller					
Prickel				X	X

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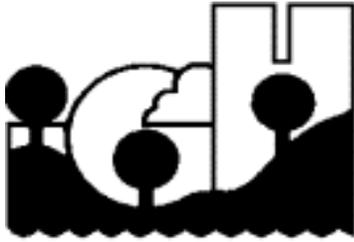
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## 2021 Roster Inver Grove Heights Parks & Recreation Commission

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