MEMBERS PRESENT: Rich Bluma, Bruce Cantor, George Foulkes, Elizabeth Griffin, Leah Hollingsworth and Pete May.

STAFF PRESENT: Mariah Albrecht, intern, Rick Beane, Parks Superintendent, Cindy Walsh, Director of Operations and Recreation and Stacy Voelker, Recording Secretary

1. Call to order

Commissioner Bluma called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Introduction

Introductions were traded between Leah Hollingsworth, new Commission member, Mariah Albrecht, staff intern, Commissioners and staff.

3. Presentation

None.

4. Approval of minutes

a. April 17, 2019

   It was moved by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Foulkes, to approve the minutes of April 17, 2019 following a few grammatical corrections. The motion passed 7–0.

5. Business

a. 2019 Capital Improvement Project Review

   Rick Beane, Parks Superintendent, recapped various 2019 projects and advised maintenance staff has been very busy mowing this year due to the weather. The skate park is continually utilized, and no complaints were received from the LED solar powered lights that were added last fall. The lights stay on until 10 p.m. then automatically shut off.
In response to requests for additional trail lighting, staff installed solar powered trail lights in Northside Park which works great! With solar powered lights, there is no need to have a power source underground.

The park playground in Cedar Manor, Sunshine and Willow Parks were the focus this year. In partnership with the school district, the playground equipment in Cedar Manor Park has been replaced. The old equipment is located at the bottom of the hill but unusable due to continual flooding. The new equipment is ADA accessible with switchbacks to the equipment. The contractor has finished the trail work. The playground equipment at Sunshine Park was replaced and a half-court basketball court with an adjustable hoop will be installed according to the neighborhood’s preference. In Willow Park, the playground equipment and half-court basketball court with an adjustable hoop and backstop were replaced. Staff will remove the old playground equipment later this fall or in the winter. The old playground equipment will be removed and donated to Kids Around the World to be relocated to other countries. Staff replaces three to four playgrounds per year; playgrounds are on a 15-18-year replacement schedule.

Staff has been working on certain areas of park trails. Paving work on the George Haun trail occurred to ensure it is in good condition during the rerouting of the regional trail. Trail work will also occur on the trails in Oak Hill Park after the splash pad closes for the season.

The replacement of the tennis courts in Carpenter Park was a large project in 2019. After staff removed the asphalt and such, the contractor began work. The courts are ADA accessible with new access, new fencing around the courts and improved drainage. The project was very successful!

Another exciting project for 2019 is the addition of pickleball courts in Wolfe Park. Five pickleball courts, a seating area and shade structure were added and opened two weeks ago. An active pickleball group assisted in the design and layout of the courts, which have been very successful. Commissioners are invited to the ribbon cutting to be held on Monday, August 26 at 5:30 p.m. with the city council.

The addition of fastpitch softball fields in Aquila Park were a success. The city and association have a good relationship, which excelled during this project.

Ms. Walsh advised Mr. Beane will return to a Commission meeting early next year to review the Capital Improvement projects approved for 2020. A lot goes into maintaining 52 parks! Annual projects have a great process as staff acquires input from neighborhoods, youth groups, etc., indicated Mr. Beane.
Commissioner Bluma inquired if there are a lot of issues with the rerouting of the regional trail. Mr. Beane advised there were a great deal of complaints initially. Will additional plowing need to be done by staff due to the reroute, Commissioner Bluma inquired? Staff will continue to plow the trails, including the reroute trails, as done in the past, Mr. Beane advised. A large portion of the reroutes are on county roads, which are maintained by Hennepin County. Ms. Walsh advised the Commission that staff that plow the trails and staff that plow the roads are dispersed at the same time following snow.

6. **Staff communication**

None.

7. **Member communication**

Commissioner Griffin inquired on the status of the project at Westwood Hills Nature Center. Commissioner Foulkes advised they poured concrete forms and walls. Ms. Walsh indicated the September meeting will be held at Westwood Hills Nature Center and include a tour of the project.

Commissioner Griffin asked what is happening to the property located at 40th and France which is being used as an unofficial dog park. Ms. Walsh advised one-third of the property is in St. Louis Park and two-thirds are in Edina. St. Louis Park and Edina work closely together to ensure the area is maintained.

8. **Project tours**

Commissioners and staff toured the new pickleball courts at Wolfe Park, the fastpitch softball fields at Aquila Park and the new playground at Sunshine Park.

9. **Future agenda items**

Next meeting: September 18, 2019; tour Westwood Hills Nature Center

10. **Adjournment**

*It was moved by Commissioner Foulkes, seconded by Commissioner May, to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. The motion passed 7–0.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Stacy M. Voelker*

Recording Secretary