

Birchwood Parks and Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 8/22/2017 at 7:00 City Hall

Update from Steve Shad re Dog Park Committee: This committee is gathering information through town hall meeting, and both an on line and paper survey. They expect to put forth a recommendation to council in October.

Decision requested and given re width of strip on Lake Ave that will be filled in with gravel. It will be no wider than it is today - approx 5 feet.

Update on Parks and Natural Resources Survey: The Survey is ready to go out and will be both on line and paper, inserted with the upcoming water bill. In addition, members of the committee stationed themselves in 4 of our Birchwood Parks to get feedback from residents. Feedback is summarized on separate attachment.

Inconsistencies in Dog Ordinance: No Action

Dog Committee Survey: This survey is also ready to go out and will be both on line and stuffed with the upcoming water bill

Guiding Principle Statement: Was reviewed and edits were given. Updated statement will be reviewed with the entire committee next month.

Mahtomedi Garden Club Grant of \$500.00

Houstoun will work with Abrahamson Nursery to have them develop a landscape plan that is within the budget, easy to maintain, attractive in all seasons and deer resistant and have them install it.

Budget for Park Development: Committee unclear as to the budget we operate under and what it covers. Houseman will ask for clarity from Tobin and share at next meeting

Volunteer request on Web site to help maintain parks: No Action

Encourage residents to help with park maintenance: No Action

Comprehensive Plan: No Action

Agenda for next meeting was discussed and this is what is planned:

- Review and approve Committee Guiding Principles
- Update from dog committee
- Deer Situation in Birchwood
- Budget Briefing
- Survey Feedback

Feedback on Birchwood Parks from Residents on 8/22

Blomquist:

Playground doesn't work for toddlers
Equipment gets too hot
Need swings for both abled and disabled kids
It is too private and feels dangerous, woods need thinning
Pickle ball court is desired
The park is hidden and people don't know it exists
Deer should be culled

Tighe Schmitz

Don't like the recent tree planting - think it will make the park too private
Need clarity and consistency on parking tickets in Birchwood - 9pm vs 2am
Maintenance of the park should be improved
Path should be maintained or let go
Need class 5 gravel
There needs to be someone managing the overall skating rink
More lighting needed
Trash bin but not a recycle bin
Picnic tables need to be repaired or replaced with low maintenance tables
Equipment should cater to kids of all ages - warped walls?
Trees for climbing

KBeach

Would like a "residents only" sign
Don't want dogs on the beach or not at all the beaches
Neighbors should be notified of any changes beforehand and be able to give feedback
No kayak rack

Nordling

Paths need to be reshipped
Mow right of ways for safer walking

Birch Beach

Some regulations not being adhered to - golf cart on beach as example
Rain garden not maintained , not pumped out- retaining wall removed. (Can Shifsky pump it out?)

In General

City needs to do more with tree trimming
Budget is too sparse
More upkeep necessary
People willing to have taxes increased to cover cost