



*A vibrant community where  
everyone thrives.*

## **Olmsted County Parks Commission**

Oxbow Park and Zollman Zoo

5731 County Road 105 NW

Byron, MN 55920

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 6:30 PM

**The Mission of Olmsted County Park Commission is to make recommendations for public County land based on preservation, quality, and a safe environment for proposed or established parks or recreational area in Olmsted County.**

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## **MINUTES**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

**Members Present:** Columbus, Davison, Gardner, Summerfield, Wegner, McLaren,

1. Cordell

**Members Absent:** None

**Attendees Present:** Wright, Ziegler, Hansen

Sharon Columbus called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### **2. FRIENDS BOARD REPORTS**

Chester Woods Park

Parks Commission Chair, Sharon Columbus gave a brief update on Friends of Chester Woods (FOCW) tasks.

a. The updates include:

- FOCW continues to work on invasive species throughout the park.
- The FOCW fall meeting will be held on October 26, 2024.

Oxbow Park

Director of Parks, Karlin Ziegler gave a brief update on the Friends of Oxbow (FOX) tasks:

- b.
- FOX is currently exploring new Zoo Dazzle ideas.
  - FOX is updating the bylaws and setting the capital budget for 2025.
  - New officers were appointed at the FOX meeting.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### 4. INTRODUCTIONS

N/A

### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Parks Commission June 4, 2024 Minutes

Davison moved; Wegner seconded Approve:

Motion: 7 to 0

**AYES:** Columbus, Davison, Gardner, Summerfield, Wegner,  
McLaren, Cordell

**NAYS:** None

**RECUSE:** None

**ABSENT:** None

### 6. NEW BUSINESS

2025 Budget – Capital Improvement Plans

Director of Parks, Karlin Ziegler discussed in the 2025 Capital Improvement plans on the below locations:

Projects coming up in 2025:

- a.
  - New ADA playground equipment at Oxbow and Chester Woods.
  - New caretaker's house at Oxbow Park.
  - New Bridges at Oxbow Park.
  - Lake Zumbro Park updates.

### 7. OLD BUSINESS

PC Guidelines and Values document approval

Parks Commission Chair, Sharon Columbus presented the final draft to the Parks Commission (PC). The PC reviewed the packet, made updates, and, was approved.

Davison moved; McLaren seconded Approve:

a. Motion: 7 to 0

<p><b>AYES:</b> Columbus, Davison, Gardner, Summerfield, Wegner, McLaren, Cordell <b>NAYS:</b> None <b>RECUSE:</b> None <b>ABSENT:</b> None</p>
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Friends Groups

Parks Commission Chair, Sharon Columbus discussed the Friends of Chester Woods and the Friends of Oxbow Park and the relationship they have with their designated Park. Parks Director, Karlin Ziegler informed the Parks Commission the

- b. Friends Groups for each park are very different in what support they provide. Oxbow is heavy on the fund-raising side and Chester Woods is more on the physical labor or presence and each group primarily provides support to the park to generate the needs and seems to work harmoniously with their respective entities.

Chester Woods Visitor Center

- c. Director of Parks, Karlin Ziegler discussed the 2025 plans for the Chester Woods Visitor Center.

Lake Zumbro Grant Request

- d. Director of Parks, Karlin Ziegler discussed the future plans at Lake Zumbro Park.

**8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT - KARLIN ZIEGLER**

- a. June Parks Report  
b. July Parks Report

Director of Parks Karlin Ziegler discussed the Parks Report for June and July 2024.

**9. COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

N/A

**10. ADJOURN**

Sharon Columbus adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The October 1, 2024 meeting will be held at Lake Zumbro Park

McLaren moved; Summerfield seconded a motion to adjourn was made.:  
Motion: 7 to 0

**AYES:** Columbus, Davison, Gardner, Summerfield, Wegner,  
McLaren, Cordell

**NAYS:** None

**RECUSE:** None

**ABSENT:** None