



*A vibrant community where  
everyone thrives.*

Public Works  
2122 Campus Drive SE  
Rochester, MN 55904  
Tuesday, August 6, 2024 6:30 PM

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**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.**

## **AGENDA**

a. Parks Commission June 4, 2024 Minutes



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## **Olmsted County Parks Commission**

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Rochester, MN 55904  
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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.

Olmsted County Staff: Karlin Ziegler, Olmsted County Director of Parks; Lonnie Hebl, Oxbow Park Manager; Michael Bergum, Chester Woods Manager; and Monica Hansen, Administrative Assistant.

Board member Jeff Summerfield arrived at 5:45 p.m.

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

Chester Woods Park

Friends of Chester Woods President Ernie Freudenburg gave a brief update on Friends of Chester Woods (FOCW) tasks.

The updates include:

- This summer, members plan to focus on volunteering and to help staff with programming.
- More canoe/kayak rental space was approved; 56 slots to rent for private watercraft next year.
- a. • The planning of Chester Woods 30th anniversary has begun. This will take place in 2025.

- Weed warriors and volunteers reported that invasive weed areas are improving throughout the park.
- Goats are now at the park and helping with invasive weeds.
- Guided hikes are scheduled every Wednesday in the summer.
- The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the CW amphitheater is June 17 and the grand opening is June 22.

#### Oxbow Park

Oxbow Park Manager Lonnie Hebl gave a brief update on the Friends of Oxbow (FOX) tasks:

- b.
  - They are exploring new Zoo Dazzle ideas.
  - They are brainstorming ideas for the next fundraising goal.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### 4. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were done around the table.

### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Parks Commission April 1, 2024 Minutes

Gardner moved; Wegner seconded Approve:

Motion: 7 to 0

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| <p><b>AYES:</b> Columbus, Davison, Gardner, Summerfield, Wegner,</p> <p>a. McLaren, Cordell</p> <p><b>NAYS:</b> None</p> <p><b>RECUSE:</b> None</p> <p><b>ABSENT:</b> None</p> |
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### 6. NEW BUSINESS

Introduction to new park manager Michael Bergum

- a. Director of Parks, Karlin Ziegler introduced the new Park Manager Michael Bergum to the Parks Commission. He will start his new role on July 1, 2024.

Chester Woods visitor center grant application

Director of Parks Karlin Ziegler updated board members on the future CW visitor

- b. center plan. She presented the updated layout which included: parking, landscaping, staff offices, rental space, and the educational center. Members were able to ask questions and make suggestions. Karlin plans to apply for the legacy grant in 2025.

#### Dogs at Root River

Director of Parks Karlin Ziegler discussed the current dog rules at Root River Park. She asked the board members for suggestions on how to resolve the complaints from park users.

The members discussed current dog rules and regulations in the parks and discussed several ideas. After discussion, a motion was made by member Andrew Wagner to allow leashed dogs at Root River Park and add new signage at the park.

The new signage will include:

- Areas where dogs are allowed on leash within the park.
  - Information on where to take dogs within Olmsted County who want to run their dogs off-leash.
  - An educational section about the importance of preserving nature.
- c. Member Jeff Summerfield added to the motion that new informational signage should be applied at all County Parks. This motion was seconded by Joshua Cordell.

Wegner moved; Davison seconded Approve:

Motion: 7 to 0

<p><b>AYES:</b> Columbus, Davison, Gardner, Summerfield, Wegner, McLaren, Cordell</p> <p><b>NAYS:</b> None</p> <p><b>RECUSE:</b> None</p> <p><b>ABSENT:</b> None</p>
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#### PC Guidelines and Values document approval

Director of Parks Karlin Ziegler presented the first draft of the Olmsted County Park Amenities chart. Members had the opportunity to provide new ideas, comments, and suggestions to the chart before final approval.

- d. It was decided that Administrative Assistant Monica Hansen would update the chart with the board members' recommended comments. Once updated, Monica will send the chart to the park staff for final suggestions and comments. Once that step is complete, Monica will send the final chart to the board members to make final

comments before the deadline of July 2, 2024.

Commission members will plan on approving the chart and cover letter at the August 6, 2024 meeting.

Master Naturalist Prairies and Potholes class

Parks Commission Chair Sharon Columbus gave a presentation on the class

e. capstone projects.

Members had the opportunity to ask questions.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

Friends of Chester Woods plaque

Parks Commission Chair Sharon Columbus informed the board she still has the CW recognition plaque. The board decided to present the plaque at Chester Woods'

a. annual fall meeting. Administrative Assistant Monica Hansen will email the board the correct fall meeting date and request an RSVP from each member.

Sharon suggested that all members try to be present at the fall meeting.

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

April Parks Report

Director of Parks Karlin Ziegler discussed the Parks Report for April 2024.

a. The board requested to review the May Parks Report when complete.

It was decided when the May report is complete, Monica will email the report to the Parks Commission.

## **9. COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Members requested an update on the CW amphitheater.

Director of Parks Karlin Ziegler informed the Parks Commission the company will finish the construction on June 6 and 7.

## **10. ADJOURN**

Sharon Columbus adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

The August 6, 2024 meeting will be held at Oxbow Park.

Davison 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