

**CITY OF MOUNTLAKE TERRACE
RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

February 14, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Mountlake Terrace City Hall
23204 58th Ave W
Mountlake Terrace, WA

PRESENT

Noah Knodle, Chair
Molly Luna, Vice Chair
Keith Edholm (via teleconference)
Austin Horner
Alana Niemi
Audrey Meyer

EXCUSED

ABSENT

Council Liaison

Councilor Laura Sonmore (via teleconference)

City Staff

Jeff Betz, Recreation and Parks Director (via teleconference)
Ken Courtmanch, Parks and Property Management Superintendent
Laura Reed, Storm Water Manager

1 CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Knodle called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

2 ROLL CALL:

Chair Knodle noted that Commissioner Anthony had sent an e-mail with her resignation from the Commission. The roll was called with Commissioners Knodle, Edholm, Horner, Luna, Meyer and Niemi present.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of the January 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Luna moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Niemi seconded. Motion passes 6 yes, 0 no.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

5 NOMINATE AND VOTE FOR VICE CHAIR:

Superintendent Courtmanch stated that with the resignation of Vice Chair Anthony there was a need to vote for a Vice Chair. Chair Knodle opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Niemi nominated Commissioner Luna. Commissioner Meyer seconded.

Hearing no other nominations Chair Knodle closed the floor to nominations. After discussion nomination passes 6 yes 0 no.

6 DISCUSSION OF NAMING THE PEDESTRIAN PLAZA:

Director Jeff Betz noted that there will be a need in the near future to name the new pedestrian plaza scheduled to be built near the Sound Transit light rail station. He reminded the Commission that they had gone through a similar process to name the Jerry Smith Town Center Plaza. He then produced the naming policy that was used during that process and highlighted some of the specific criteria within the policy. He noted that in the prior process the RPAC had followed the criteria and used a community survey to gather community input then reviewed the input and recommended a name derived from that process. The general consensus of the Commission was to utilize a similar process. Director Betz said he would work with staff to put together a survey and come back to the Commission with results once completed.

7 TREES FOR TERRACE PROGRAM UPDATE:

Storm Water Manager Laura Reed shared a presentation on screen concerning the Trees for Terrace Program. Manager Reed discussed the grant funded program that allows city residents to receive free trees that can be planted in the city ROW on their property lines. She then discussed the interest in doing a code update to help with tree canopy management in the city. Manager Reed then summarized the existing code and noted possible modifications. She stated that the proposal is to create a stakeholder team made up of representatives from the Tree Board (RPAC), Developers, Interested Residents, and City Staff who would then set goals and discuss possible code changes to eventually bring before the City Council. The general consensus was in strong support of the proposal and after discussion noted that Commissioner Meyer would be a good candidate to represent the Tree Board on behalf of the RPAC. Resident Susan Kuhn also expressed interest as a possible residential representative.

8 2022-2023 WORK-PLAN:

Superintendent Courtmanch informed the Commission that the presentation before Council has been pushed out until March 30th so there still was still time to do a practice run at the meeting on March 14th.

Superintendent Courtmanch then stated that NPIS member Karla Frankenberg, who has represented Fire Fighters Memorial Park for 19 years, had asked to resign. He stated he had received a letter of interest to represent that park from Kristina Spencer who lives within the ½ mile radius and read the letter of interest. Commissioner Edholm moved to appoint Kristina Spencer to represent Firefighters Memorial Park on the NPIS. Commissioner Luna seconded. Motion passes 6 yes 0 no.

Director Betz discussed the Main Street Project that includes street and utility improvements on 56th Ave W. He noted that there are two grant requests the city is making to the state for funding to complete this project. He produced two support letters for these projects and requested that the RPAC authorize the Chair to sign the support letters on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Edholm moved to authorize the Chair to sign the support letters on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Niemi seconded. Motion passes 6 yes 0 no.

Director Betz discussed a proposal to use ARPA funds to start a revised scholarship policy. He noted that the current scholarship program, known as the Michelle Ringler Scholarship, generally uses about \$1,500 annually and the new program would expect to utilize \$10,000 and is for recreational activities such as summer camps and swim programs. He then produced a spread sheet showing scholarship possibilities to expand the program to include seniors and patrons with disabilities. The program would also expand the available amount from \$50 to \$250 per individual. The Commission had the opportunity to discuss the scholarship possibilities and the general consensus was in support of expanding the scholarship program.

9 TREE BOARD UPDATE:

Superintendent Courtmarch reported that he and Park Planner Donnelle Dayao met with Osbourne Consulting and conducted a tour of the parks to produce a planting and reforestation plan throughout the park system.

Commissioner Meyer noted that the Ivy League next work party is scheduled for February 25th.

10 REPORTS FROM CHAIR AND MEMBERS:

Commissioner Luna reported that the disc golf users were pleased with how quickly the storm response was and that they like the two large trees that came down that were left near one of the baskets.

Commissioner Edholm reported that the NPIS met on Thursday and the annual tour is scheduled for March 25th at 11:00 am and the next regular meeting is scheduled for April 13th.

11 COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Councilor Sonmore reported that Susan DelBene is scheduled to visit Mountlake Terrace on Friday February 17th and invited the Commission to attend. She further reported she is looking into House Bill 110 and how it may affect Mountlake Terrace.

Councilor Sonmore noted that this is her first meeting with the Commission and that former Councilor McCardle will be missed and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to work with them into the future.

12 STATUS REPORT:

Superintendent Courtmarch reported that on March 6th there will be an Eagle Candidate recognition before the Council for Matthew LePere who completed his Eagle Project at Terrace Creek Park. He requested that the Chair be available to assist with the recognition. He also reported that Seattle Junior Hockey will be holding a volunteer event at the dog park on the 25th.

Director Betz reported that there is a public input meeting for the Veterans Trail project scheduled for February 23rd at city hall and invited the Commission to attend. He also reported that on April 19th there will be artist presentations in the council chambers for the 1% art project for the Pedestrian Plaza.

13 ADJOURNMENT:

As there were no further items for discussion Chair Knodle adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm.