



AGENDA Equity Commission

New Brighton City Hall; 803 Old Hwy 8
NW Upper Level Conference Room
October 19, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.

Equity Commissioners will attend the meeting in person. Meeting options for members of the public include:

- **Attend the meeting in person:** Attendees who are ill are asked to wear masks and comply with social distancing parameters.
- **Watch the meeting electronically:** Tune into CTV Chanel 8023 (CenturyLink) or Channel 16 (Comcast). To observe the meeting as a livestream or a webcast, visit www.newbrightonmn.gov, hover over "How Do I...," click on "Public Meetings" under View, choose appropriate Commission and date.
- **Join the meeting electronically:** Join using Zoom app: Meeting ID: 898 6240 2361, Passcode 867530 or visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89862402361?pwd=MWtPeIRNTGt2RmR2TktwSkM0R1VHdz09>

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair Lindsay Spooner | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Carlos Herrera |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice-Chair Kami Miller | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Ellen Weber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Jonas Lim | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Cathy Forbes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Kristin Lau | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Jason Steffenhagen |

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of 8.17.2023 Minutes

V. Business Items

- a. Parks Discussion

VI. Chair Update – Lindsay Spooner

- a. What have we noticed around the City?

VII. City Staff Update – Hue Schlieu, DEI Coordinator

VIII. City Council Update – Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, Mayor

IX. Adjournment – Next meeting: November 16, 2023



MINUTES
New Brighton Equity Commission
Regular Meeting – August 17, 2023
6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Commissioners Cathy Forbes, Carlos Herrera, Kristin Lau, Kami Miller, Lindsay Spooner, Jason Steffenhagen, and Ellen Weber.

Members Absent: Commissioner Jonas Lim.

Also Present: DEI Coordinator Hue Schlieu and Mayor Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Lau, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the agenda as presented.

Approved 7-0

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Weber to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2023 meeting.

Approved 7-0

V. Business Items

A. Land Acknowledgement and Beyond

Schlieu stated a Land Acknowledgment is a message, commonly read at the beginning of an event, that acknowledges the people whose land we are on. It is a way to honor the Indigenous inhabitants of the land that the City of New Brighton occupies. The Equity Strategic Action Team (ESAT) drafted a Land Acknowledgment for the City. This statement recognizes the Dakota people, acknowledges their history and losses, and outlines the City's commitment to do more. She commented on the history of the Dakota people in New Brighton noting the impacts of colonization and the violence that occurred against the Indigenous people. She read the

proposed land acknowledgement in full and further discussed how the proposed land acknowledgement would be a step towards healing. Staff commented further on the next steps for the land acknowledgement and requested feedback from the Commission.

Discussion included:

- The Commission asked if the burial mound was still located on private property in New Brighton. Staff noted several decades there were remnants but at this point, the burial mound was gone.
- Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas commented further on the history of Indigenous people in New Brighton as reported by the New Brighton Historical Society.
- The Commission hoped the land acknowledge would also be used to educate the public.
- Staff commented on how the Indigenous people did not believe in land ownership but rather were stewards of the land.
- The Commission discussed how Indigenous people were wronged in other countries and how these countries are addressing this matter.
- The Commission liked the idea of the ESAT team further investigating remembrance.
- The Commission supported there being a recognition and celebration of culture while also looking forward and encouraging people to learn from the past.
- The Commission discussed how all people have different backgrounds.
- The Commission recommended the land acknowledgement not be the final step but the first in a journey.
- The value native people place on land was further discussed.
- It was noted staff would like to have the land acknowledgement approved by Indigenous People's Day in October.
- Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas recommended the land acknowledgement recognize Ojibwe along with Dakota. In addition, she wanted the "we" within the statement be clarified. She suggested another sentence be added to note these past historical things will not happen again. The Commission recommended "we" be replaced with "City leaders".
- The Commission commented on the policies that would have to be put in place regarding when and how often the land acknowledgement would be utilized.
- The Commission suggested the statement be amended to read Indigenous people are still here and will continue to enrich our community.
- A Commission Member highly recommended the Commission members attend a sacred land tour.
- The Commission supported using Dakota language on park signs throughout the community, especially within Hansen Park.
- Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas supported Representative Mary Kunes-Podein being a resource for future efforts such as speaking at an Indigenous Peoples' Day event
- The Commission further discussed how to roll out the land acknowledgement statement and how to influence others to use and pursue land acknowledgements.
- The Commission supported this item moving forward to the City Council with the changes as discussed.
- The Commission thanked staff for all of their efforts on this topic and for bringing this item forward.

VI. Chair Update – Lindsay Spooner

A. What have we noticed around the City?

Chair Spooner commented on the National Night Out party she hosted on Tuesday, August 2. She appreciated meeting with her neighbors, encourage members of the community to find ways to serve and noted the public was looking forward to Stockyard Days.

VII. City Staff Update – Hue Schlieu, Authorizing Commissioner Liaison

Schlieu provided the group with an update from the Public Safety Commission noting this group had a presentation on use of force at their last meeting. She explained smoking cannabis was legalized on August 1 but noted the City has a moratorium on cannabis sales until January 1, 2025. She invited the Commission members to attend a parks tour on Tuesday, August 29. She then provided the Commission members with a handout on the City's Equitable Decision Making Tool Kit.

VIII. City Council Update – Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas

Mayor Niedfeldt-Thomas provided the Commission an update from the City Council. She thanked the Commission members who were able to attend National Night Out and for the Commission's support for Stockyard Days. She reported a meeting was held with community members regarding the splash pad design for Lions Park. She commented on the Open House that was held at the Community Center by RISE. She noted today was the grand opening for the Exchange Apartments. She was pleased to report this complex was already 60% rented. She commented Benedictine Health has requested amendments to their property. She indicated the Council renewed a five year contract for the School Resource Officers within the Mounds View School District. She reported on Tuesday, September 5 the Council would be holding a budget meeting at Hansen Park. She encouraged the public to continue visiting the farmers market each and every Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She invited the public to attend the final concert series on Friday, September 1 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

IX. Adjournment – Next Meeting: September 21, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hue Schlieu
DEI Coordinator

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Parks Discussion
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S APPROVAL:
CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL:
No comments to supplement this report ____ Comments attached ____

Background:

Several events have provided an opportunity to discuss Parks related topics:

- PREC (Parks, Recreation, & Environmental Commission) and Equity Commission members received a Parks Tour
- PREC requested Equity Commission's input regarding Totem Pole Park
- City Council approved the City Land Acknowledgment; one commitment is to "elevate the ongoing connection between Dakota people and the land we call home"
- Respectively, Equity Commission will discuss Parks Tour, Totem Pole Park, and Renaming a Park

Task Overview:

The Equity Commission is tasked with:

- Offering insight on the topics and strategies for next steps. Discussing the prepared topics.

Financial Impact:

- None

Resources:

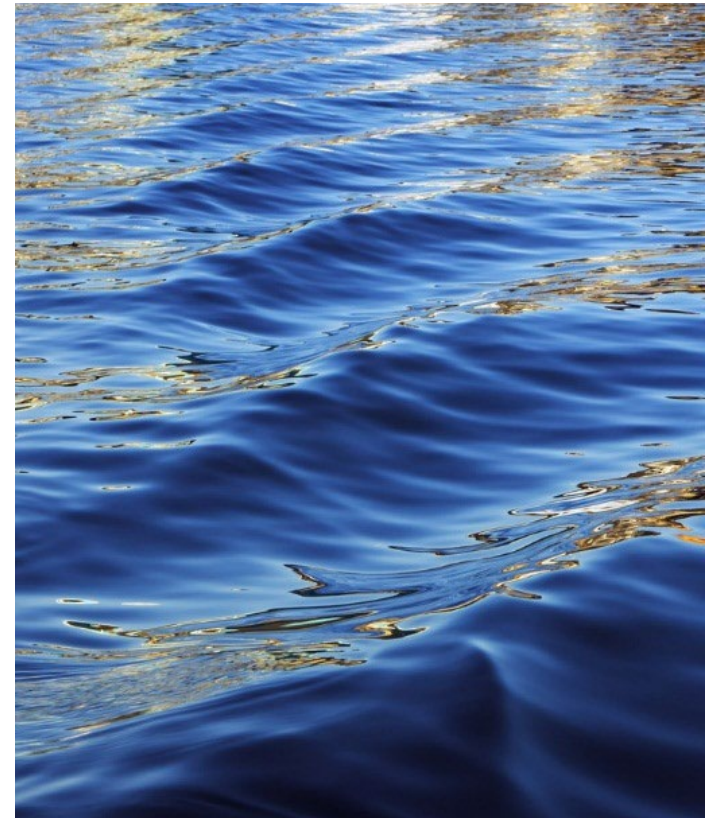
- Presentation
- Articles regarding the totem poles at Totem Pole Park
- Facility and Park Naming Policy



Hue Schlieu
DEI Coordinator

Parks Discussion

October 19, 2023



- Parks Tour Debrief
- Totem Pole Park
- Renaming a Park

Around the table:

- What elements of diversity, equity, and inclusion did you witness?
- What elements of diversity, equity, and inclusion did you feel was missing?
- What considerations should Parks & Recreation keep in mind for future park renovations?

Totem Pole Park

- PREC would like Equity Commission's perspective on the totem pole at Totem Pole Park
- What We Know:
 - 1968: Totem Pole Park was established
 - 1978: Jeffrey Moore gifted the City a totem pole he carved for his Eagle Scout project. It was a replica of the one that stands in Alaska.
 - 2011: The pole fell down due to rot.
 - 2014: Matthew Justin, for his Eagle Scout project, worked with a woodcarver to create a totem pole based on his troop (eagle, hawk, raven, roadrunner, cobra, and shark) to replace the fallen totem pole. No clear connection to Alaskan Native values or culture.
 - 2023: The totem pole is currently in storage due to renovations happening at Totem Pole Park.
- Totem poles are monuments created by First Nations of the Pacific Northwest to represent and commemorate ancestry, sacred histories, people, or events.



Discussion:

- What is missing?
 - Context regarding initial naming of Totem Pole Park
 - Alaskan Native community perspective
- What should next steps look like (regarding the totem pole and the name of the park)?

Staff will make final recommendations based on commissions and community input.

- Initial suggestion came from conversations around Totem Pole Park as well as going beyond Land Acknowledgments
- Organizations (including cities and schools) in recent years have changed problematic names of parks, buildings, etc.
- Growing support for using renaming opportunities to uplift Dakota people and/or use Dakota naming conventions (using distinguishing features or important events directly connected to their area.)
 - Roseville renamed Pocahontas Park to Reya Park. Reya is Dakota for turtle. “The name is a reference to the turtles that can occasionally be found in the park, the playful spirit of the park and the Dakota heritage of the land” (City of Roseville).
 - Saint Paul Public Schools changed middle school name from Ramsey to Hidden River.
 - Lower Phalen Creek project changed its name to Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi (meaning those who take care of Wakan Tipi, which is a “sacred cave where Dakota people gathered for thousands of years in private ceremony” (MPR).
 - Plymouth consulted educators, historians, and a Dakota elder to rename County Road 47. They chose Chankahda Trail. (Chankahda loosely means “near the woods”)

- Facility and Park Naming Policy
 - Given consideration by PREC based on
 - Natural habitat
 - Geographic location
 - Appropriate non-descript terminology
 - Historical events or places
 - Words from languages connected to the area/location should be considered when and where appropriate. Collate historical and cultural information wherever possible.
 - Names of people are not generally used unless certain criteria are met
- Additional steps may include
 - Engaging community members for stories and naming ideas
 - Commissioners narrowing down choices for consideration
 - Getting feedback or ideas specifically from Indigenous community members



Hue Schlieu
DEI Coordinator
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SUN FOCUS

MOUNDS VIEW • NEW BRIGHTON



Gaining speed

High school competitive mountain biking is gaining traction across Minnesota.

See page 8

Thursday, July 18, 2013 • Focus.mnsun.com • Vol. 23, No. 29

\$1

News Update



Fridley Cub remodeled

Marking the completion of the largest remodel in company history, Cub Foods unveiled its Fridley store July 10 with a ribbon-

Eagle Scout project proposed for Totem Pole Park

Pending approval, work could begin this fall or next spring

BY KASSIE PETERMANN
SUN FOCUS NEWSPAPERS

For his Eagle Scout project, Matthew Justin is proposing improvements to Totem Pole Park, which include a new totem pole.

During the Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission meeting July 10, Director of Parks and Recreation Sandy Breuer said Justin has been conducting research for his project and has met with parks staff several times.

Justin told the commission he is a member of Troop 93 in New Brighton and lives near Totem Pole Park.

He said his proposed project involves removing the ice arena boards, removing the wood chips underneath the playground equipment, putting down landscaping fabric and replacing the chips, de-weeding the park, staining the neighborhood center, and installing a new totem pole.

Justin said he has met with a woodcarver from Princeton, Minn., and the idea is to create a totem pole based on his troop. An eagle would be perched at the top, followed by a



Totem Pole Park is at 1111 Foss Road in New Brighton. (Sun Focus photo by Kassie Petermann)

bear with a welcome sign. Troop 93 has five patrols, so the other animals would include a hawk, a raven, a roadrunner, a cobra and a shark.

Initially the quote for the totem pole was \$3,000,

Justin said, but the price has reduced to \$1,500 because it's for an Eagle Scout project.

Breuer said that almost two years ago, the totem pole rotted and weathered away in the park. It came

down and has not been replaced.

It would take about two days to install the totem pole with help from fellow troop members, Justin

EAGLE SCOUT: To page 6

Eagle Scout: If approved, work begins in fall or spring

Continued from page 1

said, and the woodcarver plans to help set it up.

Justin said he plans to take care of the totem pole by spraying it with a wood preservative once a year for three years.

"I think [the totem pole] will be a nice enhancement for the park. I love the idea," said Chris Wolla, parks superintendent for

the city.

Asked about the potential for vandalism and graffiti, he said the old totem pole never had a lot of damage done to it. The totem pole would again be placed in the front and center of the park. A light is proposed so the totem pole will be illuminated at night.

Regarding the ice arena boards, Breuer said the last

time there was an ice rink at Totem Pole Park was 2006 or 2007. City staff looked at park usage and stopped flooding the rinks where there was the least amount of attendance. Breuer said she received a few inquiries or complaints about the lack of rinks the first couple of years there was no ice.

Removing the ice arena boards at Totem Pole Park and

Sunny Square Park are in the work plan for 2013, she said.

The PREC commission unanimously recommended that the city council approve the Eagle Scout project. The council is scheduled to vote on the project during its July 23 meeting.

If approved by the city council, the project will be reviewed by an Eagle Scout project committee this fall. If approved,

Justin said the work could begin in the fall or early next spring, depending on what works best for the city. He said his troop is working on fundraising ideas for the project.

Contact Kassie Petermann at kassie.petermann@ecm-inc.com

https://www.hometownsource.com/sun_focus/news/local/eagle-scout-project-leads-to-new-totem-pole-at-new-brighton-park/article_2f97f04f-f2b2-55fb-9757-0974de928654.html

Eagle Scout project leads to new totem pole at New Brighton park

By Kassie Petermann
Jun 19, 2014

An Eagle Scout project has resulted in the installation of a new totem pole at a New Brighton park, among other improvements.

Back in 1978, Jeff Moore carved a totem pole as part of an Eagle Scout project, and it was installed at Totem Pole Park, which was established in 1968. However, the totem pole fell down in 2011 because it was rotting, and it hadn't been replaced.

Mathew Justin, 17, grew up a couple blocks from Totem Pole Park and said he visited the park frequently over the years.

For his Eagle Scout project, Justin worked with Joe Semler, a woodcarver from Princeton, Minn., to create a totem pole based on his troop. An eagle is at the top, followed by a hawk, a raven, a roadrunner, a cobra and a shark.

“Without the totem pole, Totem Pole Park didn't really feel the same,” Justin said. “I thought it would be a good way to give back to my community.”

Bell Lumber & Pole in New Brighton sold a pole for the project at a discounted rate, which was dropped off at Semler's last winter. Semler began carving the totem pole in April.

Semler said that when Justin contacted him about his Eagle Scout project, he thought it sounded fun.

"I like helping the young people do things like this," he said.

The totem pole was installed on June 4.

"It feels amazing. It's been a long process," Justin said of seeing the totem pole installed at the park.

"It's always nice to brighten up New Brighton a little bit more and give life to a park that's a little bit older," he said.

"It's wonderful that a Scout had the vision and the resources to get [the totem pole] put up," said Sandy Breuer, director of parks and recreation.

Justin has raised about \$2,150 for the totem pole and plans to fundraise more this summer to reach his goal of \$3,000.

Larry and Mary Justin, Mathew's parents, said the support from the community and Semler has been great. Without that support, Mathew's project could not have been accomplished, Mary said.

Lynn Hoelzel, who lives near the park, attended the June 4 installation.

"I think it looks beautiful. ...it's goodness. We need our children to see goodness," she said of the totem pole.

Justin's Eagle Scout project also involved removing the park's ice arena boards, replacing the woodchips underneath the playground and staining the park's neighborhood center. All of that work took place in May with the help of Boy Scouts, neighbors, friends and family members.

The city provided the materials to complete those improvements. Breuer said the hockey rink has not been used since about 2006, and all the improvements were in the city's work plan.

Anyone interested in donating to the totem pole project can call Sandy Breuer at 651-638-2126. A plaque will be put on the back of the totem pole that will list the names of those who have donated \$100 or more. Any extra funds raised will go to the city.

Contact Kassie Petermann at kassie.petermann@ecm-inc.com

[gallery link="file" ids="119745,119746,119747,119748"]

Assigning Names to City Facilities and Parks

In the event that the City of New Brighton needs to name a building, park, or recreational facility, the following policy shall govern the naming process.

General Naming Convention

It shall be the policy of the City of New Brighton to refer to the appropriate governing Commission, any activity involving the naming or changing of names of any city-owned parks or recreational facilities.

The Commission shall recommend to the City Council for approval, names for new sites, facilities or portions of facilities. This includes any changes in names to existing facilities.

The naming of parks and recreational facilities will be given consideration by the PREC Commission based on the following factors:

- Natural habitat, i.e., vegetation, terrain, animals, etc.
- Geographic location, i.e., street names, directions, etc.
- Appropriate non-descript terminology, i.e., acronyms or joining of two words or names or activities, etc.
- Historical events or places
- Words from languages connected to the area/location of the building or facility should be considered when and where appropriate. Local historical and cultural information relating to the meaning and origin of the name/words chosen should be collated whenever possible e.g. there may be existing research by anthropologists or linguists.

Financial Gifts and Donations

The City of New Brighton also seeks to recognize donors who wish to support the City through distinguished effort or substantial financial endowment, by naming facilities in their honor. This policy offers a guideline to determine when such cases are appropriate and which may be better served by a formal recognition by the City Council.

For the purposes of this policy, "Substantial Gift" is defined as at least 50% of the estimated cost:

- of new construction, remodeling, or renovation;
- of developing a new property, i.e. park buildings, structures, real estate, etc; or
- the replacement of an existing, unnamed facility or landmark that requires substantial renovation at the time of the gift.

This policy determines procedures, for a fixed period or indefinitely, for naming of amenities found within the City. Items under this policy include, but are not limited to, items of personal property such as park structures (pavilions, neighborhood centers, etc.), real estate to be used for parks or open space, sports fields or courts, pools, or other large-scale projects as discussed with the Director of Parks & Recreation.

Recognition

The City of New Brighton will give special recognition to commemorate long-term service to the community or to a distinguished citizen and such recognition is contingent upon Council review and approval.

Facilities will not normally be named for living persons. Exceptions to this policy may be approved by the City Council only if one or more of these criteria exist:

- The person nominated has made a substantial contribution to the specific park or facility to be named.
- The person nominated has made a significant contribution to the community over an extended period of time.
- The person nominated has received national recognition.
- Only under certain and exceptional circumstances listed below, will consideration be given to the names of individuals (alive or deceased) and/or organized groups, associations or businesses.

To be considered, the individual, group, association or business must have made a significant and exceptional contribution to the site involved or to the community as a whole. Such contributions, (immediate or deferred) should be for recreation purposes and may include:

- Substantial charitable financial donations
- Substantial property donations
- Substantial community contributions

For the purposes of this policy, the terms “donors” and “donation” as defined by this policy, means a substantial financial contribution toward the cost of an amenity or project. This is defined as at least 50% of the total estimated cost.

Naming may be in honor of donor or donors, who may be individuals, groups of individuals, or corporations. Naming guidelines detailed in the City of New Brighton Naming Policy will apply. The nature of the donation will assist in determining the naming opportunity.

- Donors or donor representatives must sign a donor agreement that delineates terms and duration of the contribution, unless donor wishes to remain anonymous.
- An amenity may be named in honor of a Donor that has contributed all or a substantial part (defined by this policy as 50%) of the full costs relating to its establishment.
- The option of funding the amenity for life of said amenity is negotiable and would require assurance of sufficient funding.
- A plaque or negotiated signage may be placed on a building, room, or facility to acknowledge a Donor.

Parks or facilities may be renamed if the current names do not conform to the current policy. In addition, recognition plaques, memorial plaques or dedications may be placed throughout the City by the appropriate director and with the recommendation of the Council or Commission.