

Commissioner-Elect Question Tracker

12/15/2021

No.	Question	Staff Response
1	Park Dedication - What if the neighborhood has no park? Can those dedication fees be spent in another neighborhood? (If so, what's the boundary/distance?)	If a neighborhood has no park or if there is no feasible use of parkland dedication funds in a neighborhood, the funds can be directed to another park provided the improvement is within one-half mile of the development project generating the funds.
2	Park Dedication - Can a community member propose a use for a park dedication fee and what is the process for getting it approved?	A community member or a neighborhood may proposed a use and an amount of parkland dedication to be directed to that use, but the use must be aligned with an approved master plan. The use of parkland dedication funds must be approved by the Board of Commissioners, but staff typically works with a community to ensure the use and funds are well-aligned with the ordinance. The timing of the improvement is also important to consider; staff prefers that expenditures of parkland dedication funds be added to an existing capital improvement or rehabilitation project in a park, a process that is most efficient from the perspectives of staff time, community engagement, site investigations, management of consultants, bidding, procurement, and review of work in progress. It's important for commissioner to understand that even small projects—correlated to small parkland dedication expenditures—can consume significant staff time, which necessarily redirects staff time from other projects in the Capital Improvement Program or projects for which grant funds with limited durations are available.
3	Park Dedication - If the community raises money for a project as a match to park dedication fees, does this make a project get done faster?	Funds raised in support of a project, regardless of the source of the matched funds, are viewed by staff as a project that might be worthy of a more direct pursuit. The use associated with the fundraising, if it is to use parkland dedication funds, must be aligned with a master plan. Conditions of the park assets subject to fundraising are a consideration; if the asset is failing or near failing, community support for a more direct pursuit would be considered. The same limitations on staff time as noted above should be considered. A park's ranking for equity might also be considered, particularly if the ranking means that the park improvements for which funds are being raised would have to wait until near the end of the NPP20 cycle. It should be noted that fundraised funds are typically pursued through fundraising agreements in concert with staff assistance at some level and approval from the Board of Commissioners.
4	Park Dedication - Similarly, can a neighborhood propose a use for a park dedication fee and what is the process for getting it approved?	Similarly, yes, as framed in the responses to the two previous questions. The process would be similar as well.
5	Park Dedication - Are all park dedication fees voted on by the board? Or only above a certain amount?	All expenditures of parkland dedication funds, of any amount, are required to receive a favorable vote from the Board of Commissioners, as directed by the ordinance. In many cases, the expenditures are demonstrated as proposed in the Capital Improvement Program, which the Board of Commissioners must approve as a part of its budget process. In some instances, separate actions for expenditures of parkland dedication funds are directed to the Board of Commissioners.
6	Park Dedication - How is a "new feature/new use" determined? For example, could park dedication fees be used to create a skate park at Brackett Park with an expanded footprint that is partially on top of the current outdated and run down skate park?	A new use is an asset, feature or component that is useable by park users that does not currently exist in a park. There are several examples of where parkland dedication funds have been directed to support aspects of a project. For example, at South Cedar Beach, the concept included an overlook with seating, which did not exist and would provide space for enjoyment of the lake for those not directly using the beach. At the same project, parkland dedication funds were directed to a restroom with running water, which did not exist (there was a portable toilet present). Expansion of an existing facility, such as the expansion of a playground, wading pool, or skate feature would be an eligible parkland dedication expense, provided there is capacity added to the existing feature and with the limitation that the parkland dedication funds can only be directed to the expanded capacity of the asset.

7	Park Dedication - What if there is a park element that would be really beneficial but got missed in the original major build out of a park but does not exist on the master plan, with an example of an extra shade element at Matthews Park wading pool?	Features eligible for the use of parkland dedication funds must be demonstrated in a master plan. If a feature is desired but is not supported by the master plan, the master plan may be amended (a process that requires engagement of the community and a revision of the master plan, as well as supportive action by the Board of Commissioners. Some features, including perhaps a shade structure at a wading pool, might not be directly shown in the park's master plan but might reasonably be presumed to be a part of a comprehensive design. Similarly, the expansion of a half-court basketball surface to a full-court might not require a master plan amendment, provided the expanded footprint can be accommodated without elimination of other master planned features of the park. Still, a request for the addition of a feature or asset that is not shown in a master plan will, absolutely, require an amendment of the park's master plan.
8	Superintendent's Contract	See attachment A .
9	Customer Service contact information	phone: 612-230-6400 or info@minneapolisparks.org
10	Close the Gap Report - Youth Funding	Closing the Gap Investing in Youth - Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (minneapolisparks.org)
11	Reserves of each fund	Current estimated reserves by fund type as of September 30, 2021. General Fund: \$6,866,183 (\$4,463,824 reserve requirement, \$2,402,360 excess reserve). Enterprise Fund: \$6,438,669, Internal Services Fund - Fleet reserve: \$4,801,464, ITS reserve: \$1,015,215, Self-Insurance reserve: \$6,282,071. See attachment B .
12	Racial Equity page on website	Racial Equity - Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (minneapolisparks.org)
13	Are the activities within the Enterprise Fund their own Micro-enterprises per se, or are the funds generated by all activities in the fund, shared by all activities.	The funds generated by all activities in the fund are shared by all activities. Through the fund stabilization work, staff have started to identify by asset function category the amount of reserves that should be allocated annually to that asset type.