



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING DATE: May 2, 2022
PREPARED BY: Chuck Stifter – Parks and Recreation Director
AGENDA ITEM: Amending Maple Grove City Code Section 22-67 Swimming in Park Waters

PREVIOUS ACTIONS:

None

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Motion to approve Ordinance No.22-08 amending Maple Grove City Code Section 22-67 regarding swimming, bathing in, or entering park waters.

COMMENTS:

The Park and Recreation Board at their April 21, 2022 meeting recommended the City Council modify City Code Section 22-67 to allow swimming at Weaver Lake Beach when lifeguards are not on duty.

Due to a lifeguard shortage, the Park Board is recommending Council modify code to allow lifeguarding at Weaver Lake Beach on a limited basis. Current city code prohibits swimming or entering park waters unless a lifeguard is on duty. Rewriting the ordinance allows the Board to provide lifeguards at the beach based on available resources. Without the flexibility the beach operation will have significantly reduced hours putting patrons in the position to break the law if they swim. As lifeguard resources allow, staff may return to a schedule of guarding the beach during peak hours on the weekends and high use days. Guarding the community center pools would take priority over the beach.

Staff researched other metropolitan beach operations. During that review it was found that many beach operations don't provide lifeguard services. Attachment B is a summary of beach lifeguarding in the metro area.

Staff also obtained information from the League of Minnesota Cities who stated the city is at no more risk if they provide lifeguard services on an occasional basis as long as the hours and schedule are properly posted on site.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Ordinance No. 22-08

Attachment B – Beach Comparison