

Deephaven Park Committee

October 7, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Darel Gustafson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. declaring a quorum.

Present: Darel Gustafson, Sarah Lien, Hans Larson, Peggy Beardsley, Scott Ferguson, John Flynn and Jim Elvestrom

Absent: Lucy Hicks and Bryan Sykora

NEWLY APPOINTED COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Committee welcomed to Jim Elvestrom to the Park Committee.

MINUTES

The Committee approved the September 2, 2009 minutes on a motion by Hans Larson and seconded by Peggy Ferguson. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC FORUM

No Comments

NEW BUSINESS

A. Thorpe Park

Scott Ferguson presented a concept plan for a play structure at Thorpe Park.

Sarah Lien noted that the committee had suggested swings be part of an overall plan and are not shown in the concept. In an effort to reduce costs, the custom pieces presented at the previous meetings had been changed to stock pieces. The concept, as presented, did not include equipment 2-5 year olds

Scott Ferguson presented a cost outline and noted that the stock pieces reduced the costs significantly from the earlier conceptual plan. The earlier discussions by the committee included incorporating topographic features and natural elements into the plan. Scott presented several examples of shade structures by repurposing old sail cloths to create a shade canopy. The concept and shade structure were designed to create a lake theme.

Darel Gustafson asked who the structure is designed for.

Sarah Lien noted that the overall concept would include elements for ages 2-12 years.

In answer to Darel Gustafson's question regarding the use of primary colors, Sarah Lien responded that the committee had discussed creating a play area using structures that mirror the natural landscape, in color and designed, to blend into and incorporate the surrounding topography.

Hans Larson stated that he believes the location and type of equipment will attract kids more than a specific color combination.

John Flynn suggested that the bright colored structures are a marketing feature to attract attention, and would prefer a natural and subtle design.

John Flynn attended the Hennepin County Youth Sports Grant Meeting and reported that the grant applications for sports and playground equipment need to be submitted by early November in order to apply for the first round of grant money available. The County considers sustainability of the structure and the number of people that will be served with the facility. John Flynn stated that he believes that the County would consider a phased plan.

Sarah Lien reported that the County was contacted to confirm play ground improvements and equipment do qualify for grant funding through the program.

The Park Committee recommended that the City complete the grant application and submit a plan for park improvements.

Staff reported that the City would also like any grant request to include restoration of the Village Hall tennis courts.

The committee agreed on several issues that need immediate action:

- Darel Gustafson will speak with City Administrator Dana Young and Mayor Paul Skrede regarding the submittal of a grant application for playground improvements. Darel will confirm a date that the Park Committee can meet with the City Council to discuss the details of the concept.
- The Committee will move forward with detailed plans, cost estimates and seek Council's preliminary approval on the concept.
- John Flynn will contact the County for clarification of the application timeline and to confirm the requirements for application submittal.
- Sarah Lien will work with Bryan Sykora on the development of the plans and related costs.

Hans Larson believes that the City has everything to gain and nothing to loose by moving forward.

Scott Ferguson noted that detailed plans will be necessary because a bid process will be required if the project exceeds \$50,000.

OTHER ITEMS

The Committee recommended several maintenance issues be looked at by the public works department.

- Northome Parkway trail/path needs class V gravel. Darel Gustafson reported that there is little or no class V on the pathway at this time.

- Culvert pipe in Thorpe Park near Rutledge Road - The edges of the drainage/culvert pipe is very jagged and sharp. The culvert is covered by tall grass however, still presents a concern due to the sharp edges. The Committee suggested the culvert be looked at and the edges be repaired (smoothed or bent).
- The goose droppings in Thorpe Park are becoming excessive. The committee discussed options for controlling the number of geese in the park. Scott Ferguson stated that one option to consider is growing tall grass around the edges of the pond to deter geese from using the pond and park. Jim Elvestrom suggested a low profile shrub around the perimeter of the pond may also work.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Hans Larson and seconded by John Flynn. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 4 at the City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Souers