

**DEEPHAVEN PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 4, 2009**  
**Minutes**

Present: Lucy Hicks, Peggy Beardsley, Sarah Lien, Hans Larson Darel Gustafson,  
Scott Ferguson, Bryan Sykora and Hans Larson  
Absent: John Flynn and Jennifer Young  
Guests: John Haugen and sons

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lucy Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. declaring a quorum.

**MINUTES**

*The Committee approved the December 3, 2008 minutes as submitted on a motion by Peggy Beardsley and seconded by Sarah Lien. Motion carried.*

**PUBLIC FORUM** (*items not on the agenda*)

John Haugen, 4205 Chimo East, addressed the Committee stating that he has lived in Deephaven over three years and has been a participant of the Deephaven Days Triathlon. Mr. Haugen stated that the event is a wonderful opportunity for residents and would like to see the triathlon continue and grow.

Mr. Haugen stated that he believes there is a desire to bring communities together and this type of event does that. Through the triathlon, the City can promote and reinforces a culture of wellness and well-being, keeping the focus on a family orientated event. Mr. Haugen stated that Deephaven's event is unique because of its flexibility. People rally around events when there is a cause or purpose.

Lucy Hicks noted that the biggest challenge is getting enough volunteers for the race. She asked if Mr. Haugen would help rally his neighbors and help solicit volunteers for the event.

Peggy Beardsley confirmed that she spoke with the store and they do want to be involved with Deephaven Days again.

Hans Larson asked Mr. Haugen whether the triathlon versus a 5K run would make any difference in participation.

Mr. Haugen stated that Deephaven has a unique situation because of the direct lake access and multiple parks making it a great location for a triathlon event.

Darel Gustafson stated that the race event is designed to have flexibility. We do not keep track of race times/splits; we allow relay teams and parents to swim with children. It is not a competitive event. The race has grown an average of 10% each year. The majority of participants are from outside of Deephaven. Darel suggested that the City check with

several race event organizers to get an estimate on the costs of having professional support with organization.

The Committee discussed a possible date for the event in 2009, giving consideration to the July 4 holiday and allowing a week in between the Tour-de-Tonka and Deephaven Days so not to burden the police department with back-to-back events in the City.

The Committee agreed that more emphasis be put on the family aspect of the event. The Committee suggested starting the Deephaven Days campaign earlier by inserting a flyer in the utility bill, putting up the sign sooner and distributing the flyer to the local churches.

Sarah Lien agreed that there is an opportunity to rally support for the parks and park improvements with the race event.

*Scott Ferguson moved to recommend holding the triathlon event again in 2009 with some modifications. Sarah Lien seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

Committee Support:

- Scott Ferguson agreed to create the flyer and map.
- Hans Larson will contact several event companies to learn costs associated with professional support, i.e. ankle bracelets and race timers.
- Bryan Sykora and Darel Gustafson will re-work the race route to eliminate confusion or cross-over.
- Peggy Beardsley will speak with the store regarding the picnic food at the park after the race.

Park Committee agreed to hold the event on August 15, 2009, starting at 9:30A.M.

**BUSINESS ITEM**

**b) Thorpe Playground Master Plan**

Scott Ferguson and Sarah Lien reported that they are working on options for the playground. The objectives for the playground renovation is to provide safe, age-appropriate and engaged play on licensed equipment that enhances Deephaven's most visible, premiere and recreation park.

Three scenarios were outlined to address concerns at Thorpe playground.

**Option 1A: Overall Strategic Equipment Renovation**

- Remove all current equipment
- Reuse elements at other Deephaven Parks where possible.
- Consider playscape elements (playscaping requires designing and building play spaces that look and feel like natural environments).

- Adapt boundaries/surfaces accordingly
- Integrate where recommended:
  - Locate appropriate seating
  - Landscape (i.e. shade trees)
  - Bike Parking
  - Other
- Plan consideration: integrate current climbing structure.

Option 1B: Modified Strategic Equipment Renovation with Phased Implementation

- Strategically remove current equipment to be phased in to reach overall plan
  - reuse elements at other Deephaven Park locations where possible
- Consider playscape element (playscaping requires designing and building play spaces that look and feel like natural environments).
- Adapt boundaries/surfaces accordingly
- Integrate where recommended:
  - Locate appropriate seating
  - Landscape (i.e. shade trees)
  - Bike Parking
  - Other

Option 2: Independent Equipment Removal and Replacement

- Remove unsafe and /or out-of-date structures currently at Thorp Park
  - Wooden structure in the SE corner
  - Metal Slide
  - Dinosaur Equipment
- Replace with a 5-12 age appropriate structure

Scott Ferguson suggested consideration be given to natural structures and elements to complement the existing and proposed equipment. i.e. boulders in a sand area, plants/trees to create social interaction areas that are not just components to play on.

Bryan Sykora stated creating a master plan is the best approach to moving forward.

Scott Ferguson stated that there are options for implementation; we can save for the entire project and execute the full plan at once or phase-in the plan over a period of time.

Bryan Sykora stated that phasing in an entire project can take a long time.

Darel Gustafson agreed that a phased approach can be difficult because committee's loose momentum and projects can drag out too long.

Hans Larson suggested presenting a plan to Council to get their feedback.

Scott Ferguson stated that overall plan should have more planned seating for parents and adults to sit in closer proximity to the play structures. Scott noted that the example

shown to the Committee, using a natural theme and colors scheme can have a longer shelf life.

Hans Larson suggested developing a conceptual plan with cost estimates.

Sarah Lien agreed that creating a comprehensive structure with total costs estimated, but with flexibility to make changes.

Bryan Sykora will work with staff at his office to create a conceptual plan and a cost estimate.

The Committee recommended a conceptual play structure theme with modest colors, blending in natural features and the option to create natural playscapes.

Bryan Sykora stated that water-spray parks are gaining popularity, but can be costly. These features can be any size and typically designed with 0-depth (no water) with sprinkler system spraying water periodically. The water is on a timing system and the feature typically includes water shoots and buckets or cannons.

**a) Appoint 2009 Chair & Vice Chair**

*Peggy Beardsley moved to appoint Lucy Hicks as the 2009 Chair and Darel Gustafson as the Vice Chair. Sarah Lien seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- The Committee requested that the dead-fall and brush along Minnetonka Boulevard in Haralson Park be cleaned up.
- The Linden Trees in Childrens Park need to be trimmed. The branches need to be raised because they are hanging too low.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn by Hans Larson and seconded by Sarah Line. Motion carried*

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 4 at the City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shelley Souers