

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
March 3, 2010
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Darel Gustafson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Darel Gustafson, Sarah Lien, John Flynn, Scott Ferguson, Jim Elvestrom, Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Cindy Webster, Peggy Beardsley

February 3, 2010 Minutes

The Committee approved the February 3, 2010 minutes on a motion by Sarah Lien, seconded by Jim Elvestrom. Motion carried 5-0.

Matters from the Floor

There were no Matters from the Floor this evening.

Communication Towers located on City Property (Kim Crockett)

Kim Crockett stated that she is here this evening to bring the Park Committee up to date regarding the issues pertaining to the location of communication towers on City property. She stated that the Park Committee wasn't involved in this issue when the application for a communications tower at Chowen's Corner was submitted by Clearwire.

She stated that after approving the tower site, the Council has decided to look into possible refinements to our Communications Tower Ordinance. She stated that the Ordinance only permits towers to be located on publicly owned property and the Council would like to determine the most appropriate locations for future tower sites and to identify those sites that should be excluded as potential tower sites.

She stated that the Council declared a moratorium on new communication tower sites for a 120 day period in order to allow for sufficient time to review these sites. She stated that she was unsuccessful in convincing the Council that the Chowen's Corner parking lot was not the best site but, as it turned out, the Special Use process may not have allowed the Council to dictate the tower location. She stated that she would have preferred Pump Park as the tower site rather than Chowen's Corner. She stated that she felt that Pump Park laid out well for a tower site and was concerned with taking up available parking spaces with a tower in the Chowen's Corner parking lot. She stated that in the future, Pump Park may never be suitable for use as a park and might be more suitable than other public property as a future cell tower site. She stated that Councilmember Keith Kask agreed with this position but was concerned that the Park Committee would demand the cell tower lease revenue if it was located on park property.

She stated that the Council is asking the Park Committee to review the inventory of publicly owned property and have requested that the Committee give their recommendations on those sites that would be suitable for towers and those sites that would not be suitable. She stated that her neighbors generally felt that Thorpe Park would be an appropriate site for cell towers.

Paul Skrede stated that he was present this evening primarily to discuss the Council's action regarding the purchase of playground equipment at Thorpe Park but noted that most cell tower applications require variances, in one form or another. He stated that Thorpe Park is over 15 acres in size and it is likely that variances would not be needed if an application would be submitted to site a tower at Thorpe Park. He stated that he would be concerned that Thorpe Park could be inundated with cell towers if it was left in the ordinance as a potential site.

He stated that the Council is looking for the Park Committee to issue recommendations on those public sites that would be most suitable for towers, those sites that would be adequate, and those sites that would not be appropriate for towers. He added that he would like the Committee to issue their recommendations to the Council at upcoming April meeting.

Meeting with City Council on March 1st

Darel Gustafson and Sarah Lien provided a summary of their meeting with the City Council on March 1st to discuss Thorpe Playground equipment and Deephaven Days. He stated that there really wasn't much discussion regarding the results of the recent Park Survey.

Darel Gustafson stated that he, Sarah Lien and Bryan Sykora met with the Council on Monday, March 1st to review the Park Committee's recommendations on the two options for playground equipment. He stated that the Council appeared to be very positive regarding the two options on playground equipment.

Sarah Lien stated that they presented both options as a comprehensive approach to the playground area. She stated that both options cost approximately \$44,000 and the Playsense playground included features for 2-5 year olds, 5-12 year olds and a swing set and the Playbooster playground included features for 5-12 year olds. She stated that the Council appeared interested in shifting their budget from the repair of the tennis courts at Village Hall towards the purchase of the playground equipment.

Darel Gustafson stated that Councilmember Keith Kask did a nice job of summarizing the cost of the playground equipment when he noted that the overall cost would be around \$75,000, which would include the cost of the equipment, surface improvements and installation.

Sarah Lien presented a memo outlining the Goals & Guidelines for Thorpe Park. She stated that she drafted this memo in the attempt to be very specific on the bid requirements. She stated that she also included a landscaping element in her memo to ensure that this was not overlooked during the bid process.

Darel Gustafson noted that we also need to include the cost of recycling the older playground equipment into the overall cost.

Paul Skrede provided a brief review of this afternoon's Public Works Committee meeting that included a review of the potential repair options for the tennis courts at Village Hall. He stated that the Committee looked into the Armor crack repair system, which enabled cracks to be covered with a fabric material and would be a longer lasting repair than typical crack sealing and color coating. He stated that the cost of the Armor repair would be \$16,000 - \$20,000, significantly less than the \$75,000 that had been budgeted for a total reconstruction of the three courts.

John Flynn stated that it would appear to be good idea to use the Armor treatment and felt that the City should only spend within its existing budget.

Paul Skrede also mentioned the possibility of using volunteers to install the new playground equipment.

Sarah Lien stated that Bryan Sykora said he would be willing to donate his time to help with the equipment.

Daryl Gustafson stated that he had heard it would take about 10-15 volunteers two days or so to install the equipment.

Motion by Darel Gustafson to recommend that the City amend its 2010 Budget to reallocate the \$75,000 that had been budgeted towards the tennis courts towards the Thorpe Park playground equipment and the \$30,000 towards the playground equipment towards the tennis courts. Seconded by John Flynn. Motion carried 5-0.

Darel Gustafson stated that he would also be willing to make a motion to recommend that the Park Committee form a subcommittee to prepare a Request for Proposals for the purchase of playground equipment by the April Park Committee meeting.

Discussion was held on the potential components of an RFP and the complexities involved developing an RFP that is as comprehensive as possible.

Scott Ferguson stated that the City should really hire a landscape architect to ensure that the RFP was as complete as possible. He noted that there were a number of critical components to the RFP that would likely be overlooked, such as grading, if it were not undertaken by a competent professional. He stated that it might cost as much as \$10,000 and take as long as six months for a landscape architect to develop an RFP that would produce qualified bids.

Darel Gustafson and Paul Skrede both stated that they felt this would significantly delay the project and would prefer to keep the project moving at a faster pace.

Dana Young offered to draft an RFP for review by the April Park Committee meeting.

Sarah Lien exited at 8:25 p.m.

Brief discussion was held on Arbor Day and on Deephaven Days.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by John Flynn, seconded by Jim Elvestrom. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2010.