

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

January 23, 2011

Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman John Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Members Present

John Flynn, Patrick Regan, Scott Ferguson, Rebecca Sundquist (enters at 7:11 p.m.), Peggy Beardsley and Jim Elvestrom

Members Absent

Cindy Webster

December 7, 2011 Minutes

The Committee approved the December 7, 2011 minutes on a motion by Jim Elvestrom, seconded by Peggy Beardsley. Motion carried 5-0.

Matters from the Floor

Dana Young stated that Nina Shepherd (19155 Highland Avenue) will be present at the March or April Committee meeting to discuss the possibility of installing a butterfly / prairie garden in Thorpe Park. Peggy Beardsley noted that there is already a butterfly garden at Thorpe Park.

Park Reports

Committee members provided their monthly park reports:

Scott Ferguson stated that he would like to see some minor improvements at the ice rinks, such as additional mats at Thorpe Park and decent shovels at each warming house.

Peggy Beardsley stated that the public works crew has done an excellent job in cleaning up around the Sand/Salt Shed and the public works storage area.

John Flynn stated that he had a conversation with one of the public works staff about the possibility of grading and leveling the surface within the hockey rinks at Thorpe and Village Hall rinks.

Platform Tennis Courts

Discussion was held regarding the availability of two free platform tennis courts from the Flagship Athletic Club in Eden Prairie. The Commission reviewed the report from Reilly Green Mountain Platform Tennis on the condition of the courts, which stated that it would cost approximately \$47,000 to refurbish and move the courts to Deephaven.

Jim Elvestrom stated that he had a conversation with Ann Sheedy, the Executive Director of the American Platform Tennis Association, about the possibility of submitting a \$10,000-\$20,000 grant application to her association to assist with the relocation and renovation costs of a platform tennis court. He stated that we would have one year in which to use the money and he already has two volunteers who would be willing to write the grant application. He stated that Ms. Sheedy stated that this project is exactly what the grant is intended to support.

Jim Elvestrom stated that Reilly Green Mountain has quoted a cost of \$17,000 to move the court and \$30,000 to refurbish the court. He stated that he talked to Reilly Green Mountain's competitor and they stated that they will offer to help us move one court and will salvage the other available court for a cost of approximately \$10,000 and could refurbish the court for about \$10,000 less than Reilly Green Mountain. He stated that the competitor would offer this reduced cost because they are anxious to establish themselves in this area. He cautioned that if word got out among other groups and organizations about a second platform tennis court, the number of outside groups using the courts could escalate.

John Flynn stated that he had a conversation with Chris Casiroghi with Reilly Green Mountain and was informed that it could probably cost \$30,000 to get a court in place that was updated and playable, but not great.

Scott Ferguson stated that there would also be the potential for eventual scope creep once the court was in place.

Jim Elvestrom stated that the other possibility would be to fully refurbish our existing court.

John Flynn stated that the advantage to having two courts is that a small league could form.

Further discussion was held on the \$20,000 grant opportunity through the American Platform Tennis Association.

John Flynn asked if there were any strings attached with the grant.

Jim Elvestrom stated that the court has to continue to have public access.

Scott Ferguson stated that this project really boils down to money. He stated that he doesn't know how the Council would feel about spending \$30,000 for this project and felt that it might be up to this group of interested individual to obtain the grant.

Jim Elvestrom stated that the grant would be set up as a matching grant - \$20,000 from the grant and the balance from the City or some other source. He stated that the grant would be submitted in March or April and the grant is awarded in May.

Paul Skrede stated that it would be helpful if the names of the 30-40 interested residents were made public. He added that he felt the grant would be more successful if submitted by the City.

Jim Elvestrom stated that the grant could be submitted by the Park Committee.

Paul Skrede stated that he would want the City Council to authorize the Park Committee to submit a grant application for this project. He stated that the Council could reallocate the budget for the matching portion of the grant or could use park dedicated funds. He noted that additional park dedicated funds could be coming in from St. Therese for a proposed senior housing development, which would replenish the Park Improvement Fund. He stated that the Park Committee should also have an idea on whether the court would be heated, if the project would be undertaken this year or next, and the potential location of the court. He added that a questionnaire could be included in the April Newsletter accessing public interest in a second court and matching funds could potentially be obtained through the Hennepin County Sports grant later this fall.

John Flynn asked if the members were comfortable with the location of a second court at Haralson Park.

Peggy Beardsley stated that she would prefer it there.

Scott Ferguson stated that he would look at the old site plan from the Haralson Park project to determine specific locations.

Rebecca Sundquist stated that she also preferred this location.

Paul Skrede suggested that you might want to reorient the current court in order to better accommodate the second court.

Further discussion was held on the possibility of generating a fund raising effort to raise sufficient money to support a second court.

Jim Elvestrom stated that perhaps we would be better off getting a new court for \$65,000 since they last approximately 50-60 years.

John Flynn stated that he would be pleased if we could get a comparable court with a heating system without having to use City funding.

Further discussion was held on the information needed to present this issue to the City Council at their February 6th meeting. Dana Young suggested a one-page summary on the availability of the court, projected costs and revenue sources and a site plan of Haralson Park showing the potential location of the second court.

2012 Goals & Objectives

Dana Young stated that the City Council met on January 3rd to discuss 2012 Council Goals & Objectives and the Council established the following goals for the Park Committee for 2012:

- Explore recreational grant opportunities
- Establish a protocol for the use of the platform tennis court
- Post the scheduling of the platform tennis court on the City website
- Provide the public with the greater ability to control the lighting at city parks

Discussion was held on the potential impact of allowing the public to have greater access to the lighting at city parks and on the possibility of exploring more grant opportunities. Rebecca Sundquist noted that she has had quite a bit of experience writing grants.

Deephaven Beach Boardwalk

Dana Young stated that the Park Committee still needs to weigh in on the issue of whether to repair or replace the boardwalk at Deephaven Beach and suggested that the Committee review the boardwalk this spring.

Deephaven Beach Swimming Dock

Dana Young stated that the Deephaven Beach swimming dock was replaced back in 2007 at a cost of \$8,458 in materials. He stated that after five years, the dock is not holding up very well and once again needs to be replaced. He presented two design and cost options on a floating dock. One design was identical to the existing wooden dock at an estimated cost of \$34,328 and the other an "L" shaped dock in the amount of \$23,000.

Scott Ferguson stated that he would not be in favor of a floating dock because swimmers would feel trapped inside the dock area.

Patrick Regan also noted some safety concerns about kids swimming underneath the floating docks.

Dana Young suggested that the Committee review the Deephaven Beach swimming dock this spring along with the boardwalk.

Other

Discussion was held regarding a request from Marc Gross for an Eagle Scout project for his son. He suggested that his son could repaint the city beach signs and stain/paint the warming houses.

Dana Young stated that the Public Works Department has identified the following projects as potential Eagle Scout projects:

1. Repair the garbage container at Carson's Bay launch.
2. Repair the portable potty enclosure at Robinson's Bay Beach.
3. Construct garbage containers at Village Hall Park and Robinson's Bay Beach similar to the garbage container constructed at Sandy's Beach.
4. Repaint Gazebo, Warming House & Well House at Village Hall Park.
5. Repaint Warming House at Thorpe Park.
6. Install (2) steps as entrance to Carson's Bay Docks.
7. Reconstruct the fishing dock in Burton Park.

He stated that he would contact Marc Gross about these potential projects.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Peggy Beardsley, seconded by Scott Ferguson. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2012.