

**DEEPHAVEN PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 1, 2008**  
**Minutes**

Present: Lucy Hicks, Scott Ferguson, Bryan Sykora, Peggy Beardsley,  
Darel Gustafson, Jennifer Young and Council Liaison John Wheaton

Absent: Sarah Lien, John Flynn, and Hans Larson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lucy Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M., declaring a quorum.

**MINUTES**

*The Committee approved the September 3, 2008 minutes as submitted on a motion by Bryan Sykora and seconded by Scott Ferguson. Motion carried 6-0.*

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

No discussion.

**BUSINESS ITEM**

City Administrator Dana Young provided a summary of the Park Improvement Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund. Dana Young stated that a portion of the General Fund money goes towards on-going park maintenance. i.e. (improvements to the ball field with Ag-lime). The Capital Improvements Fund is setup to fund all capital maintenance needs in the City. All maintenance issues are put on a schedule. The Park Improvement Fund is supported solely through park improvement fees. The Park Improvement Funds are generated from subdivided land. Because there is little of no land remaining in the city to subdivide the fund will run out of money. Future park projects will be funded out of the General Fund budget.

Dana Young reported that anticipated revenue for the Park Improvement Fund will be about \$11,000 and expenditures are expected to be \$57,000. The main park improvement for 2009 will be the main beach area to correct an erosion and drainage issue. The Council has also discussed some options for the boardwalk, possibly installing a brick paver pathway.

The public works garage addition will probably not move forward this year, however, the zamboni will be stored in the main garage this winter. Some of the public works equipment will be moved outside. The Council is interested in moving forward with the public works garage addition with 50% of the funds coming from the Capital Improvement Fund and 50% from the Park Improvement fund.

Jennifer Young asked if any other drainage issues in the City would be addressed.

Dana Young stated that there will be a large scale drainage improvement along Rutledge Road and the drainage swale at Robinson Bay Beach may also need to be evaluated.

Dana Young reported that within the next few years there are major scheduled improvements to the tennis courts. Future park dedication fees will go into the Capital Improvement Funds and ear-marked for park improvements. Nothing beyond 2009 is supported by the Park Improvement Fund.

Lucy Hicks stated that there is concern that park decisions are being discussed at the Council meetings and the Park Committee has no knowledge of some issues.

Dana Young noted that the Council has not had any discussion relative to park issues, but there has been discussion at the monthly public work's meetings regarding the erosion at the main beach.

John Wheaton reported that the MCWD had asked the City to consider allowing Rocky Beach as a "test site" for an eco-friendly erosion design.

Dana Young noted that this issue did not go before the Park Committee due to the timing on the part of the MCWD.

Dana Young reported that Deephaven resident, Steve Barts is looking to create a skate board facility through the Make-a-Wish Foundation, possibly on their own property or at Thorpe Park.

Dana Young reported that the City has budgeted for warming house attendants to be scheduled similar to last year with one attendant rotating between houses.

John Wheaton did not agree that the having rink attendants shuttling between the warming houses is working.

Jennifer Young agreed that one rink attendant split between warming houses does not work and she want to express this concern to Council.

The Park Committee thanked Dana Young for the updates and the budget clarifications.

#### **A) Play Structures at Thorpe Park**

Bryan Sykora reported that the company that he works with is introducing a new line of play structures and possibly looking to locate one of the new designs at a test site. The price for the structure is about \$16,000; however, the City may be able to get the structure at a reduced cost, or possibly no cost. He suggested that the Park Committee consider an overall master plan for the playground.

Scott Ferguson stated that he and Sarah Lien had spoke about play ground area and agree that there needs to be a master plan, with consideration given to multiple age ranges and an overall theme. He suggested that he could create several concept drawings for the Park Committee to consider in creating a master plan.

Jennifer Young shared some information about “play ground” concepts that use natural elements like sand, boulders, water features and trees versus fabricated equipment as an option to consider.

Darel Gustafson stated that a play ground design should give priority to equipment or features that are known to be preferred by kids.

Lucy Hicks asked that Scott Ferguson and Sarah Lien work together to create conceptual ideas for a master plan and present them to the Committee for consideration and discussion.

### **B) Haralson Park Improvements**

Haralson Park improvements are underway. The topsoil is down and several trees have been planted.

Scott Ferguson suggested that public works look at the support posts on the platform tennis court to learn the extent to some damage that appears to have been caused by an earth move.

### **C) Deephaven Days**

Peggy Beardsley presented a summary of some of the feedback and comments that she collected regarding Deephaven Days.

There was a general consensus that more volunteers are needed to run the triathlon even at the same level of participation.

Lucy Hicks noted that the original goal of Deephaven Days was to create a City event for residents to participate. Deephaven residents participated in the picnic and according to the race registrations about 30 residents participated in the race.

John Wheaton suggested one option for Deephaven Days is to create more activities in the park for kids and eliminate the race.

Scott Ferguson suggested that in lieu of the triathlon event, host a 5K fun run, which would eliminate the swimming issues (watercraft, lifeguards and ambulance) and possibly some of the volunteers needed for the full event.

Lucy Hicks stated that she is concerned that the event may “burn out” the Park Committee members.

Jennifer Young suggested a possible obstacle course at Thorpe Park in lieu of the full race events.

Bryan Sykora suggested a “park-to-park” run would be an idea to feature the city parks.

John Wheaton suggested a family scavenger hunt through several parks culminating at Thorpe Park for the picnic.

Darel Gustafson noted that the average picnicker is not someone who will participate in the race event because the people at the picnic are typically an older crowd.

John Wheaton stated the Park Committee needs to think about an activity that will not “wear-out” the Committee Members with a time commitment.

Peggy Beardsley noted that the Cottagewood Store does a lot of kid friendly activities at the store over July 4<sup>th</sup> and hosting the Deephaven Days picnic several weeks later may be duplicating much of the same things.

Darel Gustafson stated that the Committee needs to decide on the goal and concept of Deephaven Days.

Bryan Sykora and Lucy Hicks agreed that they like the idea of a race or athletic event as part of the Deephaven Days.

John Wheaton suggested that the event be more kid-friendly because there was not enough activities for kids as part of the picnic or for those too young to race.

Bryan Sykora stated that a combination of biking and running could be created using the “park-to-park” concept, giving families a chance to ride or run together.

Darel Gustafson noted that the triathlon is funding the other activities. The event could be turned into a bigger income event by increasing the entry fee, getting timing bracelets and more volunteer participation. Additional volunteer sources to tap may include the Minnetonka Police Explores, the boy scouts and local church youth groups.

The Committee will continue discussion in November.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

John Wheaton stated that he may have a contact to help plow the ice rinks on weekends on an as-needed basis for a small fee. John stated that he will ask about plowing both rinks.

### **Items and Issues for Repair**

- Purchase and place a timer on the platform tennis court and the ice rinks
- Purchase 2 plastic shovels and put them at the platform court this winter. Spray paint the face of the shovels “City of Deephaven”.
- More lighting is needed on the free-skate rink at City Hall and Thorpe Park
- The hockey rink at Thorpe Park needs to be graded because of very uneven surface.
- Chain link fencing behind the hockey nets at the Village Hall hockey rink needs some repairs.
- The steel posts that are at the entrance to the Village Hall hockey rink need a cap or some type of padding as a safety measure

Jennifer Young suggested that placing a board between the steel frame may be a solution so the exposed steel frame.

- build two skate “push-along” trainers to put at each rink warming house for public use.
- Stress to coaches, parents and teams that the hockey rinks are not reserved and teams need to respect others using the hockey rinks.
- Purchase several orange traffic cones to be used on the free skate rink to delineate an area for small kids and beginners.
- Designate an area on the free skate rink for hockey play – mark with cones.

Darel Gustafson suggested that the City consider a designated time at each rink that is reserved for team play (i.e. Tuesday nights 5-7 P.M).

The Park Committee suggested that there needs to be more communication to parents and leagues and possibly a sign on the hockey rink stating that the ice rinks are open and not reserved for team or tournament play.

The Committee suggested Dana Young send a letter to the coaches and leagues regarding team play and use of the rinks.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn by Peggy Beardsley and seconded by Lucy Hicks. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 5 at the City Hall.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Shelley Souers