

DEEPHAVEN PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
November 5, 2008
Minutes

Present: Lucy Hicks, Bryan Sykora, Peggy Beardsley, Sarah Lien, John Flynn,
Hans Larson and Darel Gustafson.
Absent: Scott Ferguson and Jennifer Young and Council Liaison John Wheaton

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lucy Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., declaring a quorum.

MINUTES

The Committee approved the October 1, 2008 minutes as submitted on a motion by Bryan Sykora and seconded by Peggy Beardsley. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC FORUM (*items not on the agenda*)

No discussion.

BUSINESS ITEM

Kids Tennis Team – Pat Allar & Judy Brodahl

Pat Allar stated that they had met with the Meg Low at Minnetonka Community Educations Services (MCES) regarding the program. They are looking to launch the program in Deephaven in the summer of 2009. They are requesting the use of 2 tennis courts during the month of July. The courts would be designated for Kids Team Tennis on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:15PM to 7:30PM. The program involves parent participation which makes the evening time the best.

The MCES program book is organized in the winter for the spring programs and classes. Pat Allar requested that Kids Team Tennis be listed in the program booklet and would need to have court locations designated in the booklet. MCES handles the promotion of the programs and carries the insurance.

Pat Allar reported that they set up Kids Team Tennis lessons in St. Louis Park during the summer. This was the first year to run this program with St. Louis Park and over 50 kids participated in the program.

Lucy Hicks stated that she will contact Meg Low at MCES to learn more about how they coordinate courts and fields with cities.

Peggy Beardsley stated that she is supportive of the Kids Tennis Team initiative and would like to see the program in Deephaven.

The committee discussed vehicle parking needs for group events and agreed that Thorpe Park has more parking options because cars can be parked around the perimeter of the park.

Sarah Lien stated that she is supportive of the Kids Team Tennis Program and if two courts are available for use, suggested that the Park Committee designate two courts for four- weeks in July to allow the Kids Team Tennis to setup the program.

The Committee thanked Pat Allar and Judy Brodahl for their time.

Lucy Hicks asked if the City should create a charge for groups reserving courts or fields.

Peggy Beardsley stated that she did not feel the City should charge teams.

Lucy Hicks asked if the City's liability changes if the City charges youth groups for using the courts and fields.

Darel Gustafson stated that most of the MCES programs are for profit programs.

Sara Lien noted that other groups do pay for courts and space in MCES facilities.

Hans Larson suggested that the City Council may want to give direction to the Park Committee regarding whether a use charge should be considered for park facilities. Hans suggested the Committee allow the Kids Team Tennis to use two designated courts this summer and going forward establish a City policy to reserve courts and fields in the parks.

Haralson Park

Lucy Hicks reported that she is trying to locate a Haralson family member to invite them to the spring ribbon cutting of Haralson Park.

The Park Committee asked if the public works would be clearing the dead trees and brush along the Minnetonka Boulevard side of Haralson Park.

Play Structure at Thorpe

Bryan Sykora reported that he, Sarah Lien, and Scott Ferguson will be working on a master plan for the park play structures.

Lighting at the Ice Rinks

The Park Committee agreed that due to cost, they would not install a timer on the light at the platform court at this time.

The Park Committee agreed that several members meet with Frontier Electric to discuss the lighting locations and intensity. Staff will contact Frontier Electric to set a time review the rinks for lighting needs.

MOTION: Darel Gustafson moved to recommend to Council to approve the installation of the 7-day timer, bull horn bracket and two 1500 watt quartz lights at City Hall rink and to install a 7-day timer and 30 foot wooden pole with 1-400 watt light at the Thorpe ice rink based on a consultation with Frontier Electric next week. The money for the added lighting to be taken from the capital improvement fund. John Flynn seconded the motion.

Discussion to be continued at Thorpe Park.

The Park Committee agreed to meet on Saturday, November 15 at 9:00 A.M. to install the rink boards at Village Hall Park.

Public Works Storage Garage

Council will be approving a bid for the garage addition to the sand shed.

Warming House Rink Attendant

Staff reported that to-date three applications have been received for the warming house attendant position. The City will only be able to staff the warming houses on weekends unless more attendants apply to work. The City Staff and Police Chief have discussed the option of the warming houses remaining unlocked and open 24 hours with the rink lights on a timer. There would be no attendant in the warming houses Monday through Thursday. The weekend hours would be staffed, provided enough attendants are available to work.

Deephaven Days – future plans

The Park Committee discussed future options for Deephaven Days.

It was agreed that more information needs to be distributed about the picnic, including details on the back of the race applications.

The Committee agreed that getting volunteers was one of the biggest challenges.

Lucy Hicks suggested that the triathlon be scaled down to a 5K or 10K run. She stated that the athletic portion of Deephaven Days is fun but would also like to expand on the picnic event by adding more functions at the park. Lucy suggested increasing the application fee to \$40 for the race with a portion (\$5) going into the park fund.

Bryan Sykora stated that taking the event to the next level and charging more will cause greater expectations, i.e. timing results and splits, t-shirts and more water stations, etc...

Darel Gustafson noted that the triathlon fees cover the cost of the picnic activities, i.e. the band

Sarah Lien noted that down sizing the race event to just a run could possibly result in a cost savings.

There was discussion of starting the race event earlier in the day but felt that the racers would more than likely not stay around for a picnic.

The Committee discussed the need for volunteers and changing the race from a triathlon to just a run, would not necessarily cut down on the number of volunteers because the greatest need is for traffic engineers.

Darel Gustafson noted that the biggest drawback is the timing of the racers. Improving the event would require race mats and ankle bracelets. Adding these features would increase the cost to \$30-\$40 per person.

Lucy Hicks cautioned about growing the race event, noting that the main beach has limited space and parking would be an issue.

Bryan Sykora suggested a run could be setup so it includes several parks in the City.

Hans Larson expressed concern that making the race bigger and increasing the cost may take away the goal to encourage local family participation and kids.

The Park Committee agreed to continue discussion on the Deephaven Days at the December meeting.

Lighting at the Ice Rinks

The Park Committee convened the meeting at Thorpe Ice Rink to consider lighting options.

***MOTION:** Darel Gustafson moved to amend the original motion stating that the light at Thorpe Park ice rink **not** include a new wooden pole, only the addition of a light fixture to be installed to the existing pole and directed to cover the ice rink; with the understanding that if Frontier Electric does not believe that the light fixture will be adequate on the existing pole, that the wooden light pole be installed where appropriate. Sarah Lien seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. (Peggy Beardsley was not present for the discussion at the park).*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Hans Larson and seconded by Bryan Sykora. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, December 3 at the City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Souers