

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
January 2, 2008
Minutes

Present: Jennifer Young, Darel Gustafson, John Dupont, Hans Larson, Lucy Hicks, John Flynn, Bryan Sykora, Peggy Beardsley and Council Liaison John Wheaton.

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES – October 3, 2007

The Committee approved the December 5, 2007 minutes as submitted on a motion by Lucy Hicks and seconded by John Flynn. Motion carried 5-0.

2008 Chair and Vice Chair

John Flynn moved and Peggy Beardsley seconded the motion to maintain the current leadership for 2008, (Chair Lucy Hicks and Vice Chair Darel Gustafson). Motion carried 5-0.

Park Improvements

The committee reviewed the “wish list” drafted by Peggy Beardsley, Lucy Hicks and Scott Ferguson based on feedback from the members.

Purpose of the Park – Gateway to City and parking for Paddle court and trail.

Bryan Sykora stated that the primary purpose of the park should be to maintain courts.

Items on the list included:

- General clean up of park area and tree groves.
- Six parking spaces created (one designated as handicap). Staff was directed to check on the requirements for handicap parking.
- The egress would be limited to one driveway, shared with the public works department over the City land.
- Screen the salt shed with low maintenance landscape and perennials.
- Remove some of the hard surface gravel area
- Install a park sign.
- Paver patio adjacent to the court
- 2 benches and a picnic table
- Walking path from south Minnetonka Blvd. to the trail
- Permanently close off the Minnetonka entrance on the west side.

The committee discussed the width of the shared driveway access. Jennifer Young questioned why the parking could not remain on the City property, as it currently exists versus creating parking within the park area.

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Lucy Hicks reported that newly appointed committee member Scott Ferguson had suggested planting several Haralson apple trees, if the park is named Haralson Park.

John Wheaton noted that the court located in the park area is not a paddle tennis court it is a platform tennis court. Naming the park "Paddle Park" may be confusing.

John Wheaton reported that there is company that is willing to install two platform tennis courts in the park to be used for a two year period. John stated that he will get more details on the courts and report back to the committee.

John Wheaton reported that the City Council accepted the recommendation from the Park Committee approving the bid from Reilly Green Mountain to install aluminum flooring and screens to the existing platform court. The court materials would be delivered in March or April.

Bryan Sykora suggested that the committee get more information about the company interested in setting up one or two courts and what they are hoping to achieve at the end of the two year period. If the City has the opportunity to purchase a court, it may be as cost effective as restoring the existing court.

John Wheaton asked if there should be any features, natural or other, incorporated into the park for kids use.

Bryan Sykora noted that there is "work out/fitness" equipment that is setup as stations designed for parks. These stations can look very natural and fit into the overall concept with the court and trail. The park is a starting or ending point for walkers and would be a great spot for some fitness stations. Bryan Sykora stated that he will bring pictures of the system for the committee to review.

The committee discussed providing a budget maximum to all landscapers bidding on the park restoration.

John Wheaton suggested that the public works staff may be able to help with some of the work, i.e. general clean up, remove brush and remove the silt fencing. John stated that he will speak to the Council regarding whether the public works staff can assist with some of the work.

John Dupont agreed that once the committee receives a bid for the park restoration, the Council can help decide how much of the work the public works staff can do.

Peggy Beardsley noted that any landscaper will be made aware of the boundary between the City and park land and given instruction to landscape (screen) around the platform court that overlaps onto City property, but not to landscape or change any of the City property.

Jennifer Young was opposed to creating parking space within the park area when adequate parking exists on the City property, which is currently being used. Jennifer felt that parking should continue to be allowed on the City portion of the land and not include any parking in the restored park area.

John Wheaton stated that he will ask the Mayor his opinion regarding the parking location.

Lucy Hicks stated that if there is consensus with the list created for park improvements, the Committee will move forward and seek bids.

Hans Larson suggested that Council confirm the shared driveway egress into the park before we go ahead with the plan.

Darel Gustafson moved to accept the items on the list as written, (Exhibit A) to be given to the project bidders as a working plan to put together a bid. Peggy Beardsley seconded the motion.

John Wheaton stated that the proposal can be altered based on access to the park area.

John Flynn amended motion, adding that the proposed bid be between \$30-\$40 thousand. Peggy Beardsley seconded the motion. Amendment carried 7-0.

On a vote of the main motion, as amended, the motion carried 6-1-0.

Jennifer Young voted against the motion because she is not in agreement that parking needs to be included in the park area.

OTHER MATTERS

Jennifer Young expressed concern with style and intensity of the newly installed lights at Thorpe Park near the pavilion.

John Dupont stated that he understood the police had input with the selection of the lighting

Darel Gustafson stated that he walks his dogs in the park and did not believe the lights were obtrusive.

Jennifer Young felt that the lights should be a cut-off style of light and the bulbs should not be visible.

Hans Larson suggested that the committee look at the lights in the park and discuss the issue next month.

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John Wheaton asked the committee to consider the idea of not employing warming house attendants for next season. The rinks could be opened by the staff and closed by the police at 9:00P.M. John expressed concern with rink maintenance over the holidays because the use is very heavy. If snow falls during the weekends or holidays the rinks are not able to be used. John also suggested that the warming house could possibly be renovated to accommodate a stall for the zamboni.

Darel Gustafson suggested that cutting back on the cost of the park restoration would free up some funds to be used to renovate the warming house to accommodate the zamboni.

John Wheaton suggested that the committee consider hiring a local resident to plow and clear the rinks over the weekends when the public works staff is not on duty.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Jennifer Young and seconded by Bryan Sykora. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Souers