

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
March 5, 2008
Minutes

Present: Darel Gustafson, Jennifer Young, Scott Ferguson, Lucy Hicks,
Bryan Sykora, Peggy Beardsley, Sarah Lien (7)

Absent: Hans Larson, John Flynn, and Council Liaison John Wheaton.

Guests: Paul Skrede, Sue Jerutis, Pete Onstad, Mike Kelly

Call to Order

Chair Lucy Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. declaring a quorum and welcomed the new Committee Members, Scott Ferguson and Sarah Lien.

Minutes – February 6, 2008

The Committee approved the February 6, 2008 minutes as submitted on a motion by Peggy Beardsley and seconded by Bryan Sykora, subject to correction noted by Jennifer Young striking the following sentence regarding the lights at Thorpe Park “the current lights on the poles near the pavilion are mercury vapor lights and are dangerous”. Motion carried 7-0.

St. Louis Bay Breakwater Structure

Boat Committee members Sue Jerutis, Pete Onstad and Mike Kelly were present to discuss options addressing the steel breakwater structure located in St. Louis Bay. Sue Jerutis reported that the Boat Committee is considering several ideas for the breakwater structure. The structure was originally installed to prevent erosion of the beach. The Boat Committee would like to make the structure useable and have concerns with the safety of the present structure for boaters and snowmobilers. The Boat Committee considered creating a fishing pier however, the proximity to the swimming beach precludes this option. The Boat Committee provided a diagram of the structure in relation to the shoreline, swim beach and private docks located on City shorespace. The funds are available in the Boat Committee’s budget to make some improvements to the structure.

Lucy Hicks noted that the Park Committee had also discussed this matter and if the structure becomes a swimming platform it may be difficult for the lifeguards to monitor swimmers around the structure.

Pete Onstad stated that he understands that there may be many opinions and some may oppose doing anything however, the Boat Committee feels there are good options for the structure to be useable. Pete suggested that a platform with benches may be a good idea if creating a swim structure is an issue. The City would need to post signs denoting “no swimming and no fishing”.

Darel Gustafson suggested making the structure a swim platform and placing the life guard stand on the structure to address the safety of the swimmers.

Paul Skrede stated that the City had been approached at one time about a fishing pier and had decided that a fishing pier would not be created at the main beach. Paul suggested that the City speak with MCES regarding the placement of lifeguards.

Paul Skrede reported that the LMCD had asked if the structure could be a transient dock to be used for dropping off and picking up boaters.

Bryan Sykora stated that if the structure becomes a swim platform the area would need to be roped off for swimming.

Lucy Hicks noted a watercraft drop-off point would be precluded if it becomes part of the swim area.

Pete Onstad noted if the area is roped off as a swim area, it may be too close to the shorespace docks. This will need to be evaluated.

Darel Gustafson stated that he will speak with Tim Litfin, director of the Minnetonka Community Education Services (MCES) about the idea of a swim platform and location of lifeguards.

Mike Kelly suggested calling the pier a multi-use structure so it can develop into what ever use works best.

Paul Skrede stated that the area between the swim ropes and the breakwater structure has some boulders and would need to be cleaned up.

Sue Jerutis stated that the Boat Committee would like to move forward with completing the structure this summer.

Pete Onstad stated that the minimal dimension to cover the piling structure is 30 x 6 feet. The Boat Committee would like to finalize the structure ideas and get plans and bids within the next few months.

Changing the Park Committee Meetings to the 2nd Wednesday of each month

On behalf of the Boat Committee, Sue Jerutis requested that the Park Committee consider changing their meeting dates with the Park Committee, which would allow the Boat Committee members to attend the LMCD meetings.

The Park Committee discussed their meeting schedule.

Peggy Beardsley moved to recommend to Council that the Park Committee meetings be changed to the second Wednesday of each month to accommodate the request by the

Boat Committee to attend the LMCD meetings. The change would be effective starting in April. Darel Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Platform Tennis Court – Reilly Green Mountain has asked that the City identify the 14 screens that are to be removed from the platform tennis court. Staff will contact John Wheaton to mark the screens so the public works can remove them.

Park Improvements

Lucy Hicks reported that the Park Committee had recommended four park names to be considered by the City Council. The Council added a name and will place a notice in the newsletter giving the residents an opportunity to vote on a park name. The names were narrowed to Haralson, Amesbury and Trailside Park. The City will gather resident feedback before deciding on a name.

Lucy Hicks reported that she, Peggy Beardsley, Darel Gustafson and Scott Ferguson met a week ago and came up with some suggestions regarding the park specification.

Scott Ferguson suggested that the Park Committee should create a formal park design in order to produce specifications. Scott noted that without having a specific design it becomes more difficult to proceed and compare “apples to apples” without all landscapers bidding on the same design. Scott prepared a concept plan to show the Park Committee. The concept plan more clearly defined the shared entrance, adding vegetation to mitigate the views of the public works buildings. Scott explained that the design concept allows for parking entirely on the park property, not on the City property.

Paul Skrede reported that the Council reviewed the park specifications at the Council meeting on Monday night, voted to remove the parking area on the north side of the line from the specifications and asked for clarification of the size of the circle [patio] that was shown on the drawing. Paul reiterated that the City will not require any parking spaces to be located within the park, but the Council did not want a designated parking space defined on City property. The Council is willing to continue to allow parking on the City property where vehicles currently park. If parking space becomes a problem in that area the City will address the parking issue.

Scott Ferguson asked Paul for clarification regarding the shared entrance.

Paul Skrede stated the Council had no discussion regarding a shared entrance but felt that landscaping that portion of the City’s property perhaps could be considered in the future and he is not opposed to having “something in the future after the usage is evaluated”. Paul suggested that the City needs to monitor the traffic in and out of the space and evaluate the use before considering additional landscape on the City land.

Darel Gustafson expressed concern about not having defined parking space and a park entrance and suggested that the area become a preserve with trees instead of a park.

Darel asked if putting trees on either side of the driveway [shared entrance] will impact the public works and use of the space.

Paul reiterated that landscaping the entrance may be an issue at some future point, but the Council had not discussed that concept at this time.

Scott Ferguson stated that the intent with the park is to improve the space and to mitigate the look and feel of the public work's side of the line. Scott stated that if screening cannot be achieved, Darel's idea of creating a preserve may be money better spent. Scott noted the fact that the property line is so divided and they [Park Committee] cannot improve what most needs to be screened (the shed and truck movement) on a side of a park that would not be used.

Paul Skrede suggested if a row of something like arborvitae were put in along the property line, the improvements to the park would still be worthwhile.

Jennifer Young suggested giving the City time to use the roadway after the park improvements (south of the line) and then re-address the entrance landscape.

Bryan Sykora stated that he did not think that anything would change regarding use.

Paul Skrede noted that it becomes a space consideration for the public works because they do not have a lot of options. The Council is concerned with giving up any land for landscaping that the public works uses. The City property north of the line will stay the way it is. Paul noted that it may be paved as some point, but those discussions were preliminary.

Peggy Beardsley stated the Park Committee wants to work together with the City to enhance the Park and City property so there is no definite "black and white" line. Peggy stated that when she attended the Council meeting, the Council stated that the City may participate with the Park Committee to also enhance the City property in conjunction with the park plan.

Scott Ferguson felt that the free access to the City parcel and public works shed is unsightly.

Paul Skrede stated that he looks forward to amiable usage of the City's space but noted that the park is probably not going to be a destination park like "Minnehaha Falls" and he would prefer funding reflect that concept.

Darel Gustafson agreed.

Paul Skrede agreed that the Council supports investing money into the park to clean it up so it doesn't look like a parking lot and asked Scott to readdress a concept plan with landscaping south of the City line.

Darel Gustafson asked why landscape the park until the City decides if they are going to landscape their side.

Paul Skrede stated that he does not want to give false hope, but if it is decided that there is City land that is not used, it may be readdressed for landscaping.

Darel Gustafson suggested the Park Committee hold off on landscaping the park until the City decides what to do with their piece so the plan could be more inclusive and accomplish better screening of the public works facility.

Next Steps:

Bryan Sykora asked if Scott could redesign a concept plan screening the City property with Arborvitae. The Park Committee could review the concept next month and present it to Council.

Scott Ferguson noted that minimal improvements could be done to the park area by removing the gravel surface and bringing in topsoil and seed.

Paul Skrede stated that he believes the Public Works could help with some grading.

The Park Committee took no action to move forward with the current approved specification. Scott Ferguson will create two draft concepts for the park Committee to review in April.

Zamboni Storage Building

John Flynn emailed the Park Committee members a concept plan with dimensions for a zamboni storage garage adjacent to the Village Hall warming house.

Jennifer Young stated that she is opposed to the proposed location of a storage shed next to the warming house and suggested that a storage shed might be located adjacent to the public works building.

Paul Skrede stated that the public works staff would need to evaluate the space but added there is electricity in the public works building.

Scott Ferguson also disagreed with a zamboni shed located next to the warming house, because he did not agree with putting a storage building in a park.

Lucy Hicks reported that she will send John Flynn an email regarding locating the storage shed adjacent to the public works building.

Paul Skrede stated that he will speak with Dana Young regarding the location and a heat source. Paul stated that he will email the committee about their findings.

Arbor Day

Date – Sunday, April 27 at 1:00PM

Following discussion regarding locations for the Arbor Day tree, the Committee agreed that the main beach could use another tree.

Lucy Hicks moved to recommend to Council that the Arbor Day tree be planted at the Main beach by the playground. Sarah Lien seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Deephaven Days

Deephaven Days will be Saturday, August 9.

Lucy Hicks reported that a “Save The Date” notice will be put in the next news letter.

Lucy stated that she was contacted by a chiropractor in Excelsior who would like to provide a stretch area to be used before and after the race.

The Park Committee was open to the idea of local vendors setting up booths.

Lucy Hicks stated that she will canvass the local businesses to ascertain their interest in participating in Deephaven Days.

The Park Committee did not feel that political booths should be permitted at Deephaven Days.

Darel Gustafson moved to recommend to Council that political booths not be allowed at Deephaven Days, but that persons campaigning can participate in the event [be present, shake hands and hand out flyers, etc...], and that Deephaven Days will focus on Deephaven businesses. Bryan Sykora seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Lucy Hicks and seconded by Jennifer Young. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on the second Wednesday of April.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Souers