

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Thorpe Park

June 4, 2008

Minutes

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

Absent: John Flynn

Call to Order

Chair Lucy Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. declaring a quorum.

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The Committee approved the May 7, 2008 minutes as submitted on a motion by Sarah Lien and seconded by Hans Larson. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Forum (for items not on the agenda)

No comments were made.

NEW BUSINESS

Haralson Park - The committee reviewed the draft plans for Haralson Park. Scott Ferguson explained the option of creating a grass area vs. a prairie area to replace the gravel open space. A prairie area can take as many as five years to get established and requires a great deal of care on the front end. The proposed pathway would be a granite chip (1/4 minus gravel rock) from the entrance to the seating area along the west side of the platform court. Scott Ferguson suggested an alternate color of granite chip for the seating area to set it apart from the pathway.

Jennifer Young suggested that the existing foot path along the wetland be improved with new wood chips.

Scott Ferguson stated that the hill area is eroding and the recommended slope is 3-1 in order to maintain the hill and erosion control. There are several larger trees growing out of the hill. Scott suggested doing minimal work to the slope along the front edge to control erosion and clean up some of the trees and brush along the hill.

The Committee agreed that the seating area be located next to the platform court and 20 feet in diameter with two benches.

Scott Ferguson noted that there is a maintenance strip of rock trim around the platform court. Scott Ferguson reported that he is working with the City Engineer on getting the MCWD permit.

Darel Gustafson asked if the plan and specs could be ready for bid before the next park committee meeting.

Darel Gustafson moved to accept the park plans as created. Peggy Beardsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0.

Deephaven Days

The Committee discussed Deephaven Days and agreed to meet on Tuesday mornings at 7:00AM at the Cottagewood Store to continue planning.

Bryan Sykora will make 1700 copies of the race registration form and map. The committee will plan a neighborhood distribution of the registration forms as well as distribute them to the local business.

Lucy Hicks will speak with John Flynn about updating the banner sign.

Grill Night

Peggy Beardsley reported that she signed the Park Committee up to serve at the Cottagewood Store Grill Night on Friday, July 25. The committee discussed a theme and food options. The grill night will focus on getting volunteers for Deephaven Days.

Council Update

Council Liaison John Wheaton reported that the public works and police are not in favor of the zamboni garage in the back parking lot area. The Council suggested that the public works salt/sand shed could possibly have a two-stall garage added to accommodate more of the public works equipment, which would free up some space in the main public works garage for the zamboni.

The Park Committee noted that they had budgeted \$15,000 for a garage space and are open to the idea of helping to build the additional public works garages, with the understanding that the space created in the main garage would be for park use/zamboni storage.

John Wheaton reported that the Council has started budget planning for 2009 and the Park Committee should consider future capital improvements.

Thorpe Park

The Committee reviewed the play ground area and structures. Sarah Lien stated that Thorpe Park is the "show piece" of the community and the play structures are starting to show their age and in her opinion the wooden play structure is dangerous.

Bryan Sykora stated that all playground equipment has safety guidelines and are designed to accommodate specific age groups. The structures in Thorpe Park are designed for 2-5 years of age and 5-12 years of age. Bryan noted that the wooden play structures need to be periodically sanded and sealed. Bryan also pointed out several areas of the structure that are outdated in regard to overall condition and safety. Due to the maintenance issues, very few companies use wooden structures anymore. The steel slide in the sand area is also outdated.

Darel Gustafson asked if Bryan Sykora could create a three-year plan with different structures in the play area for the Park Committee to consider and phase in new structures.

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Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Peggy Beardsley and seconded by Bryan Sykora. Motion carried 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, July 2 at the City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Souers