

DEEPHAVEN PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
September 3, 2008
Minutes

Present: Lucy Hicks, Scott Ferguson, Bryan Sykora, Sarah Lien,
Hans Larson, Peggy Beardsley, John Flynn and Council Liaison, Mayor
Paul Skrede

Absent: Darel Gustafson, Jennifer Young, and Council Liaison John Wheaton.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lucy Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M., declaring a quorum.

MINUTES

There was not a quorum for the August meeting. No meeting minutes were recorded.

PUBLIC FORUM (*items not on the agenda*)

The Park Committee reviewed a request for a donor memorial bench to be located at Deephaven's Main Beach at St. Louis Bay. The Park Committee expressed concern that the beach currently has several benches and the sand area may be expanded which could limit the room for any more benches. The Park Committee will evaluate the location, style and number of benches at the Main Beach before more benches can be placed there. Staff will contact persons requesting a bench with the decision.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Thorpe Park Play Structure Options

Brian Sykora presented 3D diagrams of several options for new play structures at Thorpe Park. The older wooden structure is in need of replacement. A new play structure would replace the existing wooden structure and eventually a new structure would replace the dinosaur structure. The Park Committee discussed keeping the sand versus an optional surface area. Brian Sykora suggested keeping the existing swings.

Brian Sykora stated that two companies provide safety guidelines for park and play structure equipment. The play structures and equipment may need minor amendments after several years if the standards change. The play structures are designed to meet ADA standards, but the sand base is not considered ADA accessible. If the entire playground area is changed the base would need to be upgraded to meet ADA accessibility guidelines.

Brian Sykora suggested the City conduct an ADA assessment review prior to replacing the play structures with new equipment.

Scott Ferguson noted that the play area gets really hot and a shade structure may be beneficial.

The City has planed capital improvement funds of \$30,000 to replace the wooden play structures at Thorpe Park in 2012.

Lucy Hicks moved to recommend to Council to reallocate the 2012 play structure budgeted amount of \$30,000 into the 2009 budget for improvements for the Thorpe Park play structure. Peggy Beardsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Brian Sykora abstained from the vote.

Scott Ferguson and Sarah Lien volunteered to review play structure options and work on a design for the park.

B. Deephaven Days Re-Cap

Peggy Beardsley stated that more volunteers were needed for the triathlon. The police officers' primary responsibility is to direct traffic. The officers do not have the staff available to direct racers. More signage and directional engineers are needed to assist the racers.

Sarah Lien agreed that between the two events it is a lot of activity for volunteers. There were serious competitors that requested more information on race times, i.e. splits between each event.

The Park Committee agreed that the event is at a point where we should evaluate if we can grow the race by incorporating more professional tools, i.e. ankle meters for all racers or do we want to keep the event smaller and more family-friendly

According to our registrations, there were just over 30 Deephaven residents that registered for the triathlon. The majority of racers were from surrounding communities.

Some of the suggestions included: Increasing the entry fee; marking the pavement with paint for better directions; moving the finish line so there is no cross over with the bikers and runners; including information about the picnic on the triathlon flyer.

Lucy Hicks suggested the committee consider the goals for the triathlon and picnic. Discussion will continue next month.

C. Haralson Park Update

Arteka delivered topsoil and intends to start within one-week. Weather permitting the estimated time of completion is 10 days.

Staff will order a park sign and public works will install it.

OTHER BUSINESS

Brian Sykora stated that a beach lifeguard has suggested a volley ball court at Robinson Bay Beach. More sand is needed at Robinson Bay Beach. There is also a need for a small storage shed at the main beach to store the long rescue board.

Scott Ferguson brought up several maintenance issues:

- Concern about the slide on the wooden play structure.
- The children's backhoe structure needs to be moved closer to the sand. The scoop barley reaches the sand for digging.

Others mentioned:

- Consider several signs around the play area regarding the sand bees. Scott said that that he has seen permanent signs at other public beaches that say "caution – ground bees present."
- There is a need for more sand around the play structures

Mayor Skrede noted that a new slide is on order and will be installed as soon as it arrives. The public works are aware of the bees and can look into putting up a sign.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Hans Larson and seconded by John Flynn. Motion carried 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 1 at the City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Souers