

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

August 3, 2011

Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman John Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

John Flynn, Scott Ferguson, Cindy Webster, Patrick Regan, Peggy Beardsley, Jim Elvestrom, Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Rebecca Sundquist

May 4, 2011 Minutes

The Committee approved the May 4, 2011 minutes on a motion by Peggy Beardsley, seconded by Cindy Webster. Motion carried 6-0.

Matters from the Floor

Mayor Skrede was present to state that Hennepin County has lowered the threshold for their recreation grants to permit grant requests as low as \$5,000 - \$10,000. He stated that the intent is to provide smaller grants so that more cities would feel inclined to participate. He stated that the grant applications are due this fall. He added that he would like to see Frisbee Golf established at Thorpe Park.

Welcome to Patrick Regan

The Committee welcomed Patrick Regan to the Park Committee.

Park Reports

Committee members provided their monthly park reports.

Peggy Beardsley stated that the Village Hall parks have been well cared for the last few months and commended the City's Public Works Department.

Cindy Webster noted that the flower pot at the entrance to City Hall is in rough condition.

Patrick Regan stated that a tree had blown down across the trail at Cleveland Park.

Jim Elvestrom asked if a bench could be installed at Thorpe Park tennis court similar to the bench at the Shuck Park tennis court.

Cindy Webster asked if an awning could be purchased and installed over a portion of the playground equipment at Thorpe Park. John Flynn noted that Bennett Park has an awning over their playground equipment and these awnings are typically pretty expensive. Jim Elvestrom suggested the Committee could look into the purchase of an awning when the dinosaur playground feature is replaced.

Shuck Park Improvements / Proposed Eagle Scout Project

Dana Young stated that there are two potential directions regarding Shuck Park that have been discussed. He stated that he has included \$35,000 in the 2012 Capital Improvement Fund for the renovation of Shuck Park. He stated that the intent of the renovation would be to mirror the Elwood Strand Park in Minnetonka, which would include:

- (1) larger playground equipment
- (1) combination tot / child swing
- (1) feature with two tot slides
- (1) feature with climbing elements
- (1) spring toy
- (1) recycled plastic picnic table
- (1) swinging bench

He stated that he is uncertain as to whether the Council would ultimately approve this renovation.

He stated that the other possibility is to renovate the existing park until such time as the Council would be interested in funding a total reconstruction of Shuck Park. He stated Jeff Patterson is looking to undertake an Eagle Scout Project and has volunteered to renovate Shuck Park by:

- Picking up trash/sticks in the sand.
- Removing the weeds in the sand and pavement.
- Add mulch around all the trees.
- Repaint the basketball hoop.
- Repaint the "Shuck Park" sign.
- Sand, powerwash and stain the wooden play structure.
- Replace the wood on the benches and paint or stain the new wood.
- Paint or stain the wood picnic table

Peggy Beardsley questioned the condition of the playground structure at Shuck Park and whether it meets current standards.

Scott Ferguson stated that this equipment has been grandfathered in and doesn't have to meet current playground safety standards.

Peggy Beardsley added that she was concerned with the condition of the sand at Shuck Park and would like more sand added to freshen up the playground surface.

Motion by Cindy Webster to recommend approval of the Eagle Scout Project at Shuck Park. Seconded by Peggy Beardsley. Motion carried 6-0.

Bette Bridge

Dana Young stated that Mayor Skrede had received an email from Jack Ballantine back on June 1st requesting some sort of memorial to his mother, Bette Bridge. He stated that Bette is a 98 year old resident of Deephaven and Mr. Ballantine has asked the City to consider a "plaque, bench, memento or something to commemorate her many years". He stated that the Mayor forwarded the email to Chairman John Flynn for possible consideration by the Park Committee. He added that he sent Mr. Ballantine information concerning a memorial bench for his mother, including potential bench locations and costs but has not heard back from him as of yet.

Kate Donlin and Phyllis Doman stated that they were present this evening on behalf of Mr. Ballantine. Kate Donlin stated that she has been in correspondence with Mr. Ballantine and he has requested the installation of a memorial bench somewhere close to Bette's residence on Azure Road. She stated that the Parkway would be a nice location.

Phyllis Doman stated that they would like to keep this secret from Bette. She stated that she knows that Bette doesn't want a bench at Thorpe Park because she doesn't go to Thorpe Park very often. She agreed that the Parkway would be a possible location.

Paul Skrede suggested locating the bench near the walking path at the Parkway and that staff could meet with Kate and Phyllis to determine a final location.

Motion by Scott Ferguson to recommend approval of the location of a memorial bench for Bette Bridge at the Parkway. Seconded by Peggy Beardsley. Motion carried 6-0.

Park Bench Request

Dana Young stated that the Park Committee received an email from Scott Ferguson asking the Committee to consider a different manufacturer for the benches that are used as memorial benches at the city parks.

Cindy Webster asked if Scott had found one bench manufacturer that is better than the others.

Scott Ferguson stated that he has recommended many different brands in the bid specifications that he has worked on. He stated that he felt that the recycled slat benches look horrible and really liked the appearance of the garden style benches recommended by the City.

Dana Young stated that several years ago, the Park Committee had recommended the current bench manufacturer's garden style bench as the specific bench to use for memorial benches. He stated that the City has always been somewhat indifferent as to which bench manufacturer is used and the only consideration is that the bench has to look nice and be durable. He stated that he wouldn't be averse to looking into different bench manufacturer's, such as the one suggested by Scott Ferguson.

Pat Regan agreed that Landscape Forms was a very good company.

Dana Young stated that he would look into the different manufacturers and the different prices offered on memorial benches.

Other

There was no Other Business this evening.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Scott Ferguson, seconded by Peggy Beardsley. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be cancelled due to a conflict with a rescheduled Council meeting.