

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

May 4, 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, Peggy Beardsley, Jim Elvestrom, Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Rebecca Sundquist, Patrick Regan

March 30, 2011 Minutes

The Committee approved the March 30, 2011 minutes on a motion by Cindy Webster, seconded by Jim Elvestrom. Motion carried 5-0.

Matters from the Floor

There were no Matters from the Floor this evening.

Welcome to Patrick Regan

John Flynn stated that Patrick Regan is not in attendance this evening and the Committee will officially welcome him to the Park Committee next month.

Shuck Park Improvements

John Flynn welcomed those in attendance for appearing at this evening's meeting to provide suggestions on possible future improvements to Shuck Park. He stated that the Park Committee has been discussing ideas concerning Shuck Park and wanted to listen to ideas that residents had regarding Shuck Park improvements.

In attendance were Molly Poole (20550 Lakeview Avenue), Abby Wallin (20375 Linwood Road), Nancy Kotobic (19940 Lakeview Avenue), Maggie Allen (19860 Lakeview Avenue), Michele Wallin (20085 Cottagewood Avenue), and Karl Lambert (4285 Jefferson Street).

Dana Young stated that the current 2012-2021 Capital Improvement Plan proposes the following improvements at Shuck Park:

- 2013 – Tennis court Armor Crack sealing (\$9,000)
- 2015 – Sign (\$1,700), swings (\$3,000), benches (\$1,700), spring toys (\$1,500), basketball court sealing (\$1,000), picnic table (\$750), remove existing playground equipment
- 2019 – Tennis court reconstruction (\$50,000)

The following general comments and suggestions were made by the residents in attendance:

- The tennis courts are used every day, although the court is starting to crack & peel.
- The basketball court is rarely used.
- Shuck Park is a great location for those residents at the end of Cottagewood.

- The swing set is great and well used by smaller children.
- The wooden play structure is dated and in poor condition.
- A great model to use for the design of a smaller park would be Elwood-Strand Park in Minnetonka.
- Get rid of the sand surface and replace it with wood chips, recycled plastic or grass.
- Install a smaller play structure to replace the wooden play structure.
- Another potential model for the design of a smaller park is offered by Planet Earth Playscapes, a contract that specializes in modifying the natural environment as play elements.
- Shuck Park could also be designed as a community gathering area, perhaps to augment events at the Cottagewood Store.

It was the general consensus of those in attendance for the Park Committee to consider the following future improvements at Shuck Park:

1. Continue to repair & upgrade the tennis courts when necessary
2. Keep the existing swing set
3. Remove the current wooden play structure
4. Consider replacing the wooden play structure with a smaller play structure, primarily designated for 2-5 year olds in order to differentiate from the play structures at Children's Park
5. Remove the sand and consider installing grass.
6. Remove the spring toys
7. Remove or expand the basketball court
8. Place at least two picnic tables at the park

The Park Committee thanked everyone for their input and asked them to forward any further ideas that they might have regarding Shuck Park.

Park Reports

Committee members provided their monthly park reports.

Community Event

Discussion was continued from last month on establishing a Community Event.

Cindy Webster stated that she felt it was very important to keep the event as simple as possible, such as sponsoring music and a picnic at the park.

Jim Elvestrom recommended that the Committee postpone serious discussions on establishing a Community Event until this fall or winter, when the Committee could give it more time and attention.

Geese at Thorpe Park

Dana Young stated that the City Council has budgeted \$2,800 in the 2011 Wildlife Management Fund for goose control. He stated the following goose control options will be presented for discussion by the Deephaven City Council at their May 16th meeting:

- Use Flight Control chemical application offered by TruGreen
- Contract with Canada Goose Management Inc. to remove the geese
- Allow the grass around the pond to grow longer
- Install fake swans in the pond

Shorewood Park Committee Request for a Joint Meeting

Dana Young stated that he has been contacted by the Shorewood City Administrator about holding a joint park committee meeting with the cities of Shorewood, Excelsior, Tonka Bay and Deephaven. He stated that the areas of discussion would include trails, trail connections and programming. He stated that the joint meeting is scheduled for May 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Southshore Center.

Scott Ferguson volunteered to attend the meeting and report back to the Committee.

Dogs at Deephaven Beach

Discussion was continued regarding Pat Paul's request to prohibit dogs from using Deephaven Beach.

Peggy Beardsley reported that she had contacted the cities of Wayzata, Excelsior and Minnetonka to see how they treat dogs at city parks and beaches. She stated that all three have very strict leash laws.

Discussion was held on the difficulty of banning dogs from walking along the walking path at the beach due to the large numbers of dog owners in the community.

Cindy Webster stated that it is difficult to come up with an answer for irresponsible dog owners. She added that she goes to Deephaven Beach all the time and hasn't seen any dog poop in the sand.

The Committee recommended installing a sign that more clearly states that dogs must be leashed and are not permitted on any portion of the beach but the walking path.

Other

Dana Young stated that he has received a complaint from Art Johnson (3655 Parkway) about a Chestnut tree in the Parkway that he would like to have removed because it is a dirty tree and kids are continually climbing the tree and throwing the chestnuts. He asked the Committee to review the tree for discussion next month.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Peggy Beardsley, seconded by Cindy Webster. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2011.