

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
November 7, 2007
Minutes

Present: Jennifer Young, Darel Gustafson, Peggy Beardsley, John Dupont, Hans Larson, Lucy Hicks, John Flynn and Council Liaison John Wheaton.

Absent: Bryan Sykora

Guests: Ron Burke, Sue Brakke and Steve Adams

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Jennifer Young called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. declaring a quorum.

MINUTES – October 3, 2007

The Committee approved the October 3, 2007 minutes as submitted on a motion by Lucy Hicks and seconded by Peggy Beardsley. Motion carried 7-0

NEW BUSINESS

Paddle Tennis Park Improvements

The Park Committee welcomed and thanked Mr. Burke and Mrs. Brakke for attending. Peggy Beardsley stated, following the last meeting, several members were given direction to meet with the City Administrator, Dana Young to define the designated Amesbury park area that could be restored.

Peggy Beardsley reported that she and John Wheaton met with Chris Casiraghi of Reilly Green Mountain Platform Tennis, to examine and discuss the court improvements. It was suggested that the court not be moved because it is sound and is sitting on piling-style footings.

Peggy Beardsley also reported that she met with Dana Young regarding the park area. He stated that the Council and public works felt strongly that no plantings or alterations be made to, or located in the city owned property adjacent to the dedicated park area. Dana Young suggested a proposal for park improvements could include two parts. 1) Improvements for just the designated park area, and 2) an option for minimal improvements to “blend” the park area with the city owned land adjacent to the park.

Steve Adams asked how much space [width] the public works wanted left open for access.

Peggy Beardsley reiterated, following her meeting with Dana Young and the feedback from her attendance at an earlier Council meeting, no landscaping should be proposed on the city property. The park access could be incorporated with the existing public works access across the city land, thereby keeping the southerly park access closed off.

Steve Adams suggested that the idea is to develop and improve the properties together, preserving space for the public works vehicle access.

John Wheaton stated that the main concern regarding the city’s property was vehicle access.

Jennifer Young suggested that the restoration plan keep the parking space on the city property, eliminating the need to create parking space in the designated park area.

There was mutual consensus among the park committee members that the hill behind the paddle court be eliminated as part of the restoration plan.

Mr. Burke, 4630 St. James Gate, agreed removing the hill would add value to the overall park space.

Mrs. Brakke, 4665 Old Kent Road, stated that most of the parking in the lot appears to be non-resident parking. Mrs. Brakke asked if the committee considered making the space "permit parking".

Hans Larson stated that the Park Committee agreed to eliminate car-trailer parking once the park is developed.

Lucy Hicks noted that there is an entire parking lot adjacent to the City Hall building with trail access.

Peggy Beardsley moved to recommend to Council that the Park Committee speak with several landscape architects to propose a plan for the park area and to gather suggestions from the committee members regarding desirable features. John Dupont seconded the motion.

Peggy Beardsley suggested that a landscape architect should also provide a budget [cost analysis] of the restoration project.

Motion carried 7-0.

Lucy Hicks suggested committee members email Peggy Beardsley with ideas, identifying one or more features that the park should include. Also, the previous two architects are asked for a proposal and to contact an additional architect for a proposal.

Paddle Tennis Court Improvements

John Wheaton reported that the City received an email from resident Bob Woodburn suggesting volunteers do some of the work on the paddle tennis court and to possibly turn the floor boards over. He noted that he examined the boards and did not feel they were in good enough condition to be turned over and used.

John Wheaton reported that he and several others recently met with Chris Casiraghi, owner of Reilly Green Mountain Platform Tennis, to examine the platform tennis court for structural soundness. Chris Casiraghi submitted a letter outlining several options and price points, using aluminum decking and new Douglas Fir decking, for the court restoration.

John Wheaton recommended option 4, [TEK screw secured combination deck utilizing an aluminum deck with the existing undercarriage] and the installation of new screen sections.

Lucy Hicks expressed concern that an aluminum court will be louder than the wooden court.

John Wheaton agreed that the wooden floor is quieter, however, will be more maintenance. If the committee chooses to go with the aluminum flooring, Reilly Green Mountain would ship the materials this winter. The materials would need to be stored and installed in the spring.

The project could possibly be done with volunteers, but did not believe that the volunteers could install and stretch the screens. The savings would be about \$8,000.

Darel Gustafson stated that the Minnetonka Community Education Services (MCES) is interested in offering paddle tennis lessons on the Deephaven court.

Jennifer Young expressed concern with the lighting around the court and suggested that a timer be added to the court lights.

Darel Gustafson moved to recommend to the Council to approve Option 3, [used welded combination deck utilizing an aluminum deck with the existing undercarriage - \$20,500] with repair to the screens as stated [\$4,500]. John Dupont seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

John Wheaton noted that the court will need to be painted before the aluminum flooring and new screens are installed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tim Litfin, director of the Minnetonka Community Education Services (MCES), has asked for feedback on two community events the MCES is hoping to hold in Deephaven.

- 1) "Skate Late" – a youth skating party with music and bonfire at the City Hall rink.
- 2) Community wide tennis tournament at the City Hall courts.

Darel Gustafson stated that he is on the MCES board and the events are always well organized.

The Park Committee hopes that there will be no charge for the skating event. The Park Committee wanted to thank director Tim Litfin for the ideas and efforts to involve the community.

Lucy Hicks moved to recommend approval of the MCES events suggested by Tim Litfin. Peggy Beardsley seconded the motion.

Darel Gustafson stated that it is possible there may be a charge for the tennis tournament event. The Park Committee had no issue with a charge for the tournament event.

Jennifer Young suggested that MCES be made aware of the senior men's tennis games held weekday morning throughout the summer.

John Wheaton recommended that a senior tournament be held in the morning to include the men who use the courts during that time.

Motion carried 7-0.

Council Report – no report.

Cell Tower

Lucy Hicks asked if Council was considering possibly allowing a cell tower to be located in Pump Park.

John Wheaton reported that Verizon has been exploring locations and may buy space near City Hall and add on to the existing tower.

John Dupont asked if a cell tower is located in the park, why the park fund would not receive some of the revenue.

The Park Committee felt strongly that a portion of the revenue from any cell tower located in a city park be allocated to the park budget.

Landscape Improvements Behind City Hall

John Dupont reported that Mayor Skrede had asked Jennifer Young and himself to consider some landscape improvements to the area behind the back entrance at city hall. John Dupont suggested that the architect selected for the paddle tennis park could also give some suggestions for the back entrance area.

Ice Rink

John Flynn suggested that the boards be installed around the open skating rink on Saturday, November 17 at 10:00AM

Committee Chair

John Flynn moved to nominate Lucy Hicks as the Park Committee Chair Person. Darel Gustafson seconded the nomination.

John Dupont moved to nominate Darel Gustafson as the Park Committee Chair Person. Lucy Hicks seconded the nomination.

Darel Gustafson stated that he is the newest park committee member and is currently also on the MCES board as the representative. He suggested that Lucy would do a great job as the chair person.

Jennifer Young stated that she wants to resign as Vice Chair and in doing so, moved to recommend to Council that Lucy Hicks be appointed as the Park Committee Chair and Darel Gustafson be appointed as Vice Chair, effective December 2007. John Flynn seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Lucy Hick suggested that John Wheaton mention at the next Council meeting, that there are several openings on the Park Committee.

John Wheaton reported that parking is prohibited along Linwood Road. This restriction is problematic for construction contractors because they are not able to park along the area for projects. The Council has discussed the possibility of creating permit parking only, along the road. John Wheaton suggested that City Administrator Dana Young speak with the Griswold family to amend the agreement to allow parking.

John Dupont moved to recommend that the Council create and approve parking be permitted on the lake side (west side of Linwood Road) with a permit only. Peggy Beardsley seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Staff shared a note from the Cottagewood Store regarding the Deephaven Days picnic expenses. A balance of \$283 was outstanding after expenses were calculated for the picnic food service. A donation in the full amount of the balance was generously paid by a Cottagewood Board Member, leaving the city owing nothing. The Park Committee expressed thanks for the monetary donation of the balance.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Hans Larson and seconded by Jennifer Young. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Souers