

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
February 7, 2007
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Jennifer Young called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Present: Woody Woodburn, John Flynn, John Dupont, Hans Larson,
Jennifer Young, Darel Gustafson, Lucy Hicks and Council Liaison
John Wheaton,

Absent: Bryan Sykora,

Guests: Bonne St. James

MINUTES – January 4, 2007

The Committee approved the January 4, 2007 minutes on a motion by John Flynn and seconded by Lucy Hicks, with one correction (*pg. 2 change; Rocky Beach to Sandy Beach*). Motion carried 6-0.

Woody Woodburn arrived 7:07 pm

The Committee welcomed Darel Gustafson as a new committee member. Darel came over to the Park Committee from the Boat Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Candidate Interviews

Woody Woodburn stated that currently there are two interested candidates for the open seat on the Park Committee. Ms. Countryman is out of the state and will not be present to interview at this meeting.

Woody Woodburn reported that the committee has established a protocol for the candidates and requested that Ms. St. James speak about her interest in the committee.

Ms. St. James addressed the committee stating that she has been a Deephaven resident 29 years and has worked on the Deephaven Centennial celebration. Ms. St. James presented several documents and articles regarding conservation ideas and issues for future consideration.

Ms. St. James thanked the committee for the ditches which she noted have improved drainage and supported the return of certain type birds into the parks that have not been around for years. She noted that not only are the drainage ways ecologically vital to the vegetation and animals, they are also a beautiful addition.

Ms. St. James suggested that the committee consider replacing the Tamarack Trees at Thorpe Park that were lost in the drought. There are several trees in the parks that need extra attention because they are recovering from the recent drought. Ms. St. James suggested a Magenta Magnolia or a Linden Tree would be nice additions to Thorpe Park.

Ms. St. James noted that noxious weeds are showing up along the park borders and should be addressed. She spotted a coyote in Thorpe Park and felt that the City may need to consider animal control measures if there are more sightings.

On another note, Ms. St. James suggested the Park Committee may be interested in having Audubon Minnesota Bird Conservation expert, Ron Windingstad, speak to the committee regarding birds and creating bird habitat.

Ms. St. James stated that she would like to see the gazebo reconstructed near the Thorpe pond and replacement of the swings at the main beach. The City has unique areas and should play to its' strengths.

John Dupont asked Ms. St. James' recommendation for a tree for Arbor Day.

Ms. St. James suggested that the Magnolia Tree would be a beautiful addition to any of the parks. The tree is very sturdy and can withstand 30 below. She also suggested the committee consider some Mexican Sunflowers to be placed with the decorative grasses. The plants attract butterflies and birds and are also very hardy.

Regarding Deephaven Days, Ms. St. James suggested having a separate picnic event for seniors that would honor and celebrate the seniors in the community. She agreed that Deephaven Days is a success and thankful for that event.

Woody Woodburn thanked Ms. St. James for her time and enthusiasm. The Committee will consider the other candidates prior to any recommendation to Council.

Ms. Countryman was not present but had submitted written comments. Staff will confirm whether Ms. Countryman can attend the March meeting.

Woody Woodburn will contact Ms. St. James to let her know that a recommendation will be postponed until the March meeting.

B) Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Location

John Dupont reported that Arbor Day is Friday, April 27 and recommended the Park Committee celebrate Arbor Day by planting trees on Sunday April 29 at 1:00PM. The committee planted three White Pines in 2006 and a Willow in 2005. John Dupont suggested that a tree be planted at the Cottagewood Children's Park to replace the tree that was lost.

Woody Woodburn agreed that a Magnolia Tree would be a nice addition to Thorpe Park as suggested by Ms. St. James. The committee should review the tree plan for Thorpe Park at the March meeting.

Lucy Hicks suggested a hardwood tree be planted at the Children's Park.

Woody Woodburn suggested two Tamarack Trees at Thorpe Park along the northeast side of the gully closer to Rutledge Road.

Jennifer Young stated that she will get some information on the Tamarack and the American Elm trees for the next meeting.

Discussion was continued to the March meeting regarding locations and potential trees.

OTHER 2007 IMPROVEMENTS

Woody Woodburn stated that there are no major budget issues regarding park improvements.

The committee discussed the swings at the main beach. The swings were removed because there was not adequate clearance for safety and the old swings were not in compliance with playground safety standards.

Hans Larson suggested that the committee consider improvements to the area surrounding the paddle court. He agreed to put together a sketch delineating possible improvements for the area.

COUNCIL REPORT

Council Liaison, John Wheaton reported that the zamboni was brought over to City Hall from Hopkins. He asked if the committee feels the zamboni should be stored in the city. One option may be to evaluate the warming house as a storage space by adding a garage door. Another option would be a new garage or car-port structure built at the City Hall location.

Woody Woodburn stated that he would not be supportive of expenses related to construction of a new building for the zamboni. He would consider the warming house as an option for storage in the summer months.

Pat McCarthy, a local fire fighter, received Council permission to reserve the Village Park hockey rink on Saturday, February 17 from 3:00-8:00 PM for a hockey tournament between several area fire departments.

The tennis back board has been delivered and will be installed when the weather warms up.

John Wheaton reported that the current coverage at the warming houses does not address matters of security or safety and felt that the cost of warming house attendants, \$3,800 for the season, outweighs the benefit. There is no consistent visibility since one attendant rotates between two warming houses. One option may be to have the police department unlock and lock the doors. The Council has suggested not hiring warming house attendants for the 2007-2008 ice-season and re-evaluate the matter after next season.

The Council has considered changing the width of several slides and the addition of ten dock slips at St. Louis Bay, subject the LMCD approval. The matter was sent to the Boat Committee. There will be a work session in February and public meeting on March 5 to discuss the allocation system and user fees for watercraft space.

Woody Woodburn noted that to combine the Park and Boat Committees a structural reorganization would need to be considered. Mooring space fees could provide long-term funding for the parks.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jennifer Young moved to reappoint Woody Woodburn for a second term to the Park Committee that will expire February 2010. Lucy Hicks seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0, Woodburn abstained.

2007 DEEPHAVEN DAYS

Woody Woodburn reported that Deephaven Days has been set for Saturday, August 11.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Woody Woodburn and seconded by John Flynn. Motion carried Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Souers