

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
March 7, 2007
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Jennifer Young called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

Present: Bryan Sykora, John Dupont, Hans Larson,
Jennifer Young, Lucy Hicks and Council Liaison
John Wheaton,

Absent: Woody Woodburn, John Flynn and Darel Gustafson

Guests: Peggy Beardsley

MINUTES – February 7, 2007

The Committee approved the February 7, 2007 minutes as submitted on a motion by Lucy Hicks and seconded by Hans Larson. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Park Committee Candidate Interview

Ms. Peggy Beardsley was present and introduced herself to the Committee. Ms. Beardsley stated that she has lived in Deephaven for 20 years, in three different Deephaven neighborhoods. She has been an active volunteer with the Minnetonka School District and an avid user of the city park system. Ms. Beardsley stated that she served briefly on the Park Committee years ago and had to leave the committee to head up the Cottagewood Store initiative. Describing herself as an outdoor enthusiast, she stated the city parks are a huge asset to the community and believes they should continually be improved and cared for. During her tenure on the Park Committee, she was involved in getting the city signs posted throughout the city and making trail improvements.

John Dupont asked if there were any projects that she would like to see accomplished in the next 3 years.

Ms. Beardsley stated that she is very interested in maintaining and restoring the paddle tennis court and feels the area around the paddle tennis court should be improved. It is used by residents and guests and in a very visible location on the corner. She feels it is a nice asset to the park system in the city.

John Wheaton asked what she enjoyed about Park Committee in the past.

Ms. Beardsley stated that she enjoyed all aspects from planning improvements to annual budgeting.

Lucy Hicks stated that the Park Committee oversees the Deephaven Days Triathlon and BBQ picnic in August. The Committee also organizes an ice skating party, weather permitting. Hans Larson reiterated that the idea behind the community functions is to encourage residents to get involved, experience and enjoy the parks.

The Committee thanked Ms. Beardsley for her time and comments.

The Park Committee considered the candidates for the vacant seat.

Hans Larson stated that Ms. Beardsley has a wide interest in the parks, trails and paddle tennis court improvements. The paddle tennis court improvement is one of the key projects this season and she has a strong interest in that project.

John Dupont stated that both candidates would bring a wide interest and passion to committee.

Any candidates who were not able to interview in February, but had submitted written interest were contacted subsequent to last meeting to come to the park committee meeting in March and speak to the committee. Staff was not able to reach Ms. Countryman to reconfirm her interest. Ms. Beardsley was contacted and was interested to interview with the committee. Ms. Countryman will not be considered at this time for the vacant seat.

Following discussion on the Park Committee's priority of projects for this season, it was moved by Jennifer Young to recommend to the Council that Ms. Beardsley be appointed to the Park Committee fill the vacant seat. Hans Larson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

B) Arbor Day Celebration - Tree Location & Type

John Dupont contacted a scout troop to help with the Arbor Day tree planting. He suggested that a magnolia plant, as mentioned by Ms. St. James last month, would be nice addition to the Childrens Park.

Hans Larson suggested that a tree be planted at Childrens Park to replace the tree that was recently lost along Western Road.

Jennifer Young researched several tree species and reported that the nursery suggested an American Elm tree. She will contact the nursery and confirm the size and scale appropriate for planting alongside the existing trees at Childrens Park.

Lucy Hicks agreed that the tree selected should be of a size appropriate to the area and though a magnolia would be nice, is not a good choice for a boulevard tree. The magnolia would do better inside the park area.

Jennifer Young stated the open area in the center of the park is often used for soccer and ball play and planting a tree in that area could impact the use of the open space.

John Dupont moved to recommend to Council to approve the purchase of one Elm tree to be planted in the Cottagewood Childrens Park to replace a tree that was lost along Western Road, subject to the details Jennifer Young learns regarding the size and species appropriate to the area. Lucy Hicks seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

John Dupont stated that he will bring the refreshments to share following the tree planting. He will also contact the Girl Scouts to participate.

Lucy Hicks stated that she will also bring the shovels.

C) Warming House Attendants for 2007-2008

The Park Committee discussed the need to hire warming house attendants for next season.

John Dupont stated that there is a security measure to consider and the attendants are able to lock up the warming house at the end of the night.

Lucy Hicks stated that she recently visited the Wayzata ice rink and did not notice any attendant on duty.

John Wheaton questioned if the cost exceeds the benefit. He agreed that security may be an issue, but if there is no guarantee an attendant will be at the warming house full time, questioned if it is still secure.

Lucy Hicks stated that there is a perception that there is some security, knowing that an attendant is working between the rinks.

Hans Larson agreed that even if the attendant goes back and forth between the rinks, there is some security with the attendant checking on both rinks.

Bryan Sykora noted that the attendants are residents and the cost of warming house coverage is essentially going back into the community.

Jennifer Young moved to recommend to Council that the City continue to staff the warming houses for the 2007-2008 season. John Dupont seconded the motion.

Jennifer Young moved to amend the motion and recommend to Council that the hourly rate be reduced to \$7.00 per hour to bring the wage more in line with an age appropriate job scale.

Hans Larson moved to amend the motion and recommend to Council that the Park Committee be allowed to review scheduling options, number of attendants and duties prior to staffing any attendants for next season. Bryan Sykora seconded the amendments. Motion carried 5-0.

D) Park Benches

John Dupont stated that the Park Committee did agree on the style of bench that would be ordered to replace any worn benches.

Hans Larson noted that the committee had agreed to remove the benches under the crab trees in Thorpe Park.

Lucy Hicks suggested that, she along with Bryan and John can walk through Thorpe Park and determine which benches need to be replaced.

Hans Larson recommended that the benches be assessed during the spring park tour.

E) Breakwater Structure

Jennifer Young stated that the Park Committee had discussed this structure last fall and questioned whether it is working as an erosion control structure. Young stated that residents have expressed that the structure it is not attractive. The Park Committee had considered whether it could be capped, but that may attract swimmers to jump off the structure or swim around the structure and they would not be visible to the life guards.

Jennifer Young moved to recommend to Council that the city engineer be asked to analyze the breakwater structure at the earliest convenience to determine if it is working properly. Lucy Hicks seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

COUNCIL REPORT

John Wheaton reported that the Council is reviewing the city dock structure and mooring options. No decisions have been made. Any change would not increase the overall boat storage units. Council is also reviewing the use of the ramp at St. Louis Bay and any impact a dock extension would have on its use.

NEXT PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

Due to spring break and the Easter holiday, the Park Committee agreed to move the April meeting to Thursday, April 12.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Jennifer Young and seconded by John Dupont. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Souers