

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**June 6, 2007**  
**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Woody Woodburn called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Present: Bryan Sykora, Jennifer Young, Darel Gustafson, Peggy Beardsley, Lucy Hicks  
John Dupont and Woody Woodburn

Absent: Hans Larson, John Flynn and Council Liaison John Wheaton.

Guests: Robert Boisclair, Steve Adams, Barbara Ross, Anne Williams and Bob Cassola

**MINUTES – May 2, 2007**

The Committee approved the May 2, 2007 minutes as submitted on a motion by Peggy Beardsley and seconded by Bryan Sykora. Motion carried 6-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Modify the Path Along the Parkway**

Robert Boisclair, 19400 Azure Road, requested to curve the City pathway along a portion of the parkway and plant seven Colorado Spruce trees along the west side of the curved path.

Mr. Boisclair noted that they purchased the property in 2000 and at the time there was a fence along his property and the parkway. The fence was removed and they added landscape and about 16 trees. They would like to achieve more privacy from the adjacent parkway. Mr. Boisclair stated that dogs wander onto their property and persons using the pathway leave garbage.

Mr. Boisclair noted that the property boundary line runs through the existing trees. Their construction project is completed and the path will be restored but request that they be permitted to curve a portion of it.

Jennifer Young asked for clarification regarding the private driveway location.

Mr. Boisclair stated that their driveway abuts the parkway property.

Jennifer Young questioned when and why the path was widened to a roadway?

Woody Woodburn suggested that Mr. Boisclair place stakes along the property line to create a visual reference to help them better understand the location where the change is proposed.

Mr. Boisclair stated that the pathway would be restored back to the original width of 4-6 feet and the proposed trees would be planted on City property.

Woody Woodburn asked if the Mr. Boisclair would be open to another type of trees.

Mr. Boisclair responded that he would be open to another type of tree.

**Peggy Beardsley moved and Woody Woodburn seconded the motion to accept the plan as presented for discussion.**

Woody Woodburn asked if the proposed path would be curved out eight feet from the existing location.

Darel Gustafson noted that the light rail authority may have an issue with any plantings in their property.

Jennifer Young questioned why the construction company could not use the existing driveway to access the project.

Mr. Boisclair noted that they received verbal permission from the City to put down temporary aggregate along the path and to use the pathway to access their property during their construction project.

Woody Woodburn stated that when trees or plantings are placed on City property they become City property. The owner who installs plants on City property gives up all rights to cut, prune or move plantings once in place.

Mr. Boisclair stated that the existing trees were planted in 2002 and staggered to look natural.

Bryan Sykora questioned if the size of the proposed Spruce Trees will have adequate distance to the path.

Mr. Boisclair stated that the landscaper suggested that coniferous trees be eight-feet apart.

Woody Woodburn stated that they need better clarification of the proposed trees in relationship to the property line, and whether any other authority needs to review the proposal.

Darel Gustafson stated that he is opposed to the proposal because it will take up green space that is used by a lot of people and by dog walkers. There needs to be a place for people to walk pets within the City.

Mrs. Anne Williams, 3725 Parkway, was present and stated that she lives across from the parkway area. Mrs. Williams expressed concern with the proposal stating that she witnesses the use of the park from her property and it is well used. The parkway is the widest space in the area without trees and a good space for people to play. Mrs. Williams stated that she spoke with several neighbors and they also prefer the open space. The parkway is the old trolley car lane and part of Deephaven's History. They do not want to see the parkway turned into private land. The homeowner created the situation with the layout of their garage and driveway and should not be expanding their yard or trees onto public land.

**The Park Committee unanimously tabled the motion and discussion until the property boundary could be staked for further review.**

Woody Woodburn stated that they will get back to Mr. Boisclair within two weeks

### **Paddle Tennis Park Improvements**

Steve Adam, 4640 St. James Gate, was present to address improvements to the paddle tennis area. Mr. Adams noted that the Council is considering capital spending for 2008 and park improvements should be considered if they are to be included in the 2008 spending. The park area was dedicated years ago in connection with the Amesbury Development and is essentially a gateway to the City and prominently exposed. Mr. Adams noted that a group of residents put together a plan in 2002.

Mrs. Barbara Ross, 19905 Andover Place, stated that she served on the Park Committee and had previously worked on a project plan for the paddle tennis area. The area homeowners are willing to volunteer labor to help make improvements to the park. The concept that was created was to create a welcoming feeling and pleasant visual area for the City. The Park Committee worked with the garden club for suggestions on plantings and with the arboretum to identify and save trees. The proposals included shrubs around paddle tennis court, a pathway through the park area and clean-up of the wetlands. The plan was tabled pending a master plan. The ultimate goal is to create a pleasant visible landmark that serves as the entrance to the City.

Woody Woodburn stated that the Park Committee has considered improvements to this area for the last several years and has recently revisited discussions regarding reconstruction of the park area. Four years ago there was a plan and budget for improvements, however, during the course of the fire station construction project, the park area was put on the back burner. Woody noted that the Park Committee and the City need to fully understand the issues.

- 1) agreement within the Park Committee as to the scope
- 2) a leader on the Council to approve the capital expenditure
- 3) create a forum to invite the public to look at the proposals (options) and get community consensus about how to proceed and the end result.

Jennifer Young noted that the car-trailer parking will be an issue for discussion.

Woody Woodburn stated that the area used for parking is not the actual dedicated park land. Maintaining the interest of the residents to have car-trailer parking will make the plan somewhat problematic.

Mrs. Ross stated that dedicated park land cannot be used for parking.

Mr. Adams reiterated that the largest area of parking is property not designated as a park. They are not suggesting removing the parking area. He noted that it may be easier to get Council to earmark funds for the project if there is a formal plan and if it is endorsed at the Park Committee.

Jennifer Young stated that any garden space will need maintenance and the garden club is maxed out.

Woody Woodburn agreed that having a master plan in place is a good idea, even if the area was built in phases. A minimal self-sustaining landscape design will be the best plan.

Darel Gustafson suggested dates be established or a timeline be created for the project.

Woody Woodburn noted plans and estimates by July may not be possible. Council will need details because this is a sensitive area. It will take time to create a plan, get costs and public input.

Mr. Adams suggested that incremental improvements could be done that are elements of the existing plans.

Jennifer Young asked what area should be addressed first.

Mrs. Ross suggested that an arborist or agent from the arboretum be asked to look at the existing trees and determine which can be saved and trimmed for overall clean up of the tree area and brush.

Mr. Adams suggested the second area that needs attention is screening of the public works shed.

Woody Woodburn thanked the residents for providing input to keep the Park Committee moving forward with the project.

**Darel Gustafson moved to recommend to Council that a subcommittee be formed with several Park Committee members, residents of the Amesbury Association as well as any City residents interested, to minimally develop an action plan with steps to bring the park area to fruition. Woody Woodburn seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.**

Committee member Hans Larson is the point person and can work with residents to come up with plans and improvement phases.

Woody Woodburn noted that the subcommittee is charged with the task to come with a large “grand plan” or sub-stage plan and present it to the Park Committee and Council. Hans Larson and Peggy Beardsley can work together along with interested residents to create sketches and a game plan.

### **Xcel Energy Tree Trimming**

Woody Woodburn stated that he met with Michelle Swanson and Brad Weindenfeller, representatives with Xcel Energy, to express concern with the tree trimming along the LRT corridor. Xcel stated that their plan going forward will be to trim the trail every four years. Xcel reported that they had communicated with the City regarding the trimming. The Park Committee was not aware of the trimming. Woody Woodburn reported that Xcel’s policy is to cut anything that will interfere with the power lines. Xcel agreed to return to remove the buckthorn and other invasive species along the corridor from the Carson Bay Bridge to Vine Hill Road Bridge. Xcel will increase notification to the City and residents.

Jennifer Young expressed concern that the buckthorn will grow back and suggested that something be planted in its place to keep it from returning. She will contact the Regional Trail Authority to learn if they have any funds to plant native species.

Woody Woodburn stated that the lines along the LRT cannot be buried because they are high voltage lines.

The City of Minnetonka charges residents a small tax that is used to bury power lines.

Woody Woodburn moved that the City work with Xcel Energy to remove the buckthorn and other invasive species as proposed by Xcel Energy's Brad Weidenfeller from Carson Bay Bridge to Vine Hill Bridge. Lucy Hicks seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

**Hill Park Improvements & Weed Control for Other Parks.**

**Woody Woodburn moved to recommend to Council to expand the weed control program to the parks identified on the list to include 3 applications by Chemlawn as applied at Thorpe Park. Darel Gustafson seconded the motion.**

Jennifer Young expressed concerned with applying chemical application to the parks and would prefer organic lawn applications.

Darel Gustafson noted that healthy green grass acts as a good filter for run-off.

Woody Woodburn stated that he is opposed to chemical application of any kind.

Lucy Hicks asked if there was a less toxic chemical that could be used.

**Lucy Hicks moved to amend the motion to include that organic chemicals be used and that Pump Park not be included in the list of parks to be treated. Jennifer Young seconded the motion. Amended to the motion carried 7-0.**

**On a vote of the main motion, as amended, the motion carried 6-1.**

The Park Committee directed Staff to get an estimate on an organic weed control application to present to Council.

Bryan Sykora stated that he would like to look at the Hill Park before further discussing the shrubbery.

**The Park Committee tabled discussion on shrubbery or landscape at Hill Park until the July meeting.**

**Thorpe Park Benches and Tables**

The Park Committee agreed that the standard for benches and tables include grey or cedar as color options. The Park Committee directed staff to order four picnic tables and eight benches for Thorpe Park (grey with black frames).

### **Basketball Backboards**

Bryan Sykora presented a quote on fan style basketball backboards for the Thorpe Park court. The backboards would be constructed from recycled poly. He will confirm whether the frame is included in the less expensive style backboard. There would be no shipping or handling charge with the #100078A backboard with frame. The quoted price does not include installation.

Woody Woodburn asked about getting the rectangular shaped backboard.

**The Park Committee directed staff to order two rectangular backboards, not to exceed \$2500, inclusive of installed.**

### **DEEPHAVEN DAYS**

Darel Gustafson noted that they will not be changing the route this year. The signage will be increased and there will be more race volunteers. The captain of each route will sweep the route and pick the volunteers up once the race is over. The reporting took a while last year and they will look into the cost of race chips for timing.

Peggy Beardsley stated that she spoke with Jean Midthun and Charty Oliver and was given the list of volunteers who have worked before.

Darel Gustafson stated that if someone can get the volunteers lined up he can organize them.

Woody Woodburn stated that he will ask Chimo residents and Bryan Sykora stated that he will ask residents from his neighborhood.

The Park Committee discussed increasing the cost of the picnic to \$5 per person.

The City will put a notice in the newsletter to seek volunteers. The banners need to be taken from storage and updated.

Daryl Gustafson and Bryan Sykora will check with his company to donate t-shirts for the runners

Lucy Hicks stated that she will contact John Wheaton and Paul Skrede regarding the flyer, band and banner.

### **Miscellaneous**

Peggy Beardsley noted that the sumac and the locust tree at Childrens Park need to be trimmed and the red gravel needs to be repaired.

John Dupont reported that he and Jennifer Young met with Pat Thiede in the Police Department to discuss improving the park area behind the lower level entrance to the City hall.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Bryan Sykora and seconded by Woody Woodburn. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2007 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shelley Souers