

**DEEPHAVEN PARK COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, September 5, 2007**  
**Deephaven Main Beach**  
**Minutes**

**Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Woody Woodburn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Woody Woodburn, Jennifer Young, Bryan Sykora, Lucy Hicks, Hans Larson, Darel Gustafson, Council Liaison John Wheaton, City Administrator Young

**Members Absent**

John Flynn, John Dupont, Peggy Beardsley

**Also in Attendance**

Mayor Paul Skrede, Councilmember Steve Adams

**August 1, 2007 Minutes**

The Committee approved the August 1, 2007 minutes on a motion by Woody Woodburn, seconded by Darel Gustafson. Motion carried 6-0.

**Park Benches – Dick Kreutter**

Dick Kreutter was present to make a short presentation on the purchase of less expensive park benches. He stated that he had been told that the City has been purchasing \$1,800 park benches that have a useful life of only 10 years. He stated that there are benches available from Fleet Farm that are adult sized, comfortable benches for two individuals that are made of a plastic component that will last forever. He stated that the benches, fully installed, would cost around \$300 each. He added that he also would not recommend purchasing the backless benches, several of which are at Thorpe Park, because they are hard on the elderly.

Woody Woodburn stated that the benches that have been recently installed at Thorpe Park were recommended by the Park Committee at a cost of \$400 - \$600 and are also made of a plastic component material, which last far longer than 10 years. Dana Young noted that the garden style memorial benches that are prevalent at the Main Beach can cost up to \$1,500 due to the cost of the memorial plaque that is often attached to the bench.

**Drainage Ditch in Thorpe Park – Mosquito Control**

Dick Kreutter stated that he would like to see the City mow down the tall grass in the drainage ditch at Thorpe Park. He stated that he thought it looked terrible.

Woody Woodburn stated that the City has allowed the grass to grow to serve as a bird sanctuary and stated that he felt it looked good. He added that according to the letter received from Mosquito Control, the ditch is not causing a mosquito problem.

Darel Gustafson commented that the primary purpose of the ditch is for drainage to the pond and it must be acknowledged that the flow of water must be impeded by the growth of the grass in the ditch.

Dana Young stated that the City crew would be mowing the long grass in the ditch shortly and would continue to mow the ditch every year after August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was held concerning a letter received from Fred Zimmerman complaining about the length of the grass in the drainage ditch. Woody Woodburn recommended sending Mr. Zimmerman a copy of the letter from Mosquito Control.

### **Trimming along the Hillside behind the Main Beach**

The Committee met with Sally Nelson, 3840 Day Lane, to review her request to trim the trees behind the lifeguard chair to improve her view of the lake. Following their meeting with Ms. Nelson, the Committee also met with Jack Braun, 19390 Park Avenue, who had cleared out much of the vegetation along the hillside to improve his view of the lake.

The Committee discussed how to enforce the protection of City property and how to deal with Nelson's request to improve her sightline to the lake and with Braun's unauthorized removal of trees and vegetation from City property.

Motion by Darel Gustafson to recommend that the City remove certain trees next spring along the Main Beach hillside with the type of the tree to be determined by the Park Committee. Seconded by Woody Woodburn. Motion carried 6-0. Woody Woodburn stated that this effort is an attempt to develop good vegetation management practices rather than trying to accommodate the Nelson's request to improve their view of the lake.

The Committee further recommended that a letter be sent to the Braun's outlining the City's policy on the unauthorized removal of vegetation on public property.

### **Recap of Deephaven Days**

Lucy Hicks stated that the Cottagewood Store did a terrific job in running the picnic.

Darel Gustafson stated that the new time clock was a great improvement and ended much of the disagreement last year over race times. He stated that he agreed with many of Nancy Middleton's post race comments regarding the registration process and would like to appoint Nancy Middleton as Registration Captain for next year. He added that race directional signs would have to be put up the morning of the triathlon due to vandalism.

Woody Woodburn stated that the Committee would be able to spend a little more time at next month's meeting reviewing Deephaven Days.

### **Paddle Tennis Park Improvements**

Woody Woodburn stated that there is not sufficient time to discuss this issue this evening and that he would like to meet with representatives from the City Council and the Park Committee to create a plan for the development of Paddle Tennis Park.

Darel Gustafson stated that Deephaven has every kind of park imaginable and the only type of park that we don't have is a dog park. He stated that he would like to have the Park Committee consider the creation of a dog park with a prairie restoration area for Paddle Tennis Park.

Woody Woodburn stated that further discussion on this Paddle Tennis Park would be held next month. He stated that after a plan has been created and approved by the City Council, he would like to hold a Town Hall meeting around the first of the year to present the plan to the public.

Paul Skrede noted that the City crew will be closing off vehicle access to the south end of Paddle Tennis Park and installing a more substantial entranceway to the critter park.

Bryan Sykora noted that the basketball backboards have been installed at Thorpe Park. The Committee thanked Bryan and his coworkers for their efforts.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Woody Woodburn, seconded by Darel Gustafson. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Deephaven Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2007.