

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 3, 2007**  
**Minutes**

Present: Woody Woodburn, Jennifer Young, Darel Gustafson, Peggy Beardsley, Bryan Sykora, John Dupont, Hans Larson, and Council Liaison John Wheaton.

Absent: Lucy Hicks, John Flynn

Guests: Steve Adams

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Woody Woodburn called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. declaring a quorum.

**MINUTES – September 5, 2007**

The Committee approved the September 5, 2007 minutes as submitted on a motion by Hans Larson and seconded by John Dupont. Motion carried 6-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Paddle Tennis Park Improvements**

The Park Committee had suggested that several plans should be considered for the undeveloped space. To-date the Committee has received preliminary sketches and ideas from two companies. Darel Gustafson suggested that one option to consider is a prairie area and dog park. Darel stated that the architects should be able to determine whether this is an option given the parameters of the space.

Peggy Beardsley stated that she had attended a Council meeting regarding the park plans. The Council stated that a portion of City property adjacent to the park space could not be incorporated into the park area because it was used for access to a storage garage. Peggy noted that given this restriction, the designated park area will be smaller than the original concept. Peggy suggested that an overall plan should still be considered. Council gave the Park Committee approval to go-ahead with getting plans for the property.

Steve Adams, City Councilmember, reiterated that the portion of City property, adjacent to the trail and park space, is to remain available for access to the public works garage.

Jennifer Young arrived at 7:11 P.M.

John Wheaton reiterated that the Council's primary concern is to preserve access to the storage garage. The Council is more concerned with the overall dimensions to maintain driveway access and less with the aesthetic design.

Woody Woodburn stated if the Council will work with the Park Committee, a plan can be created to address all the concerns. Woody questioned where parking spaces could be created, given the restriction of using the City's land.

John Wheaton suggested that a member of the Park Committee attend a public works meeting to clarify the access needs for the garage.

Woody Woodburn suggested that there will be several issues to resolve:

- 1) What are the park boundaries – what portion of City property can be used?
- 2) What portion of the City property needs to be maintained for access to the garage.
- 3) Meet with the public works department to clarify the area that is not able to be incorporated into park space.
- 4) Consider the appropriate number of parking spaces.

Steve Adams noted that regarding parking space, the park does not have to be viewed as a Hennepin County Trail access and parking area.

Jennifer Young reiterated that there are multiple places to park along the trail and there is also the City Hall parking lot.

Darel Gustafson suggested that the Park Committee needs to:

- 1) Identify the useable space.
- 2) Determine the intended use.

Peggy Beardsley, Bryan Sykora and Hans Larson will meet with Dana Young regarding the boundaries of the useable space.

Peggy Beardsley agreed that dog parks are beneficial, however, not sure if the paddle tennis park area is appropriate for a dog park. Dog parks get worn down and typically need to be fenced.

Darel Gustafson agreed that a dog park can get overused, but feels that it may be an option to explore. A hedge could be an alternative to a fence.

Steve Adams stated that he spoke with his neighbors about the idea of a dog park. The feedback he received was not supportive and the concerns expressed were the restricted space and need for a fence.

John Wheaton stated that one of the rationales to improve the paddle tennis park space is aesthetics and enhancement of this prominent corner area.

Darel Gustafson suggested that the City will spend a significant amount of money to restore the space, and feels the purpose should be a targeted purpose.

Bryon Sykora asked if Burton Park could be a dog park.

Peggy Beardsley replied that the park is wooded and there is no real open space.

Woody Woodburn stated that the Park Committee will need to have a town hall meeting regarding the options to get City feedback.

### **Paddle Tennis Court Improvements**

John Wheaton stated that he received information regarding costs related to court surfaces from a company that installs aluminum surfaces to paddle tennis courts. Aluminum has the best longevity. Installing aluminum flooring may require substantial alterations to the paddle tennis court girders to get it ready to receive the aluminum.

Woody Woodburn stated that he prefers a wood surface. Woody stated that the community residents get involved in the restoration of the court and, in a way, it becomes part of the City's culture.

John Dupont stated that there are some boards that warped and it may need to be closed until repaired.

Woody Woodburn noted that there is \$35,000 budgeted for improvements and if the park committee proposes to go ahead they should recommend the expenditure to Council for final approval.

Hans Larson suggested if the court is going to have major restoration, it should be moved to be located wholly on park property.

John Wheaton stated that he will be meeting with Chris Casiraghi from Reilly Green Mountain Platform Tennis Company this fall to assess the repair needs for the court. Following the meeting there will be a more clear understanding of the needed repairs and costs.

### **Deephaven Days Recap**

Darel Gustafson reported that the Cottagewood Store did a great job with the picnic food and recommend using the store again next year. A suggestion was made to add a Kayak portion to the race. The volunteer vests worked well and will continue to use them. The water patrol will require swim caps for all racers for the swim portion of the race.

Other suggestions included:

- T-shirts for race participants next year.
- Prizes, i.e. gift certificates, be given out to the race winners.
- Vendor sponsors and vendor booths at the park.
- Race could be increased to 200-300 participants and without burdening the park system.
- More residents to attend the picnic.
- Activities and games at the park.

Peggy Beardsley noted that the Cottagewood Store has several games they use for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic that may be able to be borrowed for the Deephaven Days.

### **Resignation of Chair Woody Woodburn**

Woody Woodburn reported that he will be resigning from the Park Committee effective immediately. Woody stated that he has been on the committee for five years and has enjoyed his term. Woody thanked the members for their support and participation.

Byron Sykora, on behalf of the Park Committee, thanked Woody for his years of service and great leadership.

Jennifer Young will be the acting chair until the committee appoints a chair. The committee can accept nominations and make an appointment in November.

### **Council Report**

Council Liaison John Wheaton reported that the Council is entertaining an idea for a walking path from Chowen Corner to Robinson Bay Beach, following a request for a footpath along Northome Road to Robinsons Beach. The space used for the path would be the road right-of-way adjacent to the road.

Verizon has contacted the City to use the existing cell phone tower or to construct another tower in the City. Pump Park may be an option.

Jennifer Young strongly suggested the City consider an alternate style to the tower. many options exist to construct a less obtrusive tower.

### **Other Business**

**Rocky Beach Dock** - Jennifer Young suggested the ladder at the Rocky Beach Dock be moved from the end to the side. The use of the ladder interferes with persons sitting on the bench. *The Park Committee recommended that the public works consider moving the ladder next spring.*

**Japanese Beetles** - Jennifer Young reported that trees in Deephaven are getting eaten by Japanese Beetles. The beetle defoliates trees and plants. Jennifer suggested that the City consider treating the grass in the parks in late summer to kill these beetles and recommended using a non-toxic substance.

**Park Bench Location** –The City received a request to place a memorial park bench at one of the beaches in Cottagewood. The Park Committee agreed that the bench at Sandy Beach should be replaced and would be a good location for a new bench. Another option would be to place a bench adjacent to the tennis courts next to City Hall. Staff will contact the person interested in donating the bench regarding these locations.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Hans Larson and seconded by Jennifer Young. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shelley Souers