

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
December 5, 2007
Minutes

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

Absent: Peggy Beardsley

Guests: Sue Brakke, Steve Adams, Scott Ferguson and Sarah Lien

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lucy Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. declaring a quorum.

Chair Lucy Hicks, on behalf of the Park Committee, expressed condolences to the family of Mayor Paul Skrede and Paula Winter.

MINUTES – October 3, 2007

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

Lucy Hicks thanked the Park Committee and Council members who participated in installing the free skate rink boards at Village Park.

Candidate Interviews

Lucy Hicks welcomed Deephaven residents, Scott Ferguson and Sarah Lien, to the park committee. Each has expressed an interest in the open park committee seats for 2008.

Scott Ferguson stated that he is a new resident to Deephaven. He and his family live across from Thorpe Park and use the parks and beaches throughout the City. Scott Ferguson stated that he has experience as a landscape architecture and believes his experience would be beneficial to the committee.

John Dupont asked if there were any areas of the city that he would like to see improved.

Scott Ferguson noted that the children's slide at Thorpe Park was damaged and there was not much done in the way of safety. He stated that safety issues should be addressed immediately. The beach erosion also needs to be addressed.

Darel Gustafson asked if Scott had an opinion regarding city property set aside for reserve land versus property set aside for recreational purposes.

Scott Ferguson stated that he supports the development of parks and also agrees that there is certain space should not be used but preserved as open space.

Sara Lien introduced herself and stated that she has resided in the Heathcote neighborhood for four years. Sarah stated that she is very passionate for the area. Her entire family uses the city parks, beaches and trails all season. Sarah noted that she

represents 50% of the demographic of persons that use the parks and would like to be involved with the committee. One of her concerns has been the playground equipment at Thorpe Park is unsafe due to the height and age of the structure.

Lucy Hicks thanked the candidates for coming to the meeting and noted that the park committee seats will be filled March 1, 2008.

Clarify the Budget Regarding the Paddle Tennis Park Improvements and Paddle Tennis Court Improvements.

The Council has asked the Park Committee to clarify the amount of money needed for improvements in 2008.

Lucy Hicks noted that one of the concept plans estimated \$52,000 for park improvements to the paddle tennis area. This estimate did not include blacktopping charges for any parking space.

Darel Gustafson noted that the park area has been scaled down since the proposal. A fixed bid would be helpful with regard to proposals considered for the park area.

Peggy Beardsley had emailed each member with a list of amenities that the committee suggested be included in the park area.

Hans Larson expressed concern that \$50,000 would be a large sum of money for the small park area. Given the new parameters of the designated park, the restoration should come in well under \$50,000.

Lucy Hicks agreed that plans will need to be modified because the area is smaller than originally thought.

Bryan Sykora suggested that bollards be placed at the boat launch at the Main Beach in lieu of the large rock that is used.

The Committee reviewed the budget expenditures for 2008, and made the following changes:

Tennis court improvements – increase from \$0 to \$1200

Benches – increase from \$3,000 to \$5,000

Beach & Park Upgrades \$58,000 (no change)

Platform Tennis – increase from \$25,000 to \$30,000

Arbor Day – increase from \$0 to \$40

Deephaven Days - \$1500 (no change)

An increase of \$8240 was added to the aforementioned budget items.

Jennifer Young arrived.

The committee suggested a more detailed breakdown of budget expenses be outlined for future review.

Hans Larson moved to recommend to the Council that the 2008 Park Improvement Fund be amended and approved in the amount of \$95,740. (An increase of \$8,240 in expenditures). John Flynn seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Paddle Tennis Park Improvements – Additional Quote for repairs

John Flynn reported that he has contacted Ray Finely (Tennis West) regarding the paddle tennis court improvements. He will get a copy of the quote to the Park Committee and Council on the estimated costs.

Park Name for Paddle Tennis Area

Lucy Hicks suggested several names to be considered for the paddle tennis area based on the history of Deephaven. Haralson Park, Alice Cotton Whitney Burton and Anna Morse Park, (1st school teacher in Deephaven) were a few of the names that were taken from the history of Deephaven.

The committee also suggested Paddle Park and Amesbury Park as options. The committee conducted a straw poll, by show of hands. Paddle Park received 3 votes out of the 6 members present.

Hans Larson moved to recommend to Council that the park be named either Paddle Park or the second choice of Haralson Park. Hans Larson withdrew his motion.

Lucy Hicks moved to recommend to Council that the five names discussed by the Park Committee be considered by the City Council. (Alice Cotton Whitney Burton, Haralson Park, Anna Morse Park, Paddle Park and Amesbury Park).

John Flynn amended the motion to send only four names to Council for consideration, retracting Alice Cotton Whitney Burton as one of the options.

The committee suggested that the top choices be sent to the Council for consideration. Darel Gustafson stated that the Park Committee should make a decision on the park name. Based on the discussion Paddle Park received three votes. Haralson Park and Amesbury Park were the other choices that received votes.

Motion carried 4-2.

Parking Along Linwood Road

John Dupont moved to rescind his motion from the November Park Committee meeting. Dupont recommended that parking not be allowed along Linwood Road, except for temporary parking permitted by the police department for construction purposes.

Hans Larson suggested that the police determine the issue of parking on Linwood Road because of the long standing easement restriction in place.

Memorial Bench at Main Beach

The Park Committee reviewed the proposed choices for placement of a memorial bench at the main beach. The committee was supportive of the request at the end of Park Avenue (#1).

Hans Larson asked staff to confirm the City's property boundary and that of the Walden Homeowners Association property boundary before the bench is placed.

Volley Ball Court Location

The Park Committee reviewed a request for consideration of a sand volley ball court to be placed in the Thorpe Park hockey rink. The volley ball court would support a league. The public works staff expressed some concern with difficulty creating a smooth ice rink each winter because of the ruts created in the sand by the large trucks.

Darel Gustafson stated that the issue is about how best to use the park facilities. It makes sense to maximize the uses of the parks with a variety of amenities.

John Flynn noted that the hockey rinks get used for soccer games in the summer.

Bryan Sykora agreed that a volley ball court would be a nice amenity. However, the parks do have some limitations with regard to space.

The Committee agreed that the hockey rink is not the best location for a volleyball court. No action was taken at this time.

Concession Sales on Park Land

John Wheaton reported that a resident has requested conceptual consideration for allowing the sale of concessions on park land. The request is to permanently locate a concession stand across from the paddle tennis area, adjacent to the City Hall. Presently the ordinance does not allow for concession sales in any of the residential district. The ordinances would need to be amended to allow a conditional use permit for sale of concessions on park land.

Several committee members expressed concern with the proposed location and if it was appropriate due to traffic on the boulevard.

Bryan Sykora asked if the concession stand might be incorporated into the paddle park area.

Hans Larson moved to recommend to Council approval of allowing a conditional use permit for temporary concession sales on park land, and opposed [disallow] permanent concession sales on park land. John Flynn seconded motion. Motion carried 6-0.

MCES Holiday Giving

Darel Gustafson reported that the MCES is looking for sponsors to support families for the holidays. Interested persons or groups can contact the MCES.

Other Business

Lucy Hicks stated that she will work with Peggy Beardsley to draft the committees list of suggested amenities for the park and create an outline to review at the next committee meeting prior to going out for quotes.

Lucy Hicks moved to recommend to Council to appoint Jennifer Young to the unfinished term of Woody Woodburn and to appoint Scott Ferguson and Sarah Lien to the Park Committee seats that will be vacant, effective March 1, 2008. Hans Larson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Lucy Hicks and seconded by Hans Larson. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 2, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Lucy Hicks re-opened the Park Committee meeting at 9:30 P.M. to address one item of unfinished business.

John Wheaton reported that the city leases a zamboni. The zamboni is currently stored outside. The lease agreement denotes that it should be stored in a heated facility. The police department needs to use the stall where the zamboni had been stored. John Wheaton suggested that the public works garage be considered for storage.

John Dupont moved to recommend to Council that the equipment in the garage be arranged to allow the zamboni be stored within the public work garage facility. Bryan Sykora seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion to adjourn by Lucy Hicks and seconded by Jennifer Young. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Souers