

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
July 16, 2015
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Scott Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present

Scott Ferguson, Lindsey Carr, Cindy Webster, Leslie Gustafson, Patrick Regan, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Jim Elvestrom and Jonathan Weiss

June 2, 2015 Minutes

The Committee approved the June 2, 2015 minutes on a motion by Patrick Regan, seconded by Leslie Gustafson. Motion carried 5-0.

Park & Recreation Strategic Plan Kick-Off Meeting

The Park Committee met with Terry Minarik and Brad Aldrich of Confluence to start initial discussions on the strategic plan. Terry Minarik stated that the purpose of the Kick-Off meeting is fact finding, to determine if there are any upcoming park projects, the availability of base mapping and other data, and to determine the list of stakeholders. He stated that the next step after this evening will be to tour the parks on July 23rd. He asked what each member hoped for out the strategic plan

Leslie Gustafson stated that she has been a long-time proponent of installing restrooms at Thorpe Park.

Dana Young stated that he would like a detailed plan or vision of each park that includes all proposed improvement costs.

Patrick Regan noted that a couple of the main concerns the City Council raised during their approval of the strategic planning process was their interest in having Burton Park designated as a nature preserve. He stated that the Council also wanted some consideration given to the development of park land in those areas of the city without parks.

Patrick Regan stated that he would also like the plan to address those areas without parks and to provide better access for the senior population at Deephaven Woods to use the parks.

Scott Ferguson stated that he would like there to be consideration given to providing connections to the parks throughout the city and to areas outside the city.

Leslie Gustafson stated that she would like the plan to consider basic amenities at the parks and beaches, such as a foot wash station at Deephaven Beach.

Cindy Webster suggested more seating at the beaches.

Terry Minarik stated that the plan will develop specific priorities. He asked if there were any upcoming community events that would enable the community to be surveyed on city parks and beaches.

Leslie Gustafson stated that there are a number of neighborhood meetings during National Night Out on August 4th. She added that she thought there might be a Chili Cook-Off scheduled as well.

Terry Minarik asked for a list of stakeholders who had a use or investment in the city parks.

The Committee developed the following list of stakeholders:

- Minnetonka Community Education
- Tonka United
- Three Rivers Park District
- Deephaven Garden Club
- St. Therese Church
- Platform Tennis Enthusiasts
- Student Representative
- Minnetonka Sailing School
- Minnetonka Baseball Association
- Minnetonka Youth Hockey
- Pickleball Enthusiasts
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Cottagewood Store
- Minnetonka School District
- Minnetonka Yacht Club
- Scouting Organizations

Further discussion was held on alternate revenue sources such as park user fees and Park Dedication Fees for redevelopment projects.

Patrick Regan asked if the plan will take into account population demographics.

Terry Minarik stated that some of this will be factored into the plan. He noted that playgrounds are assumed to be a ten minute walk for residents. He stated that every city is different when it comes to their park plans. He stated that Minneapolis prefers similar features at each of their parks while Edina prefers something different at each park.

Discussion was held on sending Terry & Brad copies of the City's Capital Improvement Plan and whatever park maps might be available.

The Walk in the Park on August 23rd will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will start at Thorpe Park.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Leslie Gustafson, seconded by Patrick Regan. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on July 23rd for the Walk in the Park Site Visits.