

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
April 8, 2014
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Dana Young called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Members Present

Leslie Gustafson, Jim Elvestrom, Patrick Regan, Jonathan Weiss and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

John Flynn, Scott Ferguson and Cindy Webster

February 11, 2014 Minutes

The Committee approved the February 11, 2014 minutes on a motion by Jim Elvestrom, seconded by Jonathan Weiss. Motion carried 4-0.

Park Reports

Dana Young reported on the following items:

- Flight Control will be applied at Thorpe Park this spring and summer to reduce the goose population.
- The City Council decided to continue to permit individuals to walk their dogs on the pathway through Deephaven Beach, with additional enforcement provided by a CSO Officer.
- Arbor Day will be held at 1:00 p.m. on April 27th at Thorpe Park.
- The natural gas application has been submitted to CenterPoint Energy for gas service at the platform courts with the intention to have gas service on or before August 1, 2014.

Patrick Regan noted that there is a crack in the walking path at Thorpe Park on the east side of the path. Dana Young stated that the Public Works Department is aware of the crack and intends to patch it once the weather gets a little warmer.

Jonathan Weiss noted that there are some drainage problems at Thorpe Park near the intersection of Rutledge and Hamilton and asked if the City could install storm sewer to alleviate some of the ponding issues. Dana Young stated that it is unlikely that the City would consider installing a storm sewer at this location since it has such a relatively low priority in comparison with other more critical storm water issues but he would have the Public Works crew take a look at it.

Jim Elvestrom stated that the ball field bench on the east side of Thorpe Park is broken and needs to be repaired.

Jonathan Weiss noted that the hockey rink boards at Thorpe Park took quite a beating this year. Dana Young stated that the Public Works crew will review and repair the hockey rink boards this fall.

Jim Elvestrom noted that several of the snow boards at the platform courts have been damaged and need to be repaired. Dana Young stated that he will have the Public Works crew review and repair any maintenance issues at the courts this month.

Bike Service Station at Haralson Park

Dana Young stated that he met with Paul Pesek, who is on the Three Rivers Park Foundation, about the possibility of establishing a bike service station at Haralson Park to benefit bike riders on the LRT Trail. He stated that a bike service station could potentially include portable restrooms, drinking water, a bike repair station, and parking. He stated that Paul was unable to meet this evening but planned to attend the May 6th Park Committee meeting to discuss his proposal in more detail.

Dana Young asked the Committee to give this proposal some thought over the next month.

Thorpe Park Field Uses

Dana Young stated that he has had discussions with Brian Schimke, representing the Minnetonka Baseball Association, Bobbi Hoebelheinrich, representing Tonka United, and Brian Larson, representing the Minnetonka Lacrosse Association. He stated that all three would like to use the NE corner of Thorpe Park around ball field no. 1 as practice fields. He stated that it appears the lack of practice fields in the surrounding area is driving the need for additional practice fields.

He stated that the location of the proposed practice fields for Tonka United and the Minnetonka Lacrosse Association would be in deep left field near the basketball court. He stated that in discussions with Brian Schimke, the ball fields are used every evening and the age of kids playing at this field (11-12 year olds) could potentially pose a problem for those using this area due to long fly balls and potential conflict with the left fielder. In other words, he didn't think there was enough space between deep left field and the basketball court to provide a safe area for other teams to practice.

Patrick Regan stated that he knows the Minnetonka Baseball Association is concerned about the number of 11-12 year old kids leaving the baseball program for lacrosse and isn't surprised that they might not want to go out of their way to assist the lacrosse program.

Dana Young stated that it might be more realistic to be able to provide Tonka United with some practice space near the basketball court but lacrosse is much more of a challenge due to their need for so much space. He encouraged the members to review this potential practice area between left field and the basketball court for their impressions on whether this could safely serve as a practice field.

Beach Patrol

Dana Young stated that at the October 1, 2013 Park Committee meeting, it was recommended that the City Council extend lifeguard services to Labor Day due to concerns over certain inappropriate behaviors occurring at Deephaven Beach once the lifeguards have left for the season. Dana Young stated that an additional 21 days of lifeguard coverage would cost \$7,607.25 (21 days x 7 hours/day x 3 lifeguards x \$17.25/hr). He stated that the Council is considering using a CSO Officer to cover some, but not all of these additional days.

Outdoor Learning Center at Burton Park

Dana Young stated that Tim Litfin, Executive Director of Minnetonka Community Education, will be coming to the May 6th Park Committee meeting to seek approval to operate an Outdoor Learning Center at Burton Park.

Other

Discussion was held on the possibility of the City providing funding for a 4th of July event in the Deephaven Park area. Further discussion was held on re-establishing a new community event such as a movie in the park or hot air balloon rides.

The Committee recommended lowering the adjustable basketball hoop at Thorpe Park back to 8 feet.

Discussion was held on whether there were any plans to modify the swimming dock at Deephaven Beach. Dana Young stated that the idea was discussed by the Council but no funding was specifically included for the swimming dock this year.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Leslie Gustafson, seconded by Jim Elvestrom. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2014.