

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
March 8, 2016
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Vice-Chairman Patrick Regan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Wendy Duren, Cindy Webster, Lindsey Carr, Patrick Regan, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Scott Ferguson, Leslie Gustafson, Jim Elvestrom, and Jonathan Weiss

December 1, 2015 Minutes

The Committee approved the December 1, 2015 minutes on a motion by Cindy Webster, seconded by Wendy Duran. Motion carried 4-0.

Matters from the Floor

There were no Matters from the Floor this evening.

Park Reports

There were no park reports this evening.

Wendy Duren stated that she had read in the minutes that each Committee member had been assigned individual parks to review and report on at each meeting. She recommended that the Committee should reallocate the parks and beaches among each of the members.

Dana Young stated that he would include this as an agenda item for next month's meeting.

Welcome to New Member Wendy Duren

The Committee welcomed Wendy Duren to the Deephaven Park Committee.

Reappoint Scott Ferguson, Jim Elvestrom & Cindy Webster to One-Year Terms of Office

Motion by Lindsey Carr to reappoint Scott Ferguson, Jim Elvestrom & Cindy Webster to a one-year term of office effective until February 1, 2017. Seconded by Wendy Duren. Motion carried 4-0.

Reappoint Leslie Gustafson to Three-Year Term of Office

Dana Young stated that Leslie Gustafson submitted a letter of resignation earlier today. He stated that Leslie will be missed and wished her the best of luck in her new job.

Appoint 2016 Chair & Vice Chair

The Committee postponed action regarding the appointment of a 2016 Chair and Vice-Chair of the Park Committee until next month.

Discuss Linwood Beach Easement Request

Dana Young stated that Steve & Linda Olmsted sent a letter requesting that information pertaining to Linwood Beach be removed from the city website. The Olmsted's were concerned that this information will be disseminated outside the community resulting in a number of non-residents using the beach.

Patrick Regan stated that beach water quality information is provided on the Hennepin County website and he would hate to see this removed from the city website for public safety reasons.

Cindy Webster stated that she wasn't aware of any issues with noise or other illegal activities at Linwood Beach. She stated that she was unaware of any police reports on Linwood Beach.

Dana Young stated that he will be bringing this matter to the Public Safety Committee to see if there was a possibility of using the Community Service Officer to monitor the beach more closely with the intent to reduce the number of illegal activities that the Olmsted's listed in their letter.

Cindy Webster asked if it would help for the city to install a fence identifying the easement area.

Patrick Regan asked if the city had the right to include notice of this beach on the webpage and recommended having the City Attorney review the easement agreement to address several of the issues that the Olmsted's had mentioned in their letter.

Lindsey Carr stated that she agreed that the easement agreement should be reviewed by the City Attorney to define the rights and responsibilities of each party.

Wendy Duren asked if the property owners were aware of the easement.

Dana Young stated that they were aware of the easement when they purchased the property.

Patrick Regan noted that the previous property owners had requested that the City vacate the easement, which was not approved.

Steve & Linda Olmsted entered and were provided with a summary of the Park Committee's discussion on their request.

Linda Olmsted stated that they are requesting that the city take any reference to Linwood Beach off the city website. She stated that they see people from all over using the beach and believe that the city is misrepresenting the fact that they own this beach on the website.

Cindy Webster stated that the easement is for public access for everyone, not just Deephaven residents.

Linda Olmsted stated that there is also a problem with people biking down the pathway, which is not allowed according to the easement agreement. She also noted that they have seen people drinking alcohol at the beach.

Dana Young stated that a sign could be posted prohibiting the use of bikes on the pathway.

Cindy Webster suggested installing a fence along the easement.

Linda Olmsted didn't think a fence would be a positive development.

Cindy Webster stated that it bothers her to try to limit access to Linwood Beach and the attempt to prevent people who are not from here from using the beach.

Linda Olmsted stated that they don't want to come across as elitist, but noted that this park was originally intended as a neighborhood park.

Steve Olmsted stated that their biggest complaint is that notice of Linwood Beach is on the city website.

It was noted that the city website included a reference to Linwood Beach under Beaches and Lifeguards, on the Park Trail Map, and on the City Property Listing.

Steve Olmsted noted that the website states that Linwood Beach is "unsupervised", which does not help with the expectations of the visitors to Linwood Beach.

Dana Young stated that it is listed as unsupervised due to the lack of lifeguards at the beach. He stated that this could be clarified on the website.

Wendy Duren stated that as a new resident, she would have never known about this beach unless it was listed on the website.

Steve Olmsted stated that the website is advertising to millions of people to go to this easement.

Lindsey Carr stated that she didn't know if this has been much of a problem in the past prior to the construction of the Olmsted's new house.

Dana Young stated that the difficulty is how the city can adequately provide notice to residents that this beach exists without providing notice on the website.

Cindy Webster recommended that the Olmsted's should contact the police if there is illegal activity occurring at the beach and the city will install a sign prohibiting bike traffic.

Discuss Ice Rink Maintenance

Dana Young stated that the ice rinks were in generally poor condition throughout the entire season due to unseasonably warm weather. He stated that the condition of the rinks was a major

disappointment to a number of residents and youth teams that use the rinks. He stated that discussion was held at the last Public Works Committee about the possibility of installing an asphalt surface on both the hockey rinks and applying for financial assistance from the Youth Sports Grant Program. He stated that more discussion will be held on this issue when more information becomes available.

Review Park & Recreation Strategic Plan

Dana Young stated that he has received several comments regarding the strategic plan and passed out several emails that he has received from residents. He stated that he has also asked Terry Minarik with Confluence to send him a copy of the final plan document so that he can distribute it to the Committee and Council. He stated that he would like the Committee to begin a more detailed analysis of the strategic plan once it is made available.

Patrick Regan stated that he considers the strategic plan as a grocery list that will need to go through a real planning exercise and brainstorming session before the finalization of individual park and beach plans.

Jillian McGary was present to state that she lives close to Deephaven Beach and would offer the services of her husband in the drafting of a grant application to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District for the installation of rain gardens to help resolve some of the severe slope issues at Deephaven Beach.

Wendy Duren noted that there is a September grant deadline for the submittal of these grants to the Watershed District.

Further discussion was held on the potential cost of erosion and slope control at Deephaven Beach and the possibility of using grant funds to help mitigate some of the runoff issues at some of the other smaller beaches since erosion control at Deephaven Beach will likely be very expensive.

Discuss 2016 Meeting Dates

Dana Young stated that he would love to have the Committee discuss when they would like to meet in 2016. He stated that last year, meetings were very erratic due to the lack of a quorum and he would like to resolve some of these issues by holding more set and established meetings. He stated that the Committee could consider meeting every other month or perhaps consider not meeting during the summer months, as the Park Committee use to do several years ago.

Discuss 2016 Arbor Day Celebration

Dana Young stated that Arbor Day has typically been held the last Sunday in April and has been cancelled two out of the last three years due to poor weather. He stated that he would like to hold Arbor Day on Sunday, May 15th this year.

Other

There was no other discussion this evening.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Cindy Webster, seconded by Lindsey Carr. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on April 5, 2016.