

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
June 6, 2017
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

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

Members Present

Patrick Regan, Tracy Whitney, Scott Hemink, Lindsey Carr, Scott Ferguson, Wendy Duren, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Jonathan Weiss

May 2, 2017 Minutes

The Committee approved the May 2, 2017 Park Committee minutes on a motion by Scott Ferguson, seconded by Tracy Whitney. Motion carried 4-0.

Matters from the Floor

There were no Matters from the Floor this evening.

Wendy Duren and Lindsey Carr enter at 7:02 p.m.

Park Reports

Dana Young reported on the following items:

- The repairs to the Deephaven Beach swimming dock have been completed. Scott Hemink suggested having the new decking painted to prevent problems with splinters.
- The tennis courts at Thorpe Park & Village Hall have been stripped down to the asphalt and are ready to be crack filled and painted
- A large tree fell over on the boat play structure at Cottagewood Children's Park and looks to be in tough shape. It was suggested that the City identify problem trees at other parks such as Thorpe Park.

Dana Young stated that several residents have approached the Public Works Committee about the possibility of the City removing a number of trees along Hamilton Avenue abutting Lake Louise in the Cleveland Park area. He stated that the intent of the tree removal is to clean up the roadside and provide a better view of the wetlands. He stated that there are also a number of residents in that area that don't want any trees removed and would like the area left natural. He stated that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District was consulted and they have no regulations pertaining to the removal of trees or vegetation in a wetland, as they are more concerned with the addition or removal of fill material from a wetland.

He stated that at their May meeting, the Public Committee asked those residents who supported tree removal to mark the trees they would like to have removed with red ribbons. He stated that

the residents, who want the area to be left natural, were asked to mark those trees they would like to remain with green ribbons. He stated that the City will ask their tree removal contractor to evaluate the quality and condition of the marked trees and report back to the Public Works Committee at their June 13th meeting. He stated that the Public Works Committee will issue their recommendation to the City Council for discussion at the June 19th Council meeting.

Scott Hemink stated that the City should consider a more coherent tree plan in city parks that would provide better guidance on trees.

Dana Young stated that it is not uncommon for the City to review requests from residents on the removal of certain trees in city parks that might be blocking sightlines. He stated that the City has reviewed requests at the Parkway and Deephaven Beach area. He stated that in each case, the City evaluates and determines the merits of each request. In some instances, scrap trees have been removed and in other instances, healthy trees are left alone.

Scott Ferguson noted that Park Committee members received an email this evening from Franz and Shawna Santander outlining their request to keep the Hamilton Avenue / Lake Louise area natural.

Wendy Duren asked about the Children's Park fountain and whether it is operational. Dana Young stated that it is not operational. There is a water line from the Cottagewood Store to the water fountain that is damaged and can no longer service the fountain.

Discuss Request for Fishing Opportunities

Lori Schneck and Kolt Ringer were present to discuss possible fishing locations in the Cottagewood / Carson's Bay area. Lori Schneck stated that she would like to have a better understanding on the rules for fishing from the shore or from the City boat docks. She noted that kids fishing from the docks keep getting kicked off. She stated that she understands why fishing is prohibited on swimming docks.

Dana Young stated that fishing is currently permitted off of the fishing pier at Deephaven Beach and at Burton Park, but it is not permitted on the City boat docks. He stated that this has been a long-standing policy due to concerns regarding getting fishing lines tangled in props or potential vandalism or damage to boats.

Scott Hemink stated that he felt that this topic was worth an open discussion.

Patrick Regan stated that currently there is not an equal opportunity for residents to use the docks and he wouldn't object to having this discussion.

Kolt Ringer stated that the City use to pull the no fishing sign from the docks before and after the boats were at the docks.

Lori Schneck stated that they would like to advocate for more fishing opportunities.

Kent Carlson suggested bringing the Boat Committee into this discussion.

Scott Hemink stated that he thought that this was a realistic request.

Patrick Regan stated that it would be nice to have diversity of use on the docks.

Wendy Duren noted that this issue really highlights the access issue, which has created a barrier if someone wants to use the Deephaven Beach fishing pier.

Scott Hemink stated that, although this might create some controversy, fire lanes could potentially be considered for fishing to help create the diversity of use.

Motion by Scott Ferguson to recommend that the City Council allow fishing at both the Carson's Bay and St. Louis Bay boat docks. Seconded by Scott Hemink. Motion carried 6-0.

Review Park & Beach Assignments

Discussion was held on the assignment and re-assignment of City parks & beaches to be reviewed by Committee members.

Discuss Thorpe Park Project

The Committee reviewed an architectural sketch for the new warming house / restroom. Kent Carlson provided a brief overview of the building, noting that there is a small mechanical area proposed between the warming house and the restroom and the architect is leaning towards removing the old building and constructing a new building.

Patrick Regan stated if the City is considering a clean slate for the building, the City should look to mirror some of the historical structures in Deephaven. He stated that a new building could cost as much as \$600,000.

Scott Ferguson stated that a site plan needs to be developed and noted that there should be doors facing the rink.

Scott Hemink commented that the windows should be the right height and size so that parents can watch their kids from the warming house. He added that the building should also be moved closer to the rink.

Kent Carlson stated that it is hoped that the City will be provided assistance from some of the suppliers, which may make it more difficult to include some sort of historical design to the building. He stated that the City will retain a civil engineer to prepare drainage, utility, grading and landscaping plans.

Patrick Regan asked to what extent the City Council would want the Park Committee to help design the building. Dana Young stated that the original plan was to have the Mayor and Public Works design the hockey rink components and have the Park Committee assist with the design of the warming house. He stated that, as far as he knows, the City Council still wants the Park Committee involved in the design process.

Scott Hemink suggested inviting hockey parents to participate in the design process, which would help to incorporate program documentation.

Kent Carlson suggested an open house could be held to invite comments on the design once the design plans are further along.

Scott Ferguson suggested a review of the ongoing maintenance and operation of the rink, such as how the City makes ice.

Dana Young stated that an outside spigot will be provided to enable hockey parents to participate in making ice. He stated that he has heard comments for years on better ways to create ice, such as using hoses instead of the water truck to water the rink. He stated that this has been the preferred choice in Edina, who is known for having outstanding municipal rinks. He noted, however, that the City of Edina has a sizeable enough crew to where they have specific employees designated to water the rinks every evening and Edina carries that surplus public works crew throughout the entire year. He stated that Edina has this ability due to the size of their tax base. This type of watering system would be difficult for Deephaven's public works with a crew of only four individuals.

Patrick Regan suggested soliciting or putting together a list of program elements into place prior to the final design.

Scott Ferguson stated that this would help to identify such things as the need to increase well size to accommodate greater pumping capacity.

Further discussion was held on installing a fence around the mound of dirt at the hockey rink construction site and to ensure that people keep off the rink when the asphalt is poured.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on August 1, 2017.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Wendy Duren, seconded by Scott Ferguson. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.