

**PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**August 8, 2017**  
**Minutes**

**Call Meeting to Order**

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

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Jonathan Weiss, Tracy Whitney, and Council Liaison Kent Carlson

**Also Present**

Paul Skrede

**June 6, 2017 Minutes**

The Committee approved the June 6, 2017 Park Committee minutes on a motion by Wendy Duren, seconded by Patrick Regan. Motion carried 5-0.

**Matters from the Floor**

Al & Rebecca Farha (3475 Hamilton Avenue) were present to thank the City for the cleanup of Cleveland Park and to state their interest in working with the City on the removal of buckthorn and creeping Charlie in Cleveland Park. He stated that he and his neighbors would be willing to help with the removal of buckthorn in Cleveland Park if the City would mark the trees for removal.

Scott Hemink stated that this seems like a reasonable request to have the City mark the buckthorn for removal.

Scott Ferguson stated that Cleveland Park is a pretty big area and asked what area of the park were you requesting buckthorn removal.

Al Farha stated that they were looking to have the buckthorn removed in Cleveland Park along Hamilton Avenue and along the Cleveland Park trail.

Scott Ferguson noted that buckthorn removal is a never-ending task as it seems to continually grow back. He asked what the goal was for buckthorn removal.

Al Farha stated that they hope to improve the aesthetics of the area and the health of the marsh.

Paul Skrede stated that this was a somewhat divisive issue as some neighbors favored tree removal while others did not. He stated that this request is to ensure that this City is condoning this buckthorn removal in Cleveland Park.

Dana Young stated that he will have the public works crew mark the buckthorn in the area discussed and he would contact Mr. Farha when the trees were marked in yellow ribbon for removal.

### **Park Reports**

Dana Young reported on the following items:

- The City is expecting to receive an insurance settlement on the boat play structure at Cottagewood Children's Park that was damaged by a tree
- The City will be undertaking some tree cleanup at Donkey Park due to recent concerns from residents regarding a tree branch that fell in the park several weeks ago

Scott Hemink reported on the following items:

- More garbage cans are needed during the summer months at Deephaven Beach
- The pine trees at the entranceway to Thorpe Park are in rough shape
- Two trees at Rocky Beach are in rough shape
- Linwood Beach is in shabby condition and could use some work
- The docks at Linwood & Rocky Beach are in rough shape and missing pier caps
- Requested that the City insert notice of the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities at Thorpe Park in the city newsletter. Paul Skrede suggested that the event organizers get the information on the event to the City well in advance of the July Newsletter.

Scott Ferguson reported on the condition of the walking trail at Thorpe Park.

Patrick Regan reported that he would like the aquatic weeds raked up at Walden Beach. He added that, at some point, he would like to see a fence installed behind the ball field benches at the ball field next to Rutledge Road to prevent balls from rolling across the street.

Wendy Duren asked if the City has been treating Thorpe Pond for duckweed. Dana Young stated that the City has contracted to have the pond treated every month since May. She added that the ball field bench at Thorpe Park on the south side is loose.

Further discussion was held on looking into fees that are charged by other municipalities for field and tennis court use.

### **Update Thorpe Park Grant Project**

Paul Skrede provided an overview of the Thorpe Park Grant Project on the following items:

- Warming House / Restroom - plans & specifications are being prepared by Streeter & Associates and will be completed after Labor Day. The City will go out for bids for the construction of the building shortly thereafter.
- Overhead Hockey Lights – using the specifications provided by Patrick Regan, the City will be asking for bids for overhead hockey rink lights.

- Hockey Boards – the City has contacted with Howard Bennis in the amount of \$8,000 to install the hockey boards. The City will purchase the materials to save on sales tax.
- Sewer Extension & Well Improvements – the City has awarded bids to upgrade the well and provide water and sewer lines to the new restroom.

Paul Skrede stated that the original goal to use volunteers to assist with the hockey boards and warming house haven't really materialized as it has been much more difficult to find volunteers than was originally hoped. He stated that Streeter will provide the specifications on the new warming house / restroom and provided specific details on the components of the new building.

Scott Ferguson stated that he would strongly recommend installing rubber flooring in the warming house and restroom.

Paul Skrede stated that the current plans call for a mat rather than rubber flooring.

Patrick Regan agreed that rubber flooring was critical for a warming house and recommended installing Nora Granno 992, which is specifically made for ice arenas.

Scott Ferguson added that a site plan will also be needed to determine landscaping costs and the costs of hardening pathways.

Further discussion was held on the hockey board design, the exterior design, the site layout, roofing material, windows, and the estimated cost of the building, which is currently estimated at \$350,000.

Patrick Regan further recommended installing a thin brick material around the chimney, which he thought would look attractive. He suggested that the dormers in the bathroom could be removed to save some costs.

Wendy Duren stated that she has concerns regarding the number of residents who walk the pathway around Thorpe Park in the winter. She stated that a portion of the trail near the warming house always gets coated with ice, making walking very difficult.

Paul Skrede suggested that the City could put a mat down over this section of the path.

Further discussion was held on the timing of the construction and whether the new warming house / restroom would be installed in time for the 2017/2018 skating season in late December. Scott Hemink voiced concern that many residents would not be too happy about not having a warming house available for the season.

Wendy Duren asked when the project had to be completed in order to comply with grant requirements. Dana Young stated that the project has to be completed by July 31, 2018.

Both Patrick Regan and Scott Ferguson stated that they would appreciate the opportunity to review the plans and specifications for the building once they are completed.

### **Update Fishing Opportunities Discussion**

Dana Young stated that the City Council adopted an ordinance last evening that established three public locations for fishing in Deephaven – the fishing pier at Deephaven Beach, the canoe launch dock on St. Louis Bay, and the fishing dock at Burton Park.

A number of the Park Committee members expressed their disappointment that the City Council choose to limit fishing to only three locations and did not permit fishing on the municipal boat docks in both St. Louis Bay and Carson's Bay. Further discussion was held on the merits of whether fishing should be allowed on the municipal docks.

Dana Young stated that the ordinance was intended to provide clarity on those areas where fishing is permissible on public property and the Council felt that fishing from the municipal boat docks was not an appropriate location for a variety of reasons. He stated that with the adoption of the ordinance, the Council specifically requested that the Park Committee recommend or develop other possible public locations for fishing.

Scott Ferguson and Scott Hemink both voiced their disappointment with the adoption of the ordinance and the decision to not allow fishing on the municipal boat docks. Further discussion was held on other potential locations and whether the municipal boat docks could be used for fishing before and after the boating season.

At the conclusion of a lengthy discussion on this issue, Wendy Duren suggested continuing this discussion on fishing locations at the next Park Committee meeting. She stated that she would also like to have a discussion on the Park & Beaches section of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Patrick Regan stated that he would also like to have a conversation at the next meeting on the \$20,000 grant award from Hennepin County for a bikeway feasibility study.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on September 12, 2017.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Wendy Duren, seconded by Lindsey Carr. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.