

## **PARK COMMITTEE MEETING**

**December 3, 2013**

### **Minutes**

#### **Call Meeting to Order**

Vice-Chairman Scott Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

#### **Members Present**

Leslie Gustafson, Jim Elvestrom, Patrick Regan, Jonathan Weiss, Cindy Webster, Scott Ferguson, and City Administrator Dana Young

#### **Members Absent**

John Flynn

#### **October 1, 2013 Minutes**

The Committee approved the October 1, 2013 minutes on a motion by Leslie Gustafson, seconded by Cindy Webster. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **Lacrosse Field at Thorpe Park**

Brian Larson, 18920 Park Avenue, was present to request the use of a portion of Thorpe Park for lacrosse. He stated that he is working with the Minnetonka Lacrosse Association to locate some playing fields. He stated that lacrosse is the fastest growing youth sport in our area and the Association has had a serious problem with trying to find fields. He stated that they are presently only scheduled to use three fields.

He stated that a lacrosse field is approximately 330' x 110' in size and his Association currently includes 30 kids from Deephaven, including his son. He stated that in the short term he would like permission to use Thorpe Park for a practice field and in the long term would love to develop a field where they could actually play games.

He stated he envisions a practice field in the NE corner of Thorpe Park. He noted that while the baseball field near the warming house is used a lot, the ball field next to Rutledge Road is not. He stated that he would like to open up this area for lacrosse practice beginning in 2014.

Cindy Webster stated that locating the lacrosse practice field in the NE corner might require the baseball infield to be removed. She asked whether the practice field could start at the edge of the baseball infield. She suggested that Mr. Larson talk with Minnetonka Community Education since MCE schedules all the uses at area parks and fields.

Dana Young asked if there was a difference between a practice field and a game field. Brian Larson stated that a game field is somewhat dome shaped to help with water drainage. He stated that some of the better fields have an irrigation system. He stated that he was sure that his Association might consider helping fund an irrigation system.

Cindy Webster asked if the field could only be used for lacrosse if the association helped pay for the irrigation system. Brian Larson stated that was a good question that would have to be determined during negotiations.

Brian Larson offered to measure out a potential practice field at Thorpe Park to see how well it fit in. He stated that they could also use a half field for practice.

Scott Ferguson stated that he is not sure of the role of the City or the Park Committee since the City does not reserve space at any of its parks.

Dana Young stated that he could talk with Minnetonka Community Education Director Tim Litfin about the scheduling of uses at Thorpe Park and the possibility of incorporating a practice field for lacrosse starting in 2014.

### **Platform Court Heating Units**

Dana Young stated that the City Council reviewed the heating unit bids for the platform courts and whether to go with a natural gas or propane heating system on October 21<sup>st</sup>. He stated that the Council decided to go with a natural gas system, the installation of 1" insulation, and the installation of a card swipe system this spring. He stated that the estimated cost of this project is estimated at approximately \$25,000.00.

Questions were raised regarding the installation of a card swipe system and discussion was held on other options such as utilizing fundraising opportunities to cover the heating costs.

Cindy Webster stated that she would hate to punish everyone who wanted to use the platform courts simply due to concerns about the irresponsible behavior of a few users.

Jim Elvestrom stated that the lack of heating units probably wouldn't affect the number of players on the platform courts, since most have never played on a court that had heating units.

Cindy Webster recommended evaluating difference options other than the installation of a card swipe system and present those options for Council consideration.

### **MCEC Outdoor Classroom / Learning Center at Burton Park**

Dana Young stated that Minnetonka Community Education Center has approached the City about using that portion of Burton Park located at the top of the hill next to the Education Center back parking lot as an outdoor classroom / learning center. He stated that they intend to keep the natural and unobtrusive and the only physical alterations would include cleaning up the fallen trees and branches, removing invasive species and planting native species, installing permeable crushed rock for the path access from the MCEC parking lot, and grading the area to ensure student and public safety. He stated that no other structures would be built on the site.

### **Park Reports**

Committee members provided their monthly park reports:

Jim Elvestrom recommended replacing the chain nets with cloth at the Thorpe Park Basketball court.

### **2014 Capital Projects**

Dana Young stated that the City Council budgeted \$20,000 in the 2014 Capital Improvement Fund for beach and park improvements. He stated that this could potentially be for improvements to Shuck Park or for the construction of a new dock for Deephaven Beach.

### **Lifeguards at Deephaven Beach**

Dana Young stated that the City Council reviewed the Park Committee's recommend that the City Council extend lifeguard services at Deephaven Beach to Labor Day at the October 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting. The Council recommended that the Park Committee meet with the Police Chief and the Director of Minnetonka Aquatics to discuss potential roles and responsibilities in addressing some of the misbehavior that occurred at Deephaven Beach last August after the lifeguards left for the season.

### **Eagle Scout Projects**

Discussion was held regarding the Eagle Scout projects proposed by:

- Austin Haag (4305 Chimo East) – Lifeguard chair at Deephaven Beach
- Jack Schechtman (4245 Northern Road) – Warming house improvements
- John Eggenberger (6105 Chestnut Terrace, Shorewood).

### **Other**

Dana Young stated that he has invited Danny Joyce to meet with the Park Committee to discuss his request that the adjustable basketball hoop at Thorpe Park be left at 10 feet.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Scott Ferguson, seconded by Leslie Gustafson. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2014.