

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
June 1, 2020
Minutes
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Wendy Duren called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members Present Via Teleconference

Wendy Duren, Cory Lepper, Tom Erdmann, Scott Hemink, Lindsey Carr, Kaisha Rafferty, Tracy Whitney, Paul Skrede, and City Administrator Dana Young

Tracy Whitney enters at 7:32 p.m.

Approve May 5, 2020 Minutes

Motion by Wendy Duren to approve the May 5, 2020 Park Committee minutes. Seconded by Tom Erdmann. Motion carried 6-0.

Council Liaison Report

Paul Skrede reported on the following Council park-related activities:

- The Shuck Park tennis court and playground equipment projects are underway.
- The St. Louis Bay ramp replacement project is scheduled to begin on June 4th.
- The Chowen's Corner parking lot is currently being resurfaced as part of the Northome Blvd resurfacing project. It was noted that there is currently only 2" of blacktop on the parking lot. He noted that the wear course will be installed on the parking lot and Northome Blvd this week. The contractor will then move on to resurface Hillcrest Road.
- Non-resident beach parking permit have been approved for sale to the public, with a limit of 200 non-resident beach parking permits issued. Scott Hemink asked how does 200 permit compare with the number sold in the past. Paul Skrede stated that the City has averaged 235 permits sold the past five years with a high of 285 permits sold last year.

Tom Erdmann asked about the ordinance the Council adopted on uniform park hours.

Paul Skrede stated that this came about as a result of the Park Committee's recommendation to install locks at the Thorpe Park warming house. The Council wanted to establish uniform hours at parks, beaches and ice rinks.

Park Reports

Children's Park – Tom Erdmann stated that he park hasn't looked this good in years. He thanked the City for paying for the improvement of the bricks. He added that the fountain is working, the bushes & gravel removed, and new sod installed. He stated that this has been a good community and City effort.

Shuck Park – Tom Erdmann stated that the projects are moving forward and the park will look good when it is done. Paul Skrede added that the tennis court benches had to be removed and will be replaced outside of the courts.

Village Hall Park – Tom Erdmann stated that the fields look good.

Burton Park – Wendy Duren stated that there was nothing to report.

Thorpe Park – Paul Skrede noted that the new windows at the warming house have been installed today. Scott Hemink stated that there are several sections of the walking path that need to be patched. He added that the proposed Eagle Scout project to install ball field bench fencing will begin in August. Cory Lepper mentioned some inconsistency with the mowing.

Deephaven Beach – Lindsey Carr noted that the beach has been heavily used. Wendy Duren stated that we may need more garbage cans at the beach.

Nocomo Beach – Wendy Duren stated that the beach looks fine and questioned whether the Goose Away poles were working very well as a number of geese were crowded around the poles.

Cleveland Park – Kaisha Rafferty stated that there was nothing to report.

Linwood Beach – Scott Hemink reported that the beach looks good and appreciated the caps on the dock posts.

Robinson's Bay Beach- Paul Skrede noted that the street contractor will be expanding the walkway along the north side of Northome Blvd from Chowen's Corner to Robinson's Bay Road.

Sandy Beach - Tom Erdmann reported that the beach looked good.

Wendy Duren asked about the striping of Northome Blvd once the street is resurfaced.

Paul Skrede stated that the street will be restriped with 11' drive lanes with everything outside the fog lines available for bikes and pedestrians.

Discuss Deephaven Beach Restroom Project

Paul Skrede stated that the Council is committed to locating the restroom in the sports court area. He stated that Councilmember Jewett is trying to obtain floor plans of other comparable public facilities. He stated that the Council would like the Park Committee to include all the possible elements into the structure such that a determination can be made if there is sufficient space. He added that the area north of the sports court is a drainage area but there is nothing sacred about the tear drop area south of the sports court.

Wendy Duren stated that the Committee wanted to narrow it down to those items that are absolutely necessary at the basic level for a restroom.

Scott Hemink stated that their goal was to get basic requirements to essentially replace the two existing portable potties. He stated that we need to find out how much footprint is needed and asked if the Council wants the Committee to look at different schematics.

Paul Skrede asked the Committee to include more amenities rather than less. He noted that Steven Streeter has offered to help with the design but the Council would like to get a better idea on what would be needed. He noted that a bike corral, for example, would help to get the clutter of bikes cleaned up.

Scott Hemink stated that the Committee could go back to look at the amenities list. He noted that a concession space may not be needed.

Wendy Duren stated that they had tried to incorporate canoe & paddleboard rentals, concessions, and bike racks. She asked if the Council was considering paid or volunteer staff to work the concession area.

Paul Skrede suggested incorporating room to accommodate concession trucks rather than a specific concession area.

Cory Lepper stated that the Committee needs to determine the need vs. the want for this project, as well as the overall budget. He stated that there may be 5-7 things we've got to have and could add other amenities later.

Scott Hemink stated that he thought taking out an amenity like the sports courts was a bad idea. He stated that putting in a facility the size of the Thorpe Park warming house would take up a significantly large space.

Lindsey Carr stated that she has never seen anyone use the sports court.

Scott Hemink stated that he lives a block away and sees a ton of use.

Tracy Whitney stated if the sports court gets used, she would like to keep the court and add the restroom.

Scott Hemink stated that if the facility is similar to the Thorpe warming house, it's an entirely different conversation. He stated that two-thirds of the Park Capital Improvement Budget goes towards tennis courts and the sports court doesn't cost us a dime. He stated that we need to figure out the size then design around it.

Wendy Duren stated that we need to figure out our wants and then determine the size and financing.

Paul Skrede stated that he would like to get a start on the restroom this year with power upgrades, a well and sewer. He stated that he disagrees that the sports court is well-used.

Scott Hemink asked if there has been a usage study or if this anecdotal.

Paul Skrede stated that everyone's opinion on the use of the sports court is anecdotal.

Kaisha Rafferty asked if we could leave a tracker at the sports court to gather usage data.

Scott Hemink asked if the new website could capture this information.

Paul Skrede stated that he is not sure but was hoping to have the email blast system in place by now. He stated that we could get better information if this was in place.

Wendy Duren stated that we want to find a way to engage the public on the use of the sports court or put in a sign-up sheet down there.

Paul Skrede stated that we don't have a budget yet for this project but estimates that it would cost around \$300,000. He stated that he hoped to have it funded by contributions or an increase in taxes.

Cory Lepper noted that this may not be a grant project and that the City will spend \$300,000 pretty easily on this project.

Paul Skrede stated that the Hennepin County Sports Grant liked funding the restroom at Thorpe Park. He stated that we could spend \$100,000 this year on sewer, water and electric. He wanted to expand people's thoughts on this project. He stated that the Council is also exploring establishing fees on new home reconstruction and using those fees for special project.

Discuss Park & Beach Capital Improvement Plan

The Committee reviewed the 10-Year Park & Beach Capital Improvement Plan.

Scott Hemink stated that it helps to be able to review and evaluate the plan. He noted that two-thirds of the plan includes funding for tennis courts and wondered if that was the direction we should head.

Paul Skrede referenced the platform court project and noted the difficulty in funding new projects that are typically deferred over planned projects. He stated that is why he would like a special fund to tackle new projects.

Scott Hemink stated that we have to become a little more thoughtful on some of these planned projects.

Cory Lepper noted that the City of Minneapolis received special legislation to charge for reconstruction projects.

Scott Hemink stated that we should have a discussion on this proposed improvement schedule this fall and concentrate on the restroom project this summer.

Wendy Duren stated that every member needs to consider what items may be needed for each of our designated parks and beaches. She stated that this would be a way to enhance the amenities we already have. She stated that we will concentrate on the restroom project this summer and then focus on our designated parks and beaches in October.

Discuss Shuck Park Project Update

Dana Young provided an update on the Shuck Park tennis court and playground equipment project. He stated that the installation of the playground equipment started last week and is expected to wrap up later this week.

He stated that the resurfacing of the tennis court started yesterday and will take about 6 weeks, which includes a 3-4 week curing period.

Other

Scott Hemink asked the Committee about their thoughts on a proposed 9-hole Frisbee golf course at Thorpe Park.

Paul Skrede stated that he likes the sport but thought it might be better suited to Burton Park. He stated that the course would run counter to all the current uses at Thorpe Park.

Dana Young stated that he thought it would be very difficult to overlay a Frisbee golf course at Thorpe Park due to the existing ball field, tennis court, warming house, and walking path. He stated that he thought Frisbee golf would significantly interfere with the current uses at the park.

Scott Hemink suggested looking at the Parkway as a possible location.

Wendy Duren noted that Confluence included a Frisbee golf course in that portion of Thorpe located along Minnetonka Blvd.

Tracy Whitney noted that safety is always a concern with Frisbee golf.

Scott Hemink stated that he will review the Confluence plan and potential opportunities at Burton Park & the Parkway and bring this back to the Committee in August.

Discussion was held regarding an interest in sweeping Minnetonka Blvd & Vine Hill Road sometime during the summer months, between the two contracted sweepings in April and October. Paul Skrede stated that he will bring this matter to the Public Works Committee for their review.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on July 7, 2020.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.