

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

March 5, 2013

Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman John Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members Present

John Flynn, Patrick Regan, Jim Elvestrom, Scott Ferguson, Leslie Gustafson, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Cindy Webster

January 8, 2013 Minutes

The Committee approved the January 8, 2013 minutes on a motion by Jim Elvestrom, seconded by Leslie Gustafson. Motion carried 5-0.

Matters from the Floor

There were no Matters from the Floor this evening.

Request for Pickleball Court at Thorpe Park (Melinda Coldwell)

Melinda Colwell, 3715 Westview Drive, and Paul Olson, President of Primesourceone, were present to discuss their love for the sport of Pickleball and to request that the Committee consider the installation of a Pickleball Court on one of the tennis courts at Thorpe Park.

Melinda Colwell stated that she turned to Pickleball after injuries forced her to quit playing tennis. She stated that she absolutely loves the sport and believes it is a much more fun sport than tennis.

Paul Olson stated that he was a competitive tennis player for years until a knee injury forced him to give up the game. He stated that he started playing Pickleball and has watched the sport absolutely explode in popularity. He stated two years ago, there were maybe 20 people playing the sport. Now the number of players has grown to over 2,000 in the Metro area. He stated that it is a perfect sport for active seniors and noted that 60 is the typical age for people to start playing Pickleball. He stated the main advantages of the sport are that it is fun and fast to learn. He stated that the cost of establishing Pickleball is next to nothing, you simply need nets and to put down lines. He stated that due to the fact that so many seniors are playing the sport, it is primarily a daytime activity. He stated that one of the only conflicts with painting Pickleball lines on a tennis court is if the court is used for High School tennis. He stated that High School tennis rules do not permit a multitude of lines.

Paul Olson drew out the proposed location of a Pickleball court on a tennis court. He stated that the courts are 20' x 44' in size and use portable nets. He stated that he expects this sport to grow from 200,000 participants today to 1 million in five years.

John Flynn asked if the courts could be located on the Thorpe basketball court rather than the tennis court. Paul Olson stated that the primary benefit of a tennis court is that it has fencing to stop balls from rolling off the court.

Melinda Colwell stated that the social element to Pickleball is huge. She stated that it is a great way to meet people. She said she lives right across from Thorpe Park and didn't see the tennis courts used that much.

Further discussion was held on the growth of Pickleball and Pickleball courts in cities such as Eden Prairie, Minnetonka and Chanhassen. Melinda Colwell stated that there is a court in Meadow Park in Minnetonka.

Paul Olson stated that more information on this sport can be found at the website for the U.S. Pickleball Association.

The Park Committee thanked Melinda Colwell and Paul Olson for their enthusiastic presentation on the sport of Pickleball.

Patrick Regan noted that establishing Pickleball courts in Deephaven would enable the City to address the sizable increase in the number of seniors who will be living at the Senior Housing facility at St. Therese.

Leslie Gustafson stated that she didn't think the Thorpe Park tennis courts go unused.

Jim Elvestrom agreed that the courts are well-used and wondered if a Pickleball court could be installed on the platform courts.

Patrick Regan thought courts could be installed on the Thorpe basketball courts.

Park Reports

Committee members provided their monthly park reports:

Dana Young stated that he received an email from Leslie Gustafson about the fact that the ice rink lights were out at Thorpe last Saturday. He stated that after talking with the individual who turns the rink lights on and off over the weekends, he was informed that the individual felt that it was late enough into the season to discontinue maintaining the rinks. Dana Young stated that it was likely that the ice rinks would be officially closed for the season at the end of this week.

Jim Elvestrom asked if the City would consider installing asphalt on the hockey rinks to get a better playing surface. John Flynn stated that the solution is to simply grade our rinks and noted that the City of Minnetonka has asphalt rinks but has experienced problems with melting ice when the temperature gets above freezing.

Platform Tennis Court Project Update

Dana Young stated that there are four items remaining to finalize the Platform Tennis Court Project:

1. The resurfacing of the courts this spring by Total Platform Tennis
2. Landscaping around the courts
3. Signage
4. Installation of heating units

He stated that the Public Works Committee is currently evaluating two proposals regarding heating units – one from Abel Heating and the other from Total Platform Tennis:

Abel Proposal

- Provide and install Grease Master Make Up air unit 2000 cfm @ 1' static pressure 220,000 BTU's, 100 degree temperature rise, with selection damper for court #1 or #2.
- Set up for propane, can be converted to natural gas.
- Set discharge ducting with mechanical dampers to serve one court at a time.
- Set controls with adjustable timer.
- Heating units are set up outside and are manually operated.
- Would only require a 500 gallon propane tank, which would enable the City to help control costs (it costs approximately \$650 to fill a 500 gallon tank)
- Cost - \$17,924

Total Platform Tennis

- Guardian Heater units are proposed, which are typically used to heat the inside of poultry or pig buildings on farms.
- Each is a 250,000 BTU unit costing approximately \$800 - \$600 for the units and \$200 for the set-up kits.
- A total of four units would be required, two for each court.
- Both Abel Heating & McHale's Heating are currently evaluating the effectiveness of these units.

John Flynn stated that when Total Platform Tennis comes back to resurface the courts, he would prefer a white and green colored playing surface.

South Lake Minnetonka Parks Summit

John Flynn and Leslie Gustafson provided a summary of the South Lake Minnetonka Parks Summit held on February 26th at the Southshore Center. They stated that they were impressed with the individuals in attendance at the meeting and noted that much of the discussion concerned various events and activities going on in each community.

John Flynn stated that Shorewood is considering sponsoring a Movie Night, which might be an activity we would be interested in holding here in Deephaven. He stated this group will be meeting again on May 22nd and encouraged Jim Elvestrom and Scott Ferguson to represent the Deephaven Park Committee at this meeting.

Arbor Day Celebration

The Committee recommended holding the annual Arbor Day celebration at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 21, 2013 at Thorpe Park.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Scott Ferguson, seconded by Patrick Regan. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2013.