

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING
March 7, 2017
Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Patrick Regan called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members Present

Patrick Regan, Tracy Whitney, Jonathan Weiss, Lindsey Carr, Wendy Duren, Mayor Paul Skrede, and City Administrator Dana Young

Members Absent

Scott Ferguson

February 7, 2017 Minutes

The Committee approved the February 7, 2017 Park Committee minutes on a motion by Lindsey Carr, seconded by Wendy Duren. Motion carried 5-0.

Matters from the Floor

There were no Matters from the Floor this evening.

Park Reports

Patrick Regan reported that the usual drainage problems are reoccurring at Nocomo Beach.

Lindsey Carr reported that the Thorpe Park pathway on the north side of the pond is in need of repair.

Patrick Regan suggested that the Committee should review the list of parks and beaches that each member has agreed to monitor at the next meeting.

Welcome to New Members Kevin Wells & Tracy Whitney

The Committee welcomed new Park Committee member Tracy Whitney.

Dana Young stated that Kevin Wells notified him today that he has recently moved and is now a Shorewood resident. He stated that he informed Kevin that he will be unable to serve on the Park Committee since he is no longer resides in the City of Deephaven. He added that the Park Committee can review membership applications at the next meeting.

Discuss Thorpe Park Restroom Project

Mayor Skrede, who was serving as Park Committee Liaison in the absence of Kent Carlson, was present to provide an update on the Thorpe Park Project. He stated that the City has received a grant in the amount of \$143,000 from the Hennepin County Youth Sports Grant Program for improvements to the hockey rink and the installation of a new restroom at Thorpe Park. He stated that the original grant request was for \$250,000 but the Youth Sports Grant Program was

more supportive of the restroom than they were about the hockey rink improvements and their lowered grant award reflected that opinion.

He stated that the \$143,000 is proportional to how much is spent on the project. He stated that if only \$400,000 is spent on this project, which is 80% of the total project cost of \$500,000, only 80% of the \$143,000 grant will be awarded to the City. He stated that funding for new park improvements typically come from the Park Improvement Fund. However, in this case, he stated that the Council supports the use of the proceeds from the sale of the Southshore in the amount of \$139,000 towards this project.

He stated that early estimates have the new hockey lights at \$33,000-\$52,000, new hockey rink boards at \$45,000 and an asphalt surface at \$90,000. He stated that he cannot justify spending all of this on the hockey rink and may consider requesting help on the boards and recommending the purchase of the less expensive lights. He stated that with these potential costs for the hockey rink, the goal is to make reasonable improvements at the warming house / restroom. He stated that the Public Works Committee has made the following recommendations regarding the warming house / restroom:

- A new well will be needed to accommodate year-round plumbing for two restrooms.
- Access to the restrooms is recommended from the outside during the summer months and from inside the warming house in winter months.
- The restrooms must be handicapped accessible.
- Public Works believes the existing warming house is structurally sound but needs new siding, such as a hardi plank, new roof, and new doors.
- The plumbing should include an outdoor spigot for residents to maintain the rink.
- Consider the installation of a sprinkler system to the gardens.
- One of the new lights will be for the free skate rink.

Patrick Regan stated that he has offered to provide a drawing or sketch of the warming house / restroom for review before it is passed along to an architect to add design specifications.

Paul Skrede noted that we will still need to measure both the Village Hall warming house and Thorpe Park warming house in order to ensure that they are both comparable in size. He stated that we may lose one tree from the addition of the restroom on the west side of the warming house, which can be replaced. He stated that asphaltting the surface of the hockey rink is the primary goal and all other elements for the hockey rink project, such as the boards and lights, are flexible. He further suggested that the restrooms should be concrete on the inside to help keep it clean, similar to the restrooms at Manor Park. He stated that a total project cost of \$400,000 is doable, which would mean that the City would have to come up with around \$286,000.

Wendy Duren agreed that asphaltting the surface of the hockey rink is a really important feature to help make ice sooner and last longer.

Paul Skrede stated that he would be interested in hearing any further comments from the Committee regarding this project.

Wendy Duren asked about the new garden at the entranceway to Thorpe Park and what plans were in place now that Public Works did not plan on maintaining the garden.

Paul Skrede stated that he has talked with Garden Club representatives about maintaining the garden and they were agreeable as long as the garden is low maintenance. He added that the garden may have an elevated bed since the soils in that entranceway are so bad.

Patrick Regan stated that he will need the measurements of the Thorpe Park warming house in order to sketch the restroom addition.

Paul Skrede stated that he would get those measurements to him tomorrow.

Further discussion was held regarding the location of the warming house doors and the interior doors to the restroom. Patrick Regan recommended removing the interior doors because they would take up too much space in the warming house. Paul Skrede agreed.

Wendy Duren recommended screening the restroom doors from the neighboring homes by adding bushes or a fence in front of the restroom.

Review Tennis Court Bids

Dana Young stated that he received two bids to repair the tennis courts at Thorpe Park and Village Hall Park. One bid was from Upper Midwest to repair all five courts at a cost of \$24,870. The other bid was from Tennis West, which only provided a bid on the two courts at Thorpe Park in the amount of \$32,970. He stated that Tennis West did not recommend repairing the cracks or repainting the three courts at Village Hall because they stated it would be a waste of money as the courts were too far gone. He stated that Tennis West recommended that the Village Hall courts be reconstructed and provided an estimate of \$74,434 for a reclaim / repave of the courts.

Dana Young stated that he is still evaluating the bids to determine if it is money well-spent to have these courts patched and re-painted or if these same problems and conditions will return again next year.

Further discussion was held on using one of the courts for pickle ball and the possibility of requesting contributions from MCE for the tennis courts and from Minnetonka Youth Hockey Association for the hockey rinks.

Other

Dana Young stated that the Cub Scouts have requested permission to plant approximately ten trees 12"-16" in height at one of the City parks. He stated that he has struggled with this request because he would like to work with the Cub Scouts but feels that ten small trees would take up too much open space at our parks.

The Park Committee agreed that the trees would take up too much open space and too slow growing. The members agreed that it would not be a good idea to allow the planting of these trees at a City park.

Patrick Regan provided an update on the grant he submitted to Hennepin County for a feasibility study on the installation of a bike path along Minnetonka Blvd.

Paul Skrede stated that the Council discussed the proposed bike path when adopting a resolution supporting the submittal of the grant for a feasibility study. He stated that the Council discussed the desired width of the bike path and whether it had to be on one side or on both sides. He stated that the Council felt that it would be a successful effort if they could provide a five foot surface off of the fog line for a bike path.

Wendy Duren stated that she still felt that this might be too dangerous for a family with young kids to bike along Minnetonka Blvd unless a bike path was provided at a separate grade from the street surface.

Dana Young noted that this would likely require right-of-way acquisition to accommodate a bike path with a separate grade.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Park Committee will be held on April 4, 2017.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Lindsey Carr, seconded by Wendy Duren. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.