

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

October 1, 2013

Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman John Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Jim Elvestrom

August 13, 2013 Minutes

The Committee approved the August 13, 2013 minutes on a motion by Cindy Webster, seconded by Scott Ferguson. Motion carried 4-0.

Leslie Gustafson and Patrick Regan enter at 7:05 p.m.

Eagle Scout Projects

Al & Austin Haag, 4305 Chimo East, were present to discuss potential Eagle Scout projects for Austin.

Dana Young stated that the City once had a long list of Eagle Scout projects but the list has been whittled down due to the number of past Eagle Scout projects that have been completed over the years. He stated that the only items remaining on the City's list of Eagle Scout Projects include:

- Construct garbage containers at Village Hall Park and Robinson's Bay Beach similar to the garbage container constructed at Sandy's Beach.
- Install (2) steps as entrance to Carson's Bay Docks.
- Buckthorn Removal along Lake Louise.

Further discussion was held on additional potential Eagle Scout projects.

Al Haag stated that Austin would like to be an architect so if the City had a building project in mind, Austin could design the building and put together the labor to construct it.

John Flynn suggested that the construction of the warming hut for the platform courts might be a good project. Al Haag asked if the building would be used year round. John Flynn stated it would only have a winter use like the platform courts.

Scott Ferguson suggested that Austin could consider remodeling existing buildings such as the warming houses at Village Hall or Thorpe Park. He stated that there would be opportunities through design to increase the programming at the ice rinks.

Al Haag suggested the construction of a classic scoreboard for the Village Hall ball field. John Flynn stated that there may not be much use for a scoreboard since the field is only used for practice.

Jonathan Weiss suggested a dog park.

Leslie Gustafson stated that she has been approached by a resident who suggested a dog park at Thorpe Park.

Dana Young stated that Burton Park has been suggested as a location for a dog park but it is such a wooded and hilly area with such limited off street parking that it would not be an ideal location for a dog park. He stated that the problem with locating a dog park at other parks, such as Thorpe Park, is that most City parks are located near neighborhoods, which is not the case with most other dog parks.

Al Haag stated that Austin would like his Eagle Scout project to have some sort of permanence, where he could drive by and see the impact he has made for years to come.

Scott Ferguson suggested that Austin could rebuild the lifeguard chairs at Deephaven Beach.

Austin Haag stated that he would really like to work on a project at Deephaven Beach because of his sailing experience.

Another suggestion was the construction of a mini-library box, which holds a dozen or so books for residents to exchange.

Dana Young stated that the Park Committee will consider additional ideas and suggestions for Eagle Scout projects and that he would keep in touch with the Haags.

Deephaven Beach Management

Dana Young stated that both Councilmember Gustafson and Park Committee member Leslie Gustafson stated their concern regarding boats parked just outside the swimming buoy lines at Deephaven Beach causing safety concerns for swimmers and inadvertently moving the swimming buoy lines closer to shore.

Leslie Gustafson stated that her primary concern is over the misbehavior that is occurring at Deephaven Beach once the lifeguards left for the season. She stated that alcohol consumption goes up, kids are riding bikes on the dock and other similar activities that have made it very uncomfortable for parents with younger children. She stated that she is just waiting for an injury to occur. She stated that much of this activity starts at around 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. and recommended that lifeguards should be retained for several more weeks.

Jonathan Weiss stated that he has also witnessed a number of rowdy kids using a very large floating raft at the beach, which he felt was a hazard to both those using the raft and other swimmers.

Cindy Webster stated that she has never been that impressed with the lifeguards at the beach. She stated that all they seem to do is talk among themselves rather than watching the kids.

Patrick Regan stated that residents shouldn't have to contend with giant rafts after 5:00 p.m.

Motion by Leslie Gustafson to recommend that the City Council extend lifeguard services at Deephaven Beach to Labor Day. Seconded by Patrick Regan. Motion carried 6-0.

Leslie Gustafson further recommended extending porta potties at Robinson's Bay Beach through the second week of September. She stated that it is tough not having porta potties when you are swimming with your children.

Scott Ferguson suggested placing a porta potty at the platform courts.

Park Reports

Committee members provided their monthly park reports:

Scott Ferguson – the entrance to the Thorpe Park walking path off of Westview Drive needs to be cleaned of rocks & dirt. He added that there are a number of Austrian Pines located in the parking lot island that are in tough shape.

Patrick Regan – noted that someone had installed pickleball court lines on the Thorpe tennis courts, which left the surface permanently marked.

John Flynn – suggested that the Public Works crew could move the damaged fence off of the sports court.

2014 Capital Projects

Discussion was held regarding 2014 Capital Projects, including:

- Construction of a pickleball court (\$10,000)
- Shuck Park renovations (\$35,000)
- Construction of a new dock for Deephaven Beach (\$35,000)
- Purchase of shade structures (\$1,000 each)

Jonathan Weiss suggested purchasing a second fountain for the Thorpe Park pond would help aerate the pond and deter geese.

Discussion was held on alternate designs for a new dock on Deephaven Beach.

John Flynn stated that installing a pickleball court within the Thorpe hockey rink would require the surface to be raised for drainage purposes, which would make it more difficult to form ice in the rink during the winter months. The committee members generally stated that installing a pickleball court was not one of their higher priorities.

Leslie Gustafson suggested installing a restroom at Thorpe Park. Scott Ferguson stated that this could cost as much as \$100,000-\$150,000.

Patrick Regan suggested landscaping around the hockey rinks.

Cindy Webster stated that the City should consider charging fees for the use of our recreational facilities. John Flynn stated that Deephaven kids are using fields in other cities as well, charging facility fees would just add to the fees that parents are paying to have their kids participate in these activities, and why would we want our fields to go unused.

Platform Tennis Courts

Dana Young stated that Total Platform Tennis returned on September 10th to complete the resurfacing of the courts. He stated that the only remaining items include the heating units, which the City Council will discuss on October 7th, and operational issues including court rules, signage, the establishment of leagues and a reservation policy.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Scott Ferguson, seconded by Leslie Gustafson. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2013.