

PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

September 11, 2012

Minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman John Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Cindy Webster, Scott Ferguson

August 7, 2012 Minutes

The Committee approved the August 7, 2012 minutes on a motion by Patrick Regan, seconded by Jim Elvestrom. Motion carried 4-0.

Matters from the Floor

There were no Matters from the Floor this evening.

David Paulson, Park Committee Candidate

David Paulson, 20580 Carson Road, was not present this evening to meet with the Committee to discuss his interest in joining the Deephaven Park Committee.

Park Reports

Committee members provided their monthly park reports:

Jim Elvestrom stated that he would be interested in having lights installed at the Thorpe tennis courts. He asked if this issue had been discussed in the past.

Dana Young stated that there hasn't been a discussion of installing tennis court lights at least for the past 11 years. He stated that there may have been a concern regarding the impact of lights on the surrounding neighborhood.

Jim Elvestrom volunteered to poll the surrounding neighbors on their opinion on the possible installation of tennis court lights.

John Flynn asked if there was a need for tennis court lights.

Jim Elvestrom stated that as a tennis player, he would enjoyed playing evening tennis in the late spring or early fall.

Patrick Regan asked about the possibility of installing mesh screens for the courts.

Jim Elvestrom stated that it would really lessen the impact of the wind and they would only cost about \$1,000 per court.

Jim Elvestrom about the Heathcote cross walk and whether a pedestrian crossing sign with flashing lights could be installed to enhance the safety of pedestrians crossing from Heathcote to Thorpe Park.

Leslie Gustafson also noted the high speed of vehicles on Lake Avenue and wondered if a stop sign could be installed on Lake and Hamilton to slow down the speed of vehicles driving by the Thorpe parking lot.

Patrick Regan noted that there is a pedestrian crossing sign with flashing lights that works really well at Kenwood Park in Minneapolis.

Jim Elvestrom stated the safety issue around Thorpe Park is becoming more of an issue due to the fact that there are so many more young families now living in Deephaven Park.

Dana Young stated that the Public Safety Committee could look into the speeding issue around Thorpe Park.

Patrick Regan presented several pictures showing the variety and difference in quality of the City Park signs.

Dana Young stated a number of the newer signs were made by Redwood Signs and cost around \$850.00 per sign. He added that there was also some concern regarding the durability of these signs.

Patrick Regan stated that he would like to see all park signs more uniform and volunteered to contact different sign vendors to check on pricing and the durability of their product.

Member Project Lists

Dana Young stated that at the last meeting, it was suggested that each member develop a list of potential projects for further discussion at tonight's meeting. He stated that Leslie Gustafson had suggested the purchase of a grill for Robinson's Beach and to explore the possibility of purchasing shade structures for Deephaven Beach. He said that Patrick Regan had expressed an interest in looking at a variety of projects at Thorpe Park, including:

- providing better shade/shelter/seating at the playground
- warming house upgrades (possible toilet options)
- ice rink improvements
- kid's basketball hoop options
- horse shoe pit question
- ball diamond improvements
- consistent signage / aesthetic language
- And, alternatives other than a full toilet room or port-a-potty.

He stated that Jim Elvestrom had suggested renting paddle boards at Deephaven Beach and Cindy Webster had suggested installing a walkway at Burton Park.

Patrick Regan stated that, although the Committee would have to identify whether it is a need, he thought getting proper restrooms at Thorpe Park should be a high priority.

Leslie Gustafson stated that the current porta-potties lend a "redneck" feel to Thorpe Park and seem out of place. She agreed that restrooms should be a high priority.

Jim Elvestrom suggested the restroom could possibly be combined with a new warming house.

Patrick Regan stated that a concession stand or area could also be added, although a concession stand wouldn't make sense if there weren't organizational sports activities at the park.

Further discussion was held on the potential design of a new warming house including reorienting the doors to face the rink.

Jim Elvestrom stated he would also like to hold further discussion on the purchase of an adjustable basketball hoop for the Thorpe basketball court. He stated that many younger kids would begin to use the court with an adjustable hoop.

Leslie Gustafson stated that she would also like to hold further discussion on the possibility of installing shade structures at Deephaven Beach. She stated the shade structures can cost around \$3,000.00 but isn't sure how long they last. She noted the lack of shade at Deephaven Beach drives people to go to Robinson's Beach.

Further discussion was held on the boardwalk at Deephaven Beach. Patrick Regan noted that he has observed a number of people sitting on the boardwalk this past summer. It was the consensus of the Committee that the boardwalk should remain.

Patrick Regan suggested that multiple small pavilions could be constructed at Deephaven Beach.

Dana Young stated that generating these ideas is a very useful activity. He stated that the Park Committee can prioritize these and other projects for future inclusion in the Park Improvement Fund or the Capital Improvement Fund once costs and the scope of the project have been determined. He noted that Councilmember Gustafson expressed some concern regarding the upgrading of a park facility due to concerns that the use of the facility may become dominated by non-residents. He stated that Councilmember Gustafson suggested that the Park Committee explore the possibility of adopting a reservation policy.

Update on Platform Tennis Project

Discussion was held on the progress of the Platform Tennis Court project. Both John Flynn and Dana Young expressed concern over the lack of communication with Total Platform Tennis on this project. Dana Young stated that he had recently received a starting date of October 29th from the contractor.

Emailing of Committee Material

Dana Young asked if the Committee would be interested in receiving Park Committee material via email or mail. The members stated that they would be willing to have their Park Committee material sent electronically.

Other

Dana Young stated that Mayor Skrede expressed an interest in submitting a grant application to the Hennepin County Youth Sports Grant for the platform courts and a clubhouse.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Leslie Gustafson, seconded by Jim Elvestrom. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 2, 2012.