

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
JANUARY 2, 2002**

---

**1. Roll Call**

Park Board members Jim Calkins, Diane Hayden, Paul Lehman, Bob McFarlin, Mary Russ and Steve Watkins were present. Attending staff was Geralyn Barone, Dave Johnson and Craig Sinclair. Chair Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2001**

Hayden moved and McFarlin seconded a motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2001. All voted “yes”. Motion carried.

**3. Discussion Items**

**a) Appointment of Chair and Vice-chair**

Russ moved and Hayden seconded a motion to appoint Steve Watkins as Park Board Chair for a term running from February 1, 2002, through January 31, 2003. All voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Russ moved and McFarlin seconded a motion to appoint Paul Lehman as Vice-Chair for a term running from February 1, 2002, through January 31, 2003. All voted “yes”. Motion carried.

**b) Consideration of Hopkins-Minnetonka Babe Ruth Association request for Gulliams Field lighting.**

Terri Bonoff and Ross Guthrie were in attendance to represent the Hopkins-Minnetonka Babe Ruth (HMBR) Association.

Bonoff distributed a handout that was prepared to address Park Board questions raised at the December 12, 2002, meeting.

Bonoff proposed allowing HMBR to play a total of 12 lighted games on Fridays and Saturdays only during the school year (May 1 through mid-June) and a maximum of 30 games from mid-June through August. She proposed lights be allowed for play until 10:00 p.m. and for maintenance purposes until 10:20 p.m.

Bonoff indicated that a full moon provides between .15 and .25 foot-candles of light, and pointed out that the lights being proposed by HMBR would provide light at the Guilliams Field property line ranging from .12 to .26 foot-candles. Bonoff presented a video prepared by Musco Sports Lighting to illustrate the effect of lighting on adjacent homes.

McFarlin questioned if the addition of lights would eliminate the need for HMBR to use an existing field at Eisenhower Elementary School, considered to be in

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
JANUARY 2, 2002**

---

poor shape. Bonoff indicated it would. McFarlin questioned why HMBR would not use funds to improve the Eisenhower field. Bonoff indicated that the Hopkins School District needs the field for soccer, football, and school use, making the field difficult to maintain in quality condition. She added that the addition of fencing at the field was impossible.

David Oxley, 3425 Arbor Lane, was in attendance and expressed concern that the amount of games requested to be played had increased. Bonoff responded that she was not present at the December 12, 2001, meeting and prepared the estimate of 42 games based on her review of the schedule. She added that she was comfortable that 42 games would suffice.

Oxley questioned why games needed to be played on Saturday nights when the entire day is available for scheduling. He further noted that lights would be approximately 150 feet from the closest home. Bonoff noted that Saturday night play would be used to reschedule rainout games that had occurred.

Russ questioned how late HMBR currently plays. Bonoff indicated that they play until dusk, which can range from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. during the season. Russ noted that she felt a one-hour extension of play was not a considerable change.

Hayden question if financing for the lights had been secured. Bonoff indicated it had not, however several companies had been contacted. She added that if HMBR was not permitted to sell naming rights to the field, the ability to raise the required funds was a concern. Johnson explained that the City Attorney expressed concern regarding the City's ability to authorize the sale of naming rights to any field.

Watkins questioned staff as to the lighting schedule at Big Willow Park. Johnson indicated that during spring and summer play the regulation baseball field lights must be off by 11:00 p.m., little league baseball can start no inning past 9:20 p.m., and softball and soccer lights are allowed until 10:30 p.m.

McFarlin asked if the association had contacted other communities that HMBR serves. Bonoff responded that other fields are not available and that Guilliams Field was HMBR's home field and provided concession and restroom facilities. Bonoff added that all opposition teams HMBR plays have lighted fields.

Calkins expressed concerns about the addition of lighting. He noted that the past addition of lights at Big Willow was an expansion, where the HMBR proposal represents an additional nuisance to the neighbors. Calkins added that he felt the perceived benefit didn't warrant the impact on the neighborhood.

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
JANUARY 2, 2002**

---

Watkins agreed with Calkins, adding that he was concerned that the addition of lights could reduce property values.

McFarlin approved of the plan if a specific calendar of when the lights could be used was created. Russ agreed.

Watkins added that the City does not have the space required to add fields and that he realized the dilemma HMBR faced.

McFarlin suggested that City staff work with HMBR regarding their request to sell naming rights for Guilliams Field. Calkins suggested that the Park Board develop a position on allowing organizations to name fields.

McFarlin moved and Russ seconded a motion recommending that Hopkins-Minnetonka Babe Ruth be allowed to install lights at Guilliams Field with use of the lights permitted a maximum of 45 evenings during a designated season of May 1-July 31. The recommended lighting curfew is 10:00 p.m. for play and 10:20 p.m. for maintenance purposes. Hayden, Lehman, McFarlin and Russ voted "yes". Calkins and Watkins voted "no". Motion carried.

McFarlin questioned whether organizations should have the right to name city property. He expressed his concern about providing this right.

Calkins indicated support for allowing private organizations to donate funds but did not approve of allowing the sale of naming rights for fields or other City facilities.

Russ moved and Calkins seconded a motion recommending that the City Council not permit HMBR to sell naming rights for Guilliams Field, but allow financial donations to be recognized at the field in a manner approved by the City. All voted "yes". Motion carried.

**c) Review of 2002 Park Board Action Steps**

Barone reviewed action steps prepared by staff to address the Park Board's goal "to protect natural resources and open space." Watkins noted that a review of water quality issues was overdue, and he was pleased to see it indicated as an action step.

Calkins commented on an action step regarding the application of financial aid to assist with natural resource restoration. He suggested that a long-term analysis be done to determine future funding needs as the program expands.

Sinclair reviewed action steps prepared by staff to meet the Park Board's goal "to renew parks". Calkins requested that a long-term budget assessment be

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
JANUARY 2, 2002**

---

prepared for each park renewal project. Sinclair indicated a long-term maintenance schedule would be incorporated into the plan.

Johnson reviewed action steps prepared by staff to meet the Park Board's goal "to provide quality athletic and recreational facilities". Calkins questioned whether staff was comfortable with the workload presented in the action steps. Johnson and Barone indicated that they were.

Johnson indicated that recommended changes to the Park Board's 2002 action steps would be incorporated and brought back to the Park Board for approval in February.

**d) Park dedication fee recommendations**

Johnson provided an addendum to this item, which included a comparison of the Park Board's fee recommendations made in September of 2001, City Council recommendations, and a recent metro area study completed in December of 2001.

Johnson informed the park Board that their recommendation was introduced to the City Council at their October 8, 2001, meeting. Following a review of the fees, the City Council requested that Park Dedication Fees (PDF) be increased to \$2, 125 per unit for residential, \$4,800 per acre for commercial and \$4,900 per acre for industrial development.

Barone noted that increased PDF will not have a significant impact on the Park Fund, but added that development continues to impact the City's Park system. Barone used Green Circle and Mayflower Parks as recent examples.

Calkins questioned why PDF were needed. He noted that new development created additional taxes to support park operations. Calkins expressed concern that PDF were an additional tax used to target development.

Johnson noted that PDF are to be designated for new park amenities required due to growth in the community. He reiterated Barone's examples of Green Circle and Mayflower Parks.

Calkins questioned why PDF needed to exist and suggested that funds for new parks be used from the City's general tax levy. He indicated that he could support PDF if specific objectives for use of the funds were established.

Johnson indicated that the Park Board's concerns would be forwarded to the Planning Commission for review.

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
JANUARY 2, 2002**

---

**4. Park Board Member Reports**

Calkins reported that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District had recently approved a \$200,000 grant for funding the Gray's Bay Marina, causeway and headwaters projects.

**5. Informational Items**

No additional information was provided or requested.

**6. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items**

The Park Board requested to add a May 1, 2002, meeting to the schedule and change the Park Board tour to May 8.

**7. Adjournment**

Lehman moved and Russ seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 p.m. All voted "yes". Motion carried.