

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
JANUARY 6, 2002**

1. Roll Call

Park Board Members – Pricilla Bue, Jim Calkins, Diane Hayden, Paul Lehman, Bob McFarlin and Steve Watkins were present. Attending Staff was Geralyn Barone, Dave Johnson, Mark Simenson and Perry Vetter. Chair Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Special Matters

a) Introduction of new member Priscilla Bue

Priscilla Bue was introduced as the new Park Board member replacing Buck Anderson who resigned in September of 2001 due to health related complications. Priscilla's two-year term was effective January 31, 2002 and will expire on January 31, 2004.

3. Approval of Minutes – January 2, 2002

Johnson noted a correction related to the stated terms of appointed Chair Watkins and Vice-Chair Lehman. The minutes incorrectly stated 2002 as the expiration date instead of 2003. Lehman moved and Calkins seconded a motion to approve the minutes of January 2, 2002 as amended. All voted "yes". Motion carried.

4. Business Items

a) Review of City's budget process

Johnson introduced City Manager John Gunyou who provided a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the City's annual budget process. Gunyou explained that as proposed, the "Big Fix" would lose approximately \$1 million in funding for 2002.

Gunyou outlined the City budget noting that Minnetonka's annual budget for 2002 is \$35 million, of which \$19 million is General Fund expenditures. He added that the proposed 2002-2006 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) details \$66 million in spending. Park and trail projects account for 6% of the total CIP budget. Gunyou noted that funding for the CIP comes from property taxes (43%), State Aid (38%), Utility Fund (10%) and the Community Investment Fund (7%). To prepare for cuts in State funding, Gunyou noted that City staff have developed a contingency plan totaling \$934,000 in project savings.

b) Review of 2003-2007 CIP Park Projects

Vetter reviewed projects planned for inclusion in the 2003-2007 CIP. He noted that due to cost containment measures in reaction to the City's impact from the "Big Fix" proposal, the Park Fund required adjustments to balance revenues and expenditures.

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Calkins suggested removing the Jidana-Civic Center park trail connection planned for 2003 at a cost of \$78,000. Calkins cited a lack of Park Board support for the project when it was reviewed in November of 1999.

Vetter suggested possible revisions to the outdoor ice rink-paving schedule and suggested options. McFarlin supported rescheduling of the outdoor rink-paving schedule as long as improvements were not eliminated. Lehman supported McFarlin's stance. Vetter recommended postponing the paving of the Gatewood rink to 2008 and resurfacing until 2002. He also suggested replacing only one tot lot surface in 2007. Vetter summarized that by incorporating these changes; the 2007 CIP could be reduced by a total of \$52,500.

Lehman moved and Calkins seconded a motion to reduce the 2003-2007 CIP a total of \$130,500 by removing the Civic Center to Jidana park trail link in 2003, rescheduling paving and resurfacing of the Gatewood school hockey rink from 2007 until 2008 and 2009, and reducing the resurfacing of tot lots in 2007 from two sites to one. All voted "yes". Motion carried.

c) Open Space Prioritization Schedule

Barone provided an introduction and noted that recommendations for an open space priority list were based on information obtained in 1) the open space inventory conducted by Braver & Associates, Ltd., 2) the Park Board's priority list, 3) the City Council's policy on an open space preservation program, and 4) the City Forester's inventory of highly visible open space parcels.

Barone reviewed the options available for securing open space including acquisition, conservation development, securing development, rights, and conservation easements. She noted that properties listed for acquisition had a 2002 market value of \$5,154,600. Barone added that all properties included on the priority list were identified as having a priority listing as "Urgent", "High", "Medium", or "Low" depending on previously established preservation criteria.

Barone requested Park Board feedback on parcels and priorities included on the list.

Lehman questioned why parcel #10 was given an "Urgent" priority listing. Barone responded that there were several reasons including environmental features on the property, the owner's interest in preserving the property in a natural state, and the overall size of the property.

McFarlin inquired about parcel #26 (Ridgewood Golf Course), which was identified as a "High" priority. Barone noted that this property was proposed by Staff to be a conservation development site, possibly requiring no funding.

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Calkins asked if a policy exists regarding financial involvement from interested neighbors wishing to protect a property from development. Barone indicated that such a policy did not exist. Calkins suggested that it would be important to develop a policy.

Lehman noted that he did not have enough knowledge of all the properties to provide input, but felt the criteria used by Staff was appropriate.

Calkins suggested setting a timetable to address "Urgent" and "High" priority properties first. The, based on available funds, moving down the list to "Medium" and "Low" priority parcels.

McFarlin asked how important Park Board input was to the process. Barone responded that it provided a public perspective and was very important to the process.

Watkins encouraged the Board to become familiar with properties identified as "Urgent" and "High" on the priority list.

Barone inquired about Park Board recommendations for bringing this information to the public. Lehman suggested an Open House forum. Watkins agreed and felt both property owners and the general public be invited to attend.

McFarlin suggested a video to be aired on cable as an additional option.

McFarlin moved and Lehman seconded a motion indicating that the Park Board considers the Prioritization List as a work in progress and recommends forwarding the document to the City Council with regular Park Board reviews to continue until the referendum project is completed. All voted "yes". Motion carried.

d) 2002 Park Board Action Steps

Johnson reviewed changes made to the Park Board's 2002 action steps at the January 2, 2002 meeting. Lehman moved and Bue seconded a motion to adopt the Park Board's 2002 action steps as amended. All voted "yes". Motion carried.

5. Park Board Member reports

None

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6. Informational Items

No additional items were discussed

Upcoming Park Board agenda items

Vetter noted that the neighborhood meeting date for the Mini-Tonka Park renewal project has been changed to Monday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Johnson noted that due to a Joint Recreation Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, the Park Board annual tour date has been changed to Wednesday, May 15.

5 Adjournment

Calkins moved and Lehman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 p.m. All voted "yes". Motion carried.