

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
June 4, 2003**

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**1. Roll Call**

Park Board Members Jim Calkins, Freinde Mills, Lanise Stufft, Steve Watkins and Sue Woodrich were present. Attending staff were Geralyn Barone, Dave Johnson, Craig Sinclair and Perry Vetter. Vice-Chair Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes – April 16, 2003**

Stufft moved and Woodrich seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 16, 2003 as submitted. All voted “Yes”. Motion carried.

**3. Business Items**

**A. Review of Civic Center Master Plan**

Barone provided an introduction of the item noting that this was the second presentation to the Park Board. Barone added that previous meetings had also been conducted to receive input from the neighborhood, Senior Advisory Board, and Horseman’s Association.

Barone noted that while the City Council has included funding for Civic Center improvements in the CIP, the allocation of funds does not “approve” a plan. She added that approval of a final master plan will require Council action.

Barone informed the Park Board that the consultant, Brauer & Associates, Ltd. had made changes to the initial concept based on feedback obtained by the Board as a result of the first review.

Barone introduced George Watson of Brauer & Associates, Ltd. who provided an overview of the current plan.

Watson distributed copies of the plan and reviewed seven primary points associated with the plan.

- 1) Traffic flow – Watson reviewed changes to the campus entry noting a proposed direct roadway through the campus.
- 2) Parking – Watson noted that parking areas would be well defined and closer in proximity to the buildings served.
- 3) Awareness of amenities located on the northern portion of the campus – As a result of the entry drive and signage, Watson noted that amenities located to the north would be easier to notice and locate.

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
June 4, 2003**

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- 4) Maintain green space – Watson noted that the plan provides as much green space as possible. As an example, he pointed out that the existing horse amenities would be replaced with open green space that could be used for informal athletic use.
- 5) The provision of pedestrian links – Watson reviewed plans for seven internal trails on the Civic Center campus, ranging in length up to a .9 mile. Trail links would also be provided to the Minnetonka Boulevard trail, the neighborhood to the north, and Jidana Park.
- 6) Accommodation of the new civic facilities – Watson reviewed the need for new city facilities or amenities noting the location of a communications tower and the possibility of a future play structure and parking facility.
- 7) Identification – Watson reviewed options for Civic Center signage both at the main entrance and throughout the campus. Watson provided his insight into a possible main entrance theme that would utilize the pond located to the south of the Community Center to feature a primary sign.

Barone concluded the plan presentation by noting that trail segments throughout the campus had been expanded at the request of the Council. She added that the Park Board's initial request to convert the existing horse arena area to green space for informal athletic use was supported by the Council and incorporated into the plan.

Chair Watkins opened the floor to Park Board discussion.

Calkins questioned if any consideration was given to use the property west of Williston Road between Minnetonka Boulevard and the school. He added that the area might be conducive to a soccer field. Another alternative Calkins suggested was to allow the area to grow naturally to complement the landscaping maintained at the Marsh heath club. Johnson responded that if a soccer field were to be placed at this location, a buffer would need to be placed between the field and Williston Road, greatly reducing the field's width.

Calkins commented that he would prefer to see additional landscaping in front of ice arena "A", adding that the current proposal seemed to have an "urban" feel. Calkins added that he would also prefer a berm to buffer the parking areas. Watson indicated that both suggestions could be worked into the plan.

Calkins concluded by saying that he liked the overall plan, adding that appropriate signage will be very important to add.

Mills questioned if a skate park and amphitheater, previously identified as possible site amenities, would be added to the campus. Barone responded that

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
June 4, 2003**

---

an amphitheater might be an option to develop in collaboration with the school as their plans develop. Barone indicated that while a skate park remains an option, the site lacks the visibility preferred by skateboarders. Johnson concurred, adding that the Park Board had previously considered the addition of a skate park at the Civic Center but instead favored the Minnetonka Middle School East site.

Woodrich suggested developing a playground area near the open green space/athletic field area so that children could utilize the equipment while the field was in use. Woodrich added that she supported this approach over a possible playground developed jointly with the school.

Regarding cross-country ski trails, Woodrich asked what was included in the "trail head" proposed for the site. Barone responded that the area would serve as a starting point for the trail with parking for approximately 10 vehicles. She added that restrooms would not be provided, however they are available at other Civic Center facilities including the ice arenas and Community Center.

Stuftt asked what surface was planned for proposed trails. Watson responded that paved trails would be used wherever possible. Stuftt indicated that she supported Woodrich's recommendation for placing play equipment near the informal athletic space as long as the area is committed for such use.

Watkins questioned if buckthorn removal would take place on the Civic Center grounds. Sinclair indicated that it will, but is not associated with this plan. Watkins recommended placement of a barrier to prevent canoeists from driving their vehicles down to the canoe landing.

Watkins asked who might use the play equipment if developed. Watson responded that youth do reside in the neighborhood north of the Civic Center. Barone added that youth coming to the campus for the use of other facilities could also utilize the equipment. Watkins indicated that he supported the reconfiguration of the parking areas proposed in the plan.

Woodrich closed by indicating support for the sign concept presented by Watson.

With no other recommendations made, Barone and Watson indicated that they had the information needed and would incorporate the Board's recommendations into the plan.

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
June 4, 2003**

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**4. Park Board Member Reports**

Woodrich thanked staff and the Board for the tour of facilities that took place on May 21.

Mills expressed concern about items related to the Glen Lake Park play lot. Johnson indicated that he would meet with Mills at the site to review her concerns.

**5. Information Items**

Sinclair noted that the Mini Tonka Park water tower would be power washed the week of June 11, requiring the park to be closed for a 2-3 day period of time.

**6. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items**

The Board reviewed possible date changes for the July meeting due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Johnson indicated that he would poll members not in attendance to determine the best possible date for the change.

**7. Adjournment**

Calkins moved and Stufft seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.