

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
September 3, 2003**

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**1. Roll Call**

Park Board Members Bruce Gefvert, Paul Lehman, Freinde Mills, Lanise Stuftt, Steve Watkins and Sue Woodrich were present. Attending staff were GERALYN Barone, Dave Johnson, Craig Sinclair and Perry Vetter.

Chair Lehman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes – August 6, 2003**

Watkins moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of August 6, 2003 as submitted. All voted “Yes”. Motion carried.

**3. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda**

No one appeared.

**4. Business Items**

**A. Park Renewal Plan Review – Libbs Lake Park**

Vetter provided an overview to the item noting that Libbs Lake Park is designated as a Special Use Park due to the swimming beach provided. Vetter summarized the planned improvements to the park which included:

- Landscape improvements
- Interior Trail
- Fishing platforms
- Picnic area (no shelter at the neighborhood’s request)
- New permanent restroom/lifeguard facility
- Foot wash stations
- ADA accessibility

Vetter noted that the plan presented required negotiations with a property owner to the south to allow for continued access for the owner to launch a boat into the lake on a parcel of land he owned. Vetter added that the parking on site has been reduced from 23 to 11 with expansion possible up to 15. Vetter noted that during the swimming season, permits are required to park at Libbs Lake Park.

Chair Lehman opened the floor to Park Board member questions.

Woodrich asked if bike racks would be provided. Vetter indicated that they would, and would be located near the new building. Woodrich followed by asking if one designated handicap parking space was adequate, Vetter indicated that it met ADA requirements.

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
September 3, 2003**

---

Watson expressed concern that the proposed new facility would be located in an area that impedes the view to the lake from the parking area and as you enter the park. Vetter responded that several factors led to the recommended location including lifeguard accessibility, modifications to the parking lot and tree protection.

Gefvert asked if the provision of designated fishing platforms were recommended to provide a safer environment for swimmers. Vetter indicated that safety was an issue, adding that fishing in general was a concern to neighbors due to factors including dead fish, trash, and heavy use. Vetter added that several neighbors actually requested the elimination of fishing at the site. Vetter indicated that staff would revise park rules listed at the site, focusing on rules that are specific to the park.

Stufft indicated that she was pleased with the plan. She asked if parking limits are ever exceeded. Vetter indicated that they are at times, however, parking requires a permit and enforcement has not been consistent.

Mills noted that the Post Plan indicated parking for 23 cars, and that the plan calls for 10 and questioned the difference. Vetter responded that staff needed to adhere to setback restrictions and storm water management needs, with a net result of 11 spaces (including one handicap).

Chair Lehman opened the floor to public comments.

Ethel Smith, 3128 Lake Shore Boulevard, commented that she liked the plan but was concerned the retaining wall that separates the beach from the maintained turf area was too tall and would not allow visitors to sit on the wall to view beach activities. Vetter indicated that the desire for a lower wall was reviewed and incorporated into the plan. Vetter explained that to provide a lower wall would require terracing which would impact tree roots and endanger oak trees. Vetter noted that as designed, seating has been incorporated into the boardwalk shown on the plan.

Kathy Vanhercke, 3115 Lake Shore Boulevard, expressed support for the plan and had some indirect questions regarding maintenance of the park. Vanhercke indicated that weed control in the swimming area was a concern, along with regular inspection of the beach when lifeguards are not on duty. She noted that deep holes had been dug into the beach sand this summer. Vanhercke closed by indicating that she hoped maintenance levels would increase along with the new plan.

Johnson explained that the City provides \$500 annually in funding to treat Libbs Lake for aquatic weeds. He indicated that the funds are provided to the neighborhood association that works directly with the DNR. Vanhercke

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
September 3, 2003**

---

commented that there may be options through the DNR for the City to obtain a permit. Johnson indicated that he would work with Vanhercke to see what could be done.

Barb Fordyce, 16609 Park Lane, indicated that she liked the plan and complimented the efforts of staff, especially Perry Vetter and Craig Sinclair. Fordyce indicated that she supports the elimination of fishing at the park and knows that many other neighbors agree. She added that park rules state that the park closes at 10:00 p.m. and noted that several problems occur past 10:00 p.m. because there is no way to keep people out of the park. Fordyce added that calls to the Police Department have been acted on favorably.

Hearing no further requests to speak, Chair Lehman closed the floor to public comments.

Woodrich questioned who was responsible for inspecting the park when the lifeguards are not scheduled. Sinclair responded that the mowing crews are and acknowledged that they need to assume a more active role in this process.

Stufft moved and Watkins seconded a motion to accept the master plan for Libbs Lake as presented by Stufft and forward the plan to the City Council for consideration. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

Johnson noted that the City Council is scheduled to review the Libbs Lake plan at the September 15, 2003 meeting.

**B. Park Renewal Plan Review – McKenzie Park**

Vetter noted that this was a second review of McKenzie Park, noting that following the initial review, the Park Board directed Staff to review other potential options that would increase the size of the active play field or "green space".

Vetter reviewed the initial three options presented to residents in attendance at the second neighborhood meeting held on June 18. These plans were identified as concept plans "A", "B", and "C". From these plans, Vetter explained that the Master Plan presented to the Park Board in July was the result of input received by residents through a review of Concepts "A" – "C".

Next, Vetter presented alternate plans #1 and #2, developed to increase the amount of open green space provided at McKenzie.

Stufft commented that she appreciated staff's follow-through with the development of alternates #1 and #2. Following her initial review of all concepts, Stufft noted that she favors the Master Plan and Concept "B".

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
September 3, 2003**

---

Watkins questioned if the existing rink is useless as currently provided due to the inability to provide quality ice. Vetter responded that for an unknown reason, it is difficult to develop ice on the northern portion at the rink.

Mills questioned what the cost would be to remove and reconstruct the existing warminghouse as proposed in alternates "1" and "2". Jason Amberg of Brauer and Associates, Ltd. estimated the cost at \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Chair Lehman opened the floor to public comments.

Tom Martin, 14823 Walker Place, noted that his property borders the park's west side and indicated that he liked what is included in the Master Plan Concept but has a couple of concerns. His first concern regarded the accuracy of the property line. Martin indicated that part of the western portion of the park appears to be on his property. Vetter indicated that the City has worked with the firm of WSB to perform survey studies of the park. Vetter offered to meet with Martin to review his concerns.

Martin indicated that a second concern involved the ice rink, noting that he volunteers annually to maintain the rink and has experienced the poor ice conditions indicated earlier in the meeting.

Jennifer Martin, 14823 Walker Place, asked for confirmation that the Master Plan calls for one portable restroom to be located in the southwest area of the park. Vetter indicated that was correct. Martin indicated that she has volunteered use of her house to park users who need a restroom, adding that she felt one restroom was not sufficient.

Lehman informed Martin that her request for additional restrooms is the opposite of most requests received from residents to eliminate portable restrooms due to vandalism and other related concerns.

Hearing no additional requests to speak, Chair Lehman closed the floor to public comments.

Woodrich indicated support for Alternate Plan #2, noting support for moving the warminghouse if feasible.

Gefvert requested a clarification of concerns mentioned at the July meeting related to elevation changes that impact the skating areas. Amberg noted that the eastern portion of the park is 3' – 4' higher than the west. He added that the current skating arrangement is impacted by this elevation.

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
September 3, 2003**

---

Gefvert asked why the ice conditions on the hockey rink are poor. Sinclair indicated that Staff was unsure, but has had success at other park locations and felt that a reconstruction of the rink would solve the problem.

Watkins noted that several activities and amenities are provided at McKenzie Park and questioned if there is a need for year-around restrooms. He asked what the cost for a portable restroom was. Sinclair indicated the cost was approximately \$100 per month.

Lehman questioned whether permanent restrooms were feasible. Vetter responded that water and sewer utilities would need to be provided making the addition very costly.

Woodrich noted that following the comments of others, she favors the Master Plan design.

Mills indicated support for Concept "B".

Lehman voiced support for Concept "B" adding a desire to provide as much green space as possible while not reducing the size of the playground.

Gefvert asked for clarification regarding the field dimensions for Concept "B". Amberg responded that the field was approximately 160' in size.

Woodrich questioned how much the size of the existing playground would be reduced if the Master Plan Concept or Concept "B" were approved. Vetter responded that Concept "B" would provide the same approximate playground, and the Master Plan would provide a slightly smaller playground due to increased landscaping. Vetter then added that this landscaping could be reduced or eliminated. Woodrich asked if the field and/or play area could be enlarged if desired by the Board. Vetter indicated they could if the amount of landscaping is reduced.

Watkins indicated support for Concept "B" or any new concepts combining Concept "B" and the Master Plan.

Woodrich moved and Watkins seconded a motion to approve Concept "B" as the renovation design for McKenzie Park, with a request that staff not jeopardize the size of the playground area, and reduce the ballfield size as needed to maintain the desired playground size. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

**C. Pesticide Use Policy**

Sinclair introduced the item and provided background information regarding the Park Board's previous review of this item on April 16, 2003. Sinclair noted that following the initial review, the Park Board requested that pre-application

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
September 3, 2003**

---

measures be included in the plan that could potentially reduce the need to apply herbicides. Sinclair also added that the Park Board requested that the application schedule be modified to extend the amount of time between applications. Sinclair noted that both the pre-application measures and schedule modifications have been inserted into the plan as requested by the Board.

Lehman questioned if specific plans would be developed for each park. Sinclair responded that specific plans would not be developed, however the pre-application measures would be applied to each park.

Johnson suggested that specific plans be developed by staff for each of the designated use levels included on the herbicide application evaluation schedule. Stufft moved and Mills seconded a motion to approve the Herbicide Use Guidelines and Application Evaluation Schedule as presented by staff. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

**5. Park Board Member Reports**

None.

**6. Information Items**

No additional items provided from the information included in the meeting packet.

**7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items**

Johnson reviewed the upcoming 6-month meeting schedule.

Barone informed the Board the joint meeting of the Park Board and City Council was cancelled this evening due to several Council Members who were unable to attend. Barone added that Board would be informed of the new meeting date as soon as it is determined.

**8. Adjournment**

Watkins moved and Woodrich seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.