

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
January 7, 2004**

1. Roll Call

Park Board Members Jim Calkins, Andrea Fiterman, Paul Lehman, Freinde Mills, Steve Watkins and Sue Woodrich were present. Attending staff were GERALYN Barone, Dave Johnson and Perry Vetter.

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Calkins moved and Mills seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of December 3, 2003. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

3. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda

No requests were made.

4. Business Items

A. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair positions

The Board appointed Paul Lehman to serve as Chair and Jim Calkins to serve as Vice-Chair for the term February 1, 2004 – January 31, 2005.

B. Park Renewal Concept Review – Glen Moor Park

Vetter introduced the item and informed the Board two neighborhood meetings were conducted on October 28 and December 2, 2003. In addition, Vetter noted that residents returned 30 park surveys and the tabulated results were included in the Board's packet. Vetter explained that two concept plans (A & B) were developed following the initial neighborhood meeting. Following the second meeting, the plans were revised to a single Master Plan.

Vetter reviewed targeted improvements desired by residents for Glen Moor Park including:

- Internal trail loop
- Off street parking (4 spots)
- New and enlarged play equipment
- Separate play areas for children ages 2-5 and 5-12
- Open play (green) space
- Half-court basketball
- General skating area
- Portable restroom enclosure
- Shaded seating area
- Improved storm water management and grading

Lehman opened the discussion to the Park Board Members.

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
January 7, 2004**

Lehman noted that the survey tabulation rated removal of invasive species as the number one way of improving the park. Lehman asked for clarification considering the lack of vegetation in general at the site. Vetter responded that this was confusing to him as well, and indicated that concerns related to invasive vegetation were not expressed at the neighborhood meetings. He suggested that the concerns might be related to the high amount of geese at the park.

Lehman inquired about security lighting, which rated high on the survey but was not evident in the plan. Vetter responded that security lighting is often provided in the way of street lighting. He added that the City's Engineering Department conducts independent surveys to determine if residents desire street lighting. Vetter concluded by indicating that such requests for the addition of a street light must be unanimous.

Lehman closed by noting that improved landscaping and buffering rated high on the survey also. Vetter agreed and indicated both improvements were included in the Master Plan.

Woodrich noted that one of the "cons" noted on the Master Plan was the poor orientation of the ballfield, and asked if this was a concern to staff. Vetter indicated that the approved uses for this field are for informal purposes only, and that no organized play would occur. For this reason, Vetter indicated that the orientation was acceptable. He added that to revise the orientation would severely impact the recommended play areas.

Woodrich questioned why tennis courts were included in Concept "B" but not in the final Master Plan. Vetter responded that the initial request for a tennis court was made by a single resident and was not strongly preferred by others, thus removed from the Master Plan.

Calkins noted that the park property was deeded to the City for storm water management and questioned if that status has changed. Vetter responded that it had not changed, adding that while the property was not classified as a wetland, it was located below the 100-year flood plain.

Calkins questioned if there was any opportunity to create topography at the park. Vetter indicated that he felt the options were limited but would check it out. Calkins noted that landscaping could be used as a means to deter geese from the park. Vetter agreed, noting that the conversion of grasses from maintained to natural is an example included in the plan.

Fiterman asked if the entire area of the park flooded. Vetter responded it is capable of flooding, with the intent of the plan to be the direction of water to specific areas.

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
January 7, 2004**

Woodrich questioned why the basketball court size went from a full to a half court. Vetter responded the residents who attended the neighborhood meetings discussed that a half court was more suited to the neighborhood's needs. He added that full courts often encourage organized play that players will travel to for participation.

Calkins noted that the project budget was estimated to be \$185,000 and asked staff where most of the project cost would be. Vetter responded play equipment and soil corrections will be significant costs but completed within the budget.

Lehman opened the floor to the public.

Lee Reese, 5701 West Glen Moor Road, asked how many parking spaces would be provided at the park. Lehman indicated that four spots would be provided with use of the park primarily expected to come from residents in the immediate area.

Hearing no further requests for resident comments, Lehman closed the floor to the public.

Woodrich moved and Mills seconded a motion to approve the Master Plan for Glen Moor Park as presented by staff. All voted "Yes". Motion Carried.

C. Park Renewal Concept Review - Knollway Park

Vetter reported that two neighborhood meetings were conducted on October 28 and December 2, 2003. Following the preparation of two plans, residents agreed on plan "A" with only slight revisions. Vetter provided an overview of the Master Plan. He noted that specific improvements proposed in the plan include:

- Play area
- Half court basketball (with other marked games)
- Trail loop
- Horseshoe pit
- General ice skating rink
- Open play area (overlay)
- New play equipment (ages 3-5 and 6-12)
- Ornamental fencing

Vetter noted that due to the size of the park, the general ice skating rink and open play areas during the summer will overlap causing poorer than desired turf conditions.

Lehman opened the discussion to the Park Board Members.

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
January 7, 2004**

Watkins asked how much of the vegetation detailed on the Master Plan actually exists today. Vetter responded that very little vegetation currently exists, but that amount would be increased through the proposed improvements.

Calkins stated that it appeared on the POST Plan ariel photo that trails were located within the wetland and asked if the Master Plan identified these trails. Vetter responded that there are indeed informal trails developed by users of the park, and added that the Master Plan does not include plans to formalize these trails.

Calkins questioned why the budget for Knollway Park estimated to be \$235,000 cost more than the Glen Moor Park improvements. Vetter stated that the budgeted number is an initial estimate derived from information contained in the Post Plan.

Calkins requested that staff analyze storm water management on the site, noting his concern that water appears to drain from the northwest to the southeast over impervious surfaces, then enters the wetland. He further requested that the eastern buffer between the park and wetland be maximized.

Watkins questioned if the City currently maintains the skating area shown in the plan. Vetter confirmed that it was.

Lehman opened the floor to the public.

Guy Pettis, 13823 Knollway Drive, indicated he has not seen the park flood or experience water problems during his 8-year residency. He voiced support for the Master Plan as presented.

Hearing no further requests, Lehman closed the floor to the public and asked for Park Board Member comments.

Fiterman asked if Knollway Park was in danger of increased flooding in future years. Vetter responded that with the surrounding area fully developed and the City's storm water management plan in place, a significant change to current conditions is not expected.

Calkins moved and Fiterman seconded a motion to adopt the Master Plan as presented with the addition of an increased wetland buffer on the eastern side of the park. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

D. Adoption of 2004 Park Board Strategic Plan

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
January 7, 2004**

Johnson presented a draft of the strategic plan prepared by staff following input from the Board at the December 3, 2003 meeting.

Calkins requested that an Action Step or Objective addressing the issue of property beautification outside of the traditional park properties be included. He provided gateways to the City and boulevard plantings as examples. Calkins reminded the Board that this was an item discussed at their Joint Meeting with the City Council.

Johnson recommended staff include an Action Step to address Calkin's request and noted the 2004 Action Steps be reviewed at the Park Board's February meeting.

5. Park Board Member Reports

Woodrich thanked Watkins for his years of service on the Park Board, adding that his knowledge will be missed. Barone added that Watkins' leadership early on in developing the City's Natural Resources Management Plan was invaluable.

Watkins commented on the positive change he has seen in Victoria-Evergreen Park following the Renewal process. He noted concern regarding the buckthorn regeneration he has seen at Big Willow Park.

Lehman noted that he has observed stations not stocked with bags and requested that staff inventory all stations on a regular basis.

6. Information Items

Vetter noted that the City's Engineering Department is working with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District regarding water quality improvements at Kinsel and Lone Lake Parks. Vetter added that project updates would be provided at the February meeting.

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

No updates or changes were provided.

8. Adjournment

Watkins moved and Mills seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.