

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
MARCH 2, 2005**

1. Roll Call

Park Board Members Jahn Anderson, Bruce Gefvert, Tim Goodyear, Denny Lambert, Paul Lehman, and Freinde Mills were present. Attending staff was GERALYN Barone, Dean Elstad, Dave Johnson, Craig Sinclair and Perry Vetter.

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

2. Approval of Minutes- February 2, 2005

Gefvert moved and Goodyear seconded a motion to approve the Minutes as submitted for the meeting of February 2, 2005. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Business Items

A. Introduction of new park board members

Lehman welcomed new members Anderson and Lambert to the board and noted that their application and background information was included in the packet. Each board member provided a short background on themselves.

B. Neighborhood Meeting – Glen Lake Mighty Mites (GLMM) Lighting Request for Glen Lake Park

Lehman provided an overview of the item, reminding those in attendance that the park board directed staff to schedule a neighborhood meeting on the item following the request made by GLMM at the February 2, 2005 park board meeting.

Mark Gregg, representing the GLMM Board of Directors, introduced Craig Gallop of Musco Lighting. Gallop presented a demonstration video regarding an athletic field lighting application in Mankato, Minnesota. The purpose of the video was to demonstrate the low level of impact lighting has on adjacent properties and the advanced technology of Musco's lighting system.

Gregg then provided a summary of information in the meeting packet regarding the GLMM organization, including participation numbers, scheduling challenges and the process used to date for gaining approval for lights at Glen Lake Park.

Lehman opened the neighborhood meeting to resident comments and questions.

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Jim Breczinski, 5221 Woodhill Road, questioned how late the lights are proposed for use. Johnson responded that park regulations prohibit use of the park past 10:00 p.m. He added that the actual scheduling of game times is the responsibility of GLMM and the City does not regulate game times for any youth organizations within the city.

Carol Breczinski, 5221 Woodhill Road, had two questions including:

1. Why does GLMM feel playing fewer games is a bad thing?
2. How often do lamps need to be changed?

She also commented that having a neighborhood meeting on a Wednesday night was not a good idea and possibly kept attendance down.

Gregg responded that the goal of GLMM was not to increase the number of games played, but instead was meant to allow other levels of play within the GLMM program the opportunity to play on fields #1 and #2 instead of offsite fields.

Gallop responded to Breczinski's question on lamp replacement by indicating changes need to be made approximately every 10-15 years.

Johnson responded to Breczinski's concerns regarding the meeting date by noting that the meeting notice provided the opportunity for residents to submit comments by phone or e-mail if they were unable to attend. Johnson added that no such comments were received.

Jan Wenkstern, 5140 Glenview Road expressed concerns related to increased traffic.

Julian Sjordal, 14401 Atrium Way, expressed concerns related to parking at the fields. Sjordal explained that as currently used, there is not adequate parking at the park, noting that street and mall parking is needed. She felt that the need for parking during evening hours will exacerbate the problem. Gregg acknowledged that the GLMM board would like to see additional parking on site, but added that the lighting proposal does not add fields to the park, only extends existing use.

Tom Mooney, 5128 Woodhill Road provided several questions and comments including:

- He felt that 8-10 year old children should not be playing baseball until 10:00 p.m. Parents would have a difficult time trying to get them to bed following activity, food and beverages.
- Parking at the park is not adequate. He indicated that he felt a mistake would be made to not connect the lighting request to the park renewal process to see if moving the field would create additional parking.
- Traffic on Woodhill Road is currently a concern and would be increased with night time use.

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- Emergency response by units in the Glen Lake Activity Center would be impacted by additional/extended parking needs.

Johnson asked if Gallop could provide an estimated cost to move the lights if required by a future moving of the field. Gallop indicated that it would cost an estimated \$5,000. Johnson noted that an initial plan for Glen Lake Park developed several years ago suggested purchasing the two homes north of field #1 and moving the field to the north to create additional parking to the south. Johnson added that only the first home has been purchased and felt that this would not provide adequate space for additional parking on the south end of the fields. Johnson added that the cost benefit of this change could be examined at the time of Park Renewal planning. He closed by saying that the intent of the Park Renewal process is to address the needs and desires of the residents who use the park. If the GLMM program is not interested in moving field #1, the city would most likely not consider it due to the high expense to do so.

Mike Remington, 5322 Mayview Road identified himself as the GLMM President and also a professional engineer experienced in parking lot design. Remington indicated that judging by the aerial map provided, he felt that adequate space was not available to move the field and add parking to the south.

Hearing no further requests to speak, Lehman closed the neighborhood meeting.

C. Consideration of Glen Lake Mighty Mites (GLMM) Lighting Request

Lambert questioned if additional parking could be added to the north of field #1 when the existing home owned by the city is removed. Remington concurred with the idea.

Barone suggested that restrictions to parking on Woodhill Road near the park entrance be considered to improve site lines at this intersection.

Mills asked what the existing game times are for the GLMM program. Gregg responded that early in the season, games begin at 6:15 p.m. and are moved to 6:30 p.m. starts later in the season. Gregg said that games generally end by 8:15 p.m.

Goodyear asked what trends in participation the GLMM program has experienced over the past years. Greg responded that the trend had been towards growth a few years back but now seems to be maintaining. Dennis Johnson, 5725 Lake Rose Drive, identified himself as a GLMM board member and indicated that an organizational high for participation occurred in 1992.

Gefvert asked if GLMM board members felt that later play would increase parental supervision due to the work schedules of parents and the need to rush

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home for early game times. Gregg responded that he was unsure what impact later games would have on parental involvement. He noted that 93 out of 100 parents surveyed during recent registration periods support the addition of lights at the field.

Goodyear voiced support for the proposal noting that field availability is limited and successful policies exist for use of lights by other organizations. He added that the policy in place at Big Willow Park seems to be a reasonable one for the city to consider.

Gefvert voiced support for the request as well, indicating that he thought the proposal has been well prepared and presented. Gefvert added that he would like to see the lighting recommendation incorporated into the park renewal process so that options for increased parking can be considered.

Johnson advised against a recommendation by the park board to approve the lighting request until an operations policy can be reviewed at the April meeting. He added that this action would be consistent with information provided in the neighborhood meeting notice.

Goodyear moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to approve the athletic field lighting request for Glen Lake Park as presented by the Glen Lake Mighty Mite organization contingent upon development of an operational policy defining hours of use consistent with the policy current in place for Big Willow Park little league fields #1 and #2, to be reviewed at the April 6, 2005 Park Board meeting. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

Lehman called for a brief adjournment at 8:32 p.m. Lehman called the meeting back to order at 8:47 p.m.

D. Trail System Overview

Elstad introduced the item and reviewed the background included in the meeting packet.

Staff member Sinclair informed the board a GPS system was used to inventory existing trails and surface types in 2004. Sinclair summarized that 15 miles of concrete/sidewalks exist, 35 miles of bituminous/asphalt trails and 20 miles of crushed limestone. He added that other amenities such as benches, signs, trash receptacles, etc. will be inventoried this year.

Elstad indicated staff's goal is to eventually budget funds to rebuild trail segments on an annual basis.

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Sinclair noted that within the past month, crews have resurfaced trail sections in Meadow Park, as well as the Saddlewood trail. He added that projects similar to these will continue.

Lehman commended efforts taken to upgrade trail maintenance over the past year. Sinclair responded that additional staff has made it easier.

Elstad stated the plowing of limestone trails over the years does remove trail rock and needs to be replaced. He noted the city maintains a strong relationship with county regarding trail maintenance.

Elstad encouraged park board members to advise him of any gaps in the trail system they experience.

Lehman indicated that he has a strong interest in trail signage. Elstad responded that the city has taken a minimalist approach to signage in the past which has resulted in some complaints. He added that staff is reassessing the issue of signage and any input from park board members would be appreciated. Elstad requested feedback by the end of August.

Mills asked if future walkways will be built adjacent to existing bike lanes. Elstad responded that requests for sidewalks are considered as streets are rebuilt.

Elstad reported that he planned on having a draft of new trail maps prepared by the park board's May tour of the park system.

Mills asked if the city receives any complaints/concerns regarding trail safety. Elstad responded that he does not receive calls regarding safety on the trails phone line, however new residents often ask. He added that information he generally provides includes the level of police support assigned to the trails.

Barone thanked the board for their input and asked that comments and suggestions regarding the trail system be submitted to Elstad by the park board's May 4 tour.

E. Review of 2005 Park Board Action Steps

Johnson provided an overview of the process used by the park board to develop their strategic plan and related action steps. He noted that the action steps are a working document used by staff to prepare meeting agenda items.

In reviewing action steps for Goal #1, Lehman noted a duplicate item in objectives #2 and #4. He asked that it be removed from Objective #2.

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Lambert asked what the city does with properties purchased such as the house north of Glen Lake Park. Barone responded that these properties are rented. She added that the city is responsible for providing varying degrees of maintenance.

Lehman asked what the timeline was for appointing a park board representative to the Minnehaha Creek Visioning Plan Policy Committee (Goal #1, Objective #5, Action Step #1). Barone suggested it be added as an agenda item for the April 6, 2005 meeting.

No changes were recommended for Goal #2.

In reviewing action steps for Goal #3, Gefvert noted that none existed relating to an overall plan for cross-country ski trails. Johnson provided a history of efforts to work jointly with Three Rivers Park District for a trail at the Glen Lake Golf Course. He noted efforts have been unsuccessful to date due to a lack of available funds from the District. Sinclair reviewed the challenges of placing a trail in the creek corridor.

Goodyear asked if trails would be possible to maintain on any other city properties. Johnson noted that the challenge is to provide trails that are not used by residents for the dual purpose of walking trails. He noted that shortly after a snowfall, residents enjoy use of many parks for cross-country skiing, adding that the trail quality diminishes as walkers use the trail in the days to follow. Both Sinclair and Johnson could not identify any alternative city properties that could improve these conditions.

Gefvert requested that efforts continue with Three Rivers Park District, noting that he is aware of other golf courses that provide ski trails during the winter.

Mills asked what Eden Prairie does at Starring Lake Park. Elstad replied that he was uncertain; however designated trails for skiing are identified on the Eden Prairie trail map.

Related to Goal #4, Lehman requested that an action step be added to objective #4 related to exploring, possible newspaper stories regarding park board activities. Johnson indicated that he would work with the city's communications manager to review possibilities.

Lehman requested the addition of a new objective #6 related to the scheduling of park board members involvement in park board related activities.

Johnson noted that the changes would be made as requested and brought back for review at the April meeting.

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5. Park Board Member Reports

Lehman noted staff had provided copies to the board of two letters prepared by the Chair on behalf of the board. Lehman described one letter as a statement of support to the DNR as part of a trail grant request for Minnehaha Headwaters Park, and the second a response to a resident request for Elmwood-Strand Park.

Elstad informed the board of the city's 2nd annual Eco-Fair scheduled for Saturday, March 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center.

6. Information Items

Johnson noted the park board will receive an updated roster with the April meeting packet.

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

Items added to the April 6, 2005 agenda included the appointment of a park board member to the Visioning Plan Policy Committee and an operations policy review for Glen Lake Park lighting.

8. Adjournment

Goodyear moved and Mills seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 p.m. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.