

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

1. Roll Call

Park board members Jahn Anderson, Bruce Gefvert, Tim Goodyear, Paul Lehman, Freinde Mills and Cathy Rude were present. Attending staff were Dave Johnson and Craig Sinclair.

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

2. Approval of Minutes – October 5, 2005

Gefvert moved and Anderson seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of October 5, 2005, as submitted. All voted “Yes”. Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Business Items

A. Discussion regarding city gateway design concepts

Johnson provided a brief introduction, noting previous park board meeting discussions related to gateway and boulevard enhancements, and the city councils’ expressed support for moving ahead with the development of a theme concept. Johnson indicated that the council seemed to prefer a “flexible” theme that was efficient from a maintenance standpoint and provided a natural feel consistent with the community.

Johnson introduced Jason Amberg and Amanda Prosser from Brauer & Associates, Ltd. Johnson stated he had contacted Brauer & Associates, Ltd. and requested their assistance in obtaining park board members input so conceptual themes could be developed for potential gateways within the city.

Amberg stated that approximately 15 gateway locations exist within the city. He welcomed the challenge to develop a gateway theme that would be flexible as requested by the city council.

Amberg requested park board member feedback and input that could be used to develop a theme concept.

Lehman supported the development of a flexible theme that would contain a common tie that could be used throughout the city.

Rude noted that there are gateway locations off of major roadways such as Highway 494 and Highway 169 that could be added to the list of possible locations. She noted that while these are not “gateways”, they are entrance points for people traveling to the city.

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Anderson referred to a book titled, "Once Upon a Lake" that documents the historical accounts of Minnetonka. He suggested that a gateway theme could possibly include a historical reference or connection to Minnehaha Creek.

Mills noted that past members of the park board had a desire to keep the theme natural, possibly using split rail fencing within the theme.

Goodyear agreed, adding his desire to include the use of natural materials as opposed to concrete or high maintenance plantings.

Gefvert expressed interest in a natural theme with a possible connection to Minnehaha Creek. He agreed with Goodyear that maintenance was a concern and needed to be taken into consideration.

Rude questioned if lighting should be included in the theme for major locations. Johnson noted that low level "up-lighting" is planned for the Civic Center campus renovation. Rude further suggested that materials should be used that are not trendy and may fall out of favor.

Gefvert agreed and suggested the use of materials that possibly improve with age.

Rude suggested the use of plants that provide qualities for all of Minnetonka's seasons. Johnson noted that this was several years ago when the park board developed a theme for the park sign adoption program. Johnson added that native grasses, boulders and crab-apple trees were used in the park theme.

Gefvert suggested not using the city's logo in a gateway theme, noting that these often change or become outdated.

Hearing no additional thoughts, Amberg reviewed the information collected and thanked the board for their input.

Johnson indicated Brauer & Associates, Ltd. will develop draft concepts and deliver them to the park board for consideration in December or January.

B. Status report on 2005 park board Action Steps

Johnson reviewed action steps associated with each of the park board's four goals. He reported that of the 51 specific action steps, 22 have been completed, 20 are in progress and nine remain for completion.

Gefvert inquired about the status of the Lone Lake Park renewal. Johnson explained that the initial notices and survey information will be mailed to

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residents in early 2006. Gefvert asked that this action step be carried forward to 2006.

Gefvert asked if any progress had been made with the Three Rivers Park District regarding cross-country ski trails at the Glen Lake Golf Course. Johnson indicated that discussions broke down last winter due to the district's budget concerns. Gefvert volunteered to assist with future meetings between the city and district. Johnson indicated that he would attempt to schedule a future meeting to discuss the possibility.

Regarding Goal #4 and objective #6, Gefvert asked if any environmental training sessions were planned for the park board. Johnson noted that as a result of a recent reorganization of the Public Works department, Jo Colleran will manage the Natural Resources Division. Johnson indicated that this might provide possible future opportunities for training. Gefvert suggested buckthorn informational sessions be provided.

Johnson informed the board that a review of the park board's 2006 Strategic Plan, including the development of action steps, will be an upcoming agenda. He added that staff will include in the 2005 draft, any incompleated action steps from 2005.

5. Park Board Member Reports

Lehman reported that progress on the Spring Hill Park renewal project was looking good.

Mills voiced concerns related to off road vehicle traffic within Woodgate Park. Sinclair indicated he would review the situation.

6. Information Items

Lehman reported that the Glen Lake Park parking lot that serves field #3 is in need of sweeping and asked if this had anything to do with the lighting project on fields #1 and #2. Sinclair was not aware of the problem but would review.

Sinclair announced that he would be ending his employment with the city on December 2 for a new position with the city of Waconia as their Park and Recreation Director. The board thanked Sinclair for his work with the city and wished him well in his new position.

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7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

The board reviewed the upcoming six-month schedule. Lehman requested that dates for the Big Willow and Gulliam park renewal reviews be placed on the schedule as soon as they are decided. He also asked that council dates for the review of Glen Lake, Groveland, Westwood and Wilson be provided.

8. Adjournment

Gefvert moved and Goodyear seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.