

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
December 7, 2005**

1. Roll Call

Park Board members Jahn Anderson, Bruce Gefvert, Tim Goodyear, Denny Lambert and Paul Lehman were present. Attending staff were Geralyn Barone, Perry Vetter, Mike Pavelka and Dave Johnson.

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

2. Approval of Minutes – November 2, 2005

Gefvert moved and Anderson seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of November 2, 2005 as submitted. All voted “Yes”. Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Business Items

A. Presentation of Gray’s Bay Marina Operations Report for 2005

Pavelka provided an overview of the 2005 season. He informed the board that 2006 slip leases were sent out to 2005 slip holders in October. Pavelka reported that all but four of the slips were renewed for 2006 and that the four open slips were filled by residents on the waiting list.

Gefvert asked how many residents remained on the waiting list. Pavelka replied that 37 remain of the 50 names that were placed on the waiting list from the most recent lottery.

Pavelka informed the board that the public launch was closed for the season on Saturday, December 3 due to ice conditions. Lambert asked if this was a later date than in past years and Pavelka indicated it was, with December 1 being the closing date for the first two seasons.

Pavelka highlighted items of note for the 2005 season including: no instances of theft following the installation of cameras in the fall of 2004; the addition of split-rail fencing on the south end of the parking lot; and the all-time high point for gas prices at \$3.599 per gallon.

Pavelka asked the board if they had any questions related to marina operations.

Gefvert asked how the marina’s gas prices compared to other facilities on the lake. Pavelka indicated that there was a wide range with Gray’s Bay Marina maintaining the lowest price.

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Lambert asked if there were any surprises or significant complaints during the season. Pavelka responded that there were no major surprises, and that complaints typically centered around traffic and parking concerns on the summer's busy days. He added that portable signs were added which helped to better inform users of the public launch of procedures that would help ease congestion. Lambert asked if design changes to the parking lot could improve the situation. Pavelka indicated that he did not feel changes could be made, with limited space being the primary concern.

Goodyear asked how the docks were holding up from use and winter ice conditions. Pavelka indicated that the dock conditions remain excellent and that the "bubbler" system in place to reduce ice damage has helped significantly.

Lehman asked if erosion of the lake wall was still a concern. Pavelka indicated it was still a concern, and noted that Jo Colleran is reviewing the situation. Barone added that the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club's contributed \$15,000 for plantings at the Marina, Headwaters Park and Causeway.

Pavelka reported that year-end surveys were mailed to 2005 slip holders with a return rate of about 50%. He indicated that overall ratings were good, with primary concerns again coming from parking and traffic issues. Pavelka noted that 21 parking spaces are provided for non-trailer vehicles. Of these spaces, seven are reserved for general use and staff parking, and 14 spots for slip holder users. He added that staff parks off-site during busy times to free up spaces.

Lambert noted that the Business Plan indicates that revenues were up allowing for a large contribution to escrow and he asked Pavelka to explain that process. Pavelka responded that increased revenues were primarily due to higher gas prices, and were somewhat offset by the higher cost to purchase gas. As for the escrow, Pavelka reported that an estimated \$33,700 would be applied to the escrow account, exceeding the budgeted amount of \$11,700.

Gefvert asked why vending revenue of \$600 was so much lower than the budgeted amount of \$2,000. Pavelka responded that vending is managed through the use of vending machines and a contracted service. He noted that expectations for 2006 have been reduced.

Lehman asked if anyone in attendance had comments related to the operation of Gray's Bay Marina.

Bonnie Alexander, 16540 Gray's Bay Boulevard, informed the board that she was a member of the initial task force that was put in place by the council to review improvements to the Marina, Causeway and Headwaters. She noted that initial concerns about increased crime have not come to fruition, however, traffic

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has increased and is a concern at times. She noted that she had received estimates that the number of boat launchings has increased from 75 per day under the previous private owner to 400 at the new public launch.

Barone asked Alexander if she was aware of any traffic accidents that have occurred. Alexander responded that she was not aware of any but had seen several close calls. Alexander added that she had concerns related to gas and fuel spills into the lake and asked if controls were in place. Pavelka responded that the gas docks are equipped with spill management equipment. He added that the DNR provides inspection and education on a regular basis as well.

Alexander closed by saying she was pleased to see that the facility is paying for itself and that the immediate neighborhood had no significant concerns other than the conditions related to milfoil in the lake that is out of the city's control. She added that the seasonal staff at the marina was excellent this past summer.

Lambert thanked Pavelka and his staff for an excellent year in managing the facility.

B. Consideration of 2006 Park Board Strategic Plan

Johnson provided an overview and noted the park board first developed their Strategic Plan framework in 2001 with the assistance of a private consultant to help guide them through the process. Johnson reminded the board that their 2005 plan was approved back in January; and that their objective this evening was to develop the framework for a 2006 plan. He added that this process could range from no changes for 2006 to a complete redesign using a private contractor, as in 2001.

Lehman asked the board if they felt a redesign of the Strategic Plan was needed.

Lambert indicated that he felt the plan is consistent with the park board's values and did not support a redesign.

Barone noted that the City will be completing an update of its Comprehensive Plan sometime in 2006 or 2007. She suggested that the Strategic Plan include an objective related to the board's involvement in this process.

Gefvert indicated that he did not support a redesign of the Strategic Plan.

Lehman requested that staff review the Minutes of the previous park board discussion on action steps to see if any additional changes were suggested at that time. Johnson indicated that he would check the minutes.

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5. Park Board Member Reports

Goodyear reported on the park renewal project of Spring Hill Park; noting that progress was going well. Vetter added that poor soil conditions slowed down the installation of rink lighting at Spring Hill Park, however the problem will be corrected in time for the skating season.

6. Information Items

Vetter noted that the process of flooding outdoor ice rinks has started. He added that the Boulder Creek Park renewal project is close to completion, following the correction of electrical problems by the contractor.

Anderson asked what the status of controlled burns in the parks was following cancellations this fall due to weather conditions. Vetter indicated that he was uncertain but would check with Jo Collieran and report back to the board in January.

Vetter reported that work has started on the Civic Center to Jidana Park trail link.

Gefvert questioned if adjustments should be made to the park renewal schedule due to delays in 2005 projects. Vetter responded that staff will review the scheduling process for 2006 and report back to the board on any recommended changes. Gefvert asked if signs could be added at park locations to inform residents of upcoming renewal projects. Staff indicated that they would review the City's sign ordinance to see if this would be allowed.

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

The board reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule. Lehman requested staff to inform Rude of the scheduled council review at Wilson Park on January 9.

8. Adjournment

Lambert moved and Goodyear seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.