

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
January 4, 2006**

1. Roll Call

Park board members Bruce Gefvert, Tim Goodyear, Denny Lambert and Paul Lehman, Freinde Mills, and Cathy Rude were present. Attending staff were Geralyn Barone, Jo Colleran, Dave Johnson, and Perry Vetter.

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

2. Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2005

Lambert moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of December 7, 2005 as submitted. All voted “Yes.” Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Business Items

A. Consideration of Conceptual Gateway Project Designs

Johnson provided an introduction to the discussion and reviewed the history of actions taken to date. He noted that the Park Board’s 2005 Strategic Plan included an action step item to develop gateway concepts for the city council’s consideration.

Johnson introduced Amanda Prosser and Jason Amberg of Brauer & Associates, Ltd., who attended the November 2, 2005 meeting to collect park board input on design features for gateway concepts.

Prosser presented a PowerPoint presentation which included a historical summary for Minnetonka and possible locations for gateway monuments. She followed with a review of six concepts Brauer & Associates, Ltd. had developed to obtain feedback from the park board.

Subsequent to reviewing the six concepts, the park board provided the following reactions:

- A theme of woods and wetlands of the city should be reflected in the project.
- Preferred use of the city’s existing cattail/reed logo was split.
- A request was made to use cobblestone or fieldstone in the design, similar to features found in the Civic Center re-design.
- The use of weathering steel received significant interest.
- Vertical lettering was not received well.
- The board discussed wording for the larger scale signs and favored “Welcome to Minnetonka” and “City of Minnetonka.”

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- A request was made to include more natural features including split rail fencing.
- The park board favored the use of up-lighting in some locations.
- Many of the potential gateway locations need substantial background enhancements, requiring the use of more vegetation.
- The board suggested that the gateway marker should be the focal point of the design, with landscaping to be used only for enhancement purposes.

Lehman asked if the consultant had any experience working with other cities on a project like this. Amberg responded that Minnetonka was ahead of most cities in their thought process and he was unaware of other cities that have gone to this extent.

Lehman mentioned that the City's 50th anniversary could be a possible theme along with existing neighborhood themes that are in place.

The board directed staff to work with the consultants to incorporate input received and report back to the board with revised concepts for review.

B. Adoption of the 2006 Park Board Strategic Plan

Johnson provided an introduction to the item noting the park board provided direction to staff at the December 7, 2005 meeting pertaining to the development of a 2006 Strategic Plan. Johnson indicated a draft plan had been developed for the board's review.

Goodyear requested that the four goals identified, not be listed by number. Goodyear indicated that he was concerned it could construe an unintended priority by the board.

Gefvert moved and Goodyear seconded a motion to adopt the 2006 Park Board Strategic Plan as amended. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

C. Review of Proposal for Historical Markers

Barone reviewed past practices for installing similar types of markers in the park system. Examples included interpretive signs at Lone Lake Park, and existing historical markers at Mills Park and the Burwell property. Barone indicated that the acceptance of private donations was initially considered but eliminated. Instead, Barone indicated that funding for the proposed markers would be included in the CIP along with other park related improvements.

Mills asked if the cost was significant. Barone responded that dependent upon the number of signs and scope of the project, the cost could be significant.

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Gefvert voiced concerns related to vandalism. Vetter responded that vandalism is always a concern, however, durability of the signs and placement in visible locations can reduce the risk.

Lambert asked if other park board members favored the inclusion of historical markers in the park system. Goodyear, Gefvert and Lehman indicated support for the project. Rude indicated support if the costs are reasonable.

The park board requested that the project be brought back for consideration during the annual CIP funding review.

D. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair Position for 2006

Goodyear moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to appoint Paul Lehman as chair of the park board for the term of February 1, 2006 – January 31, 2007. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

Lehman moved and Lambert seconded a motion to appoint Tim Goodyear as vice-chair of the board for the term of February 1, 2006 – January 31, 2007. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

5. Park Board Member Reports

Mills noted that residents have contacted her with concerns that the Junction Park and Boulder Park play equipment may have been inadvertently switched when installed. Vetter indicated that the equipment installed is what was specified, adding that there were two different equipment providers.

Mills asked if ice rink attendants performed any flooding responsibilities. Vetter indicated that they did not.

6. Information Items

The board reviewed information included in the meeting packet pertaining to park renewal progress, the 2005 Park Board Annual Report and board member assignments.

Colleran reported that the Minnetonka Garden Club has raised \$15,000 for plantings at Gray's Bay Marina and the Headwaters.

Responding to a question raised at the December meeting, Colleran reported that controlled burning took place in the fall of 2005 at Victoria-Evergreen Park

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and Purgatory Park. Due to the humidity levels, these burns were not as successful as staff had hoped. Similar burns are planned for 2006.

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

Lehman requested that a 2006 canoe trip be placed on the schedule.

Barone noted that the Eco-Fair is scheduled for March 18, 2006 between 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Community Center.

A request was made by the board to televise future plan reviews for the gateway's project.

8. Adjournment

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