

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
April 5, 2006**

1. Roll Call

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

Park Board members Bruce Gefvert, Tim Goodyear, Denny Lambert, Paul Lehman and Cathy Rude were present. Attending staff were Geralyn Barone, Dean Elstad, Dave Johnson and Ron Schwartz.

Park Board member Cody Dick arrived at 7:37 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – March 1, 2006

Gefvert moved and Lambert seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of March 1, 2006. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Business Items

A. Consideration of an operations agreement with School District 276 regarding athletic field improvements

Johnson provided an overview of the item, noting at the March 1, 2006 park board meeting the Minnetonka Diamond Club (MDC) provided an update on their project. Following the MDC presentation, the park board recommended to allocate \$250,000 in city funds to complete the new field complex designed for baseball, football, soccer and softball at Minnetonka High School. This recommendation was contingent upon the development of an operations agreement and completion of all planning and engineering requirements.

Johnson introduced Ron Schwartz who reviewed the terms and conditions of the operations agreement drafted by staff for park board consideration. Schwartz reviewed all sections of the agreement including Design & Construction, Maintenance, City Contributions and Scheduling.

Schwartz noted that the district has requested that a clause in the agreement that provides for a 20-year term of the agreement be reduced to a 10-year term.

Schwartz closed by indicating the agreement prepared by staff will assist in reducing heavy usage of the Big Willow Park sports complex by providing additional high quality facilities for community use. He added that the proposed improvements address needs identified in the 2004 Athletic Fields Needs Study update.

Rude asked if the 20-year term had been resolved with the district. Jon Guy, representing the MDC, indicated that the district's concern is about holding future school boards accountable for agreements made up to 20 years in advance. Guy

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indicated that he could not speak for the district regarding any modifications to the 20-year term.

Lehman suggested that consideration be given to modifying Section 2 of the agreement to read that the district must consult with the city to incorporate design elements "reasonably" satisfactory to the city (adding the word "reasonably" to language currently in the agreement.)

Lambert asked why the city would consider reducing the term from 20 years to 10. Johnson responded that the 20-year term was the city's initial request and the district is simply trying to negotiate in case future needs change. Johnson added that the MDC has invested considerable funds towards the development of new fields and would be equally concerned if the use of the fields were to change.

Goodyear suggested prioritizing the features of the plan in case project bids come in too high. Goodyear explained that his concern was that features important to the city could be pulled if there are cost restrictions. Johnson noted that the agreement specifies what features need to be provided. He added that city funds will not be released until after the project is completed, meaning that funds would not be released if the project does not meet the terms of the agreement.

Barone suggested the addition of a clause that would not allow amendments to the agreement unless approved by both parties.

Lambert moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to adjust the term length of the agreement from 20 years to 15 years. Gefvert, Goodyear, Lambert, Lehman and Rude voted "Yes." Dick abstained. Motion carried.

Gefvert moved and Rude seconded a motion to approve the agreement as drafted with the change in terms from 20 years to 15 years as noted in Section 6 of the agreement and forward to the city council for consideration. Gefvert, Goodyear, Lambert, Lehman and Rude voted "Yes." Dick abstained. Motion carried.

B. Approval of Changes to the Comprehensive Athletic Field Policy related to the Civic Center

Johnson provided background to proposed changes to the Comprehensive Athletic Field Use Policy (CAFUP). He noted the park board developed the policy in 2003 to address athletic field use and needs throughout all city parks. Johnson added that the Athletic Field Needs Study was updated by the park board in 2004, noting that both of these documents support each other.

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Johnson explained that the new Civic Center fields, scheduled for completion in September, need to be identified in the CAFUP. Based on input received by the park board in August of 2005, Johnson presented the board with a draft policy to be incorporated into the CAFUP. Johnson reviewed the policy in general and highlighted proposed changes related to the new Civic Center fields. He noted that on a priority basis, the fields are generally available for city programs, followed by community organizational soccer use and, as a third priority, other field sport use such as rugby, football, lacrosse, field hockey and ultimate Frisbee.

Johnson noted that the draft policy did not indicate that the fields are available for practice use only, unless a primary facility (Lone Lake Park or Big Willow Park) is unavailable for extended maintenance.

Gefvert moved and Lambert seconded a motion to adopt the policy as drafted with the added language "Civic Center fields are intended for practice use only. Game use will be considered only if other primary fields (Lone Lake and Big Willow Park) are unavailable due to extensive renovating or maintenance." All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

C. Review of itinerary for annual park board tour

Johnson reviewed the ten locations stops recommended by staff for the annual park board tour. Gefvert requested that possible gateway locations be added to the list as well.

5. Park Board Member Reports

None

6. Information Items

Elstad reported that an estimated 200 people attended the recent Eco-Fair. He added that informational sessions will be replayed on the city's cable network. Lehman requested that the park board be sent a schedule of when the information will air.

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

The board reviewed the 6-month calendar included in the meeting packet. Johnson noted the city council will consider the Joint Athletic Field Operating Agreement on April 10, 2005.

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Barone reviewed information related to the upcoming “understanding change” study session scheduled with the city council and other city boards and commissions on May 15, 2006.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.