

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
August 2, 2006**

1. Roll Call

Chair Lehman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Park board members John Anderson, Cody Dick, Bruce Gefvert, Tim Goodyear, Denny Lambert, Paul Lehman, Freinde Mills and Cathy Rude were present. Attending staff were Dave Johnson, Mike Pavelka and Perry Vetter.

With all members in attendance, park board member Cody Dick was designated as a non-voting member for the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2006

Lambert moved and Anderson seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of June 7, 2006, as submitted. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

Sid Mott, 3625 Larchwood Circle, noted that he was a 22-year resident of the city. He expressed concerns regarding a July 22, 2006, Sun-Sailor article on planned improvements to Bennett Family Park and questioned if the park board was aware of these plans.

Lehman informed Mott that representatives of Bennett Family Park presented conceptual plans for future improvements to the park board in 2005 as an informational update, however, no official park board action was requested or taken. Johnson added that he and other city staff have been contacted by several residents of the neighborhood expressing concerns related to the proposed project. Johnson informed Mott that his response to concerned residents has been to ensure them that no planning approvals have been granted by the city, and if a project plan is submitted to the city for consideration, residents will be informed.

Mott closed by informing the park board that 50% of the users of Bennett Park do not reside in Minnetonka and do not have the city's best interest in mind.

Lehman responded that the park board has always looked out for the city's best interest when any project is submitted for consideration.

John Lacey, 5105 Clear Spring Drive, expressed concerns regarding the new trees planted in Spring Hill Park. Lacey noted that the long period of hot and dry conditions had resulted in the trees looking in poor health. Vetter responded that by contractual agreement, the general contractor must maintain the trees in proper health for one year. Vetter expressed concern that the sub-contractor may prefer to replant the trees if they do not survive, rather than spend the time and resources needed to maintain them during the current weather conditions. Vetter indicated that this is not desire of the general contractor or the city, adding that the park neighbors have also assisted in watering the trees.

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4. Business Items

A. Annual Review of Gray's Bay Marine Slip Rates

Pavelka provided the background of recent action the park board had taken related to Gray's Bay Marina. He noted that the board recommended to the city council a 5% slip rate increase from \$2,800 to \$2,940 for 2006. Pavelka indicated that prior to this increase, the rate had been \$2,800 since the facility opened in 2003.

Pavelka compared amenities and services available at the Marina to other facilities located on Lake Minnetonka and summarized that Gray's Bay Marina compared more closely to private facilities than other public facilities. He noted that the 2006 average cost of a private slip fee is \$4,700, noting services the city does not provide when compared to private marinas include mechanics, reserved parking, and off-season boat storage.

Pavelka presented a facility comparison matrix along with a 2005/2006 revenue and expense summary. He closed by noting staff's recommendation is to increase slip fees by 5% from \$2,940 to \$3,087 for 2007.

Lambert asked if any capital expenses were projected for 2007. Pavelka indicated that upgrades to the security system will occur late in 2006, but nothing substantial is scheduled for 2007.

Lehman questioned if other private marinas have expressed concerns regarding the low-cost of our slips. Pavelka replied that all operators have been open to our requests for slip rate comparison information, adding that none have expressed any concerns.

Anderson asked if parking capacity for boat trailers had been an issue so far this season. Pavelka responded that the parking lot has been at, or very near capacity, approximately six times this season, compared to three times in 2005.

Goodyear asked about the status of the slip holder waiting list. Pavelka explained that the waiting list started with 50 names following completions of the last lottery, and currently has 27 remaining names.

Lambert asked what a 5% increase for 2007 would do for the escrow fund. Pavelka explained that a 5% increase would amount to approximately \$4,500 or \$150 per slip. He added that this amount would be used to offset any increases in operating expenses, with any remaining funds transferred to escrow.

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Mills questioned if any consideration had been given to a launch fee at the public landing. Pavelka responded the public landing was a DNR operated facility and the city of Minnetonka does not regulate the operation.

Rude asked how slip holders reacted to the 2006 increase of 5%. Pavelka responded that he did not receive any complaints of concerns.

Lambert suggested the board consider a 5% increase for 2007. Lehman agreed, stating that an increase of 5% was needed to prevent the gap from getting too large between the city and other private vendors. Lehman added that he would support up to a 10% increase.

Lambert asked Pavelka if he had any indications of what increases other private vendors were considering. Pavelka indicated he did not know of proposed 2007 rates, adding that a 5% increase to \$3,087 would still be considerably lower than any other private marina.

Lambert moved and Goodyear seconded a motion to increase the 2007 Gray's Bay Marina Slip rates 7% to \$3,145. Anderson, Goodyear, Gefvert, Rude, Mills and Lambert voted "Yes." Lehman voted "No." Dick abstained. Motion passed by a vote of 6-1.

B. Consideration of Park Renewal Schedule Adjustments

Vetter distributed the 2001 adopted schedule for parks renewal projects completion and two alternate schedules for the park board's consideration. Vetter noted that three parks (Lake Charlotte, Green Circle and Mooney) could be considered for deletion due to the lack of available options each of these parks have for substantial changes. Four other projects (Minnehaha Creek Corridor, Burwell Park expansions, nature center development and Gateway project implementation were listed as status questionable. Vetter concluded by noting that he had included the development of Best Management Systems (BMS) and a Maintenance Management System (MMS) in both alternative schedules, re-enforcing the importance each of these have with relation to on-going and future park maintenance practices.

Goodyear agreed that completion of both the BMP and MMS documents should be a priority. He supported going about completion of the remaining projects in a slow deliberate manner rather than being too aggressive and rushing the process.

Vetter agreed noting that he is still learning his position and is already in the process of planning fall and winter responsibilities related to park and trail

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maintenance. He expressed confidence that the remaining projects as proposed in either alternate schedule can be completed from 2007 to 2009.

Goodyear asked what the workload climate was for general contractors, asking the question "are there enough available contractors?" Vetter responded that getting qualified contractors is a concern, noting that staff is aware the market dictates the process. He expressed confidence that the city's follow-up procedures, including background checks, will help ensure quality contractors are retained.

Lehman asked about the process Vetter might prefer the park board use in developing a revised park renewal schedule. Vetter responded that he was looking for the park board to provide any priority parks they might have, adding that he could then take that information and develop a final schedule.

Gefvert reminded staff of Rude's question at the June meeting regarding the timing of the county's Shady Oak Road project and the renewal of Lone Lake Park. Vetter indicated that the road project is scheduled for a two-year period, and suggested that we adapt the Lone Lake Park schedule to that project. Gefvert asked if any other remaining park projects could be impacted by construction. Vetter indicated that Kinsel Park was a possibility due to the Glen Lake redevelopment project.

Mills indicated that she had visited all of the remaining parks with the exception of Oberlin, and noted that Mooney seemed to need upgrading. Vetter responded that Mooney Park currently has no recreational amenities and is a very small park used primarily by residents as a National Night Out location. Vetter indicated that he felt neighbors preferred to keep the park passive.

Lambert noted that Big Willow Park has already been delayed and could be an expensive project to complete. He questioned if we should move that project up to 2007. Vetter noted the request and indicated that the park could be done in 2007 if desired. Lambert asked what Vetter's recommendation was for the remaining community parks. Vetter replied that Guillian, Big Willow, and Lone Lake parks could all be scheduled for 2007.

Gefvert indicated that having both Big Willow and Lone Lake in the same year was a concern for him. Vetter noted that 2007 could be spent getting through the planning process, which could then dictate the project schedule.

Vetter indicated that he would use the park board's comments and expressed priorities to develop a recommended schedule to present to the board at the September meeting.

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5. Park Board Member Reports

Rude expressed concern related to safety conditions associated with pedestrians crossing Minnetonka Boulevard from Big Willow Park to Guillian Park. Vetter noted that Mayor Callison has also expressed similar concerns related to pedestrian crossings throughout the city, and staff has been researching options for improving crossings. Vetter noted that he will add this location to the list of locations to be reviewed.

Mills commented that the Civic Center play equipment is excellent and appears to be well used.

6. Information Items

The park board reviewed items included in the meeting packet related to the summer festival, park board member roster and board member park assignments. Minor changes were made to the roster.

7. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Goodyear noted he would not attend the August 9, 2006 Joint Recreation Board Meeting.

A review of the revised park renewal schedule was scheduled for the September 6, 2006 meeting. Johnson reminded the board that the September meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a tour of the natural resource areas.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.