

**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD  
September 6, 2006**

**1. Roll Call**

Chair Lehman called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. Park board members Jahn Anderson, Tim Goodyear, Denny Lambert, Paul Lehman, Freinde Mills and Cathy Rude were present. Attending staff were GERALYN BARONE, Jo Colleran, Dave Johnson and Janet Larson.

Board member Cody Dick arrived at 6:00 p.m., Bruce Gefvert at 7:00 p.m. and staff member Perry Vetter at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes – August 2, 2006**

Lambert moved and Goodyear seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of August 2, 2006 as submitted. Anderson, Goodyear, Lambert, Lehman, Mills and Rude voted “Yes.” Motion carried.

**3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda**

None.

**4. Business Items**

**A. Tour of Natural Resources Management Areas**

Natural Resources Division Manager, Jo Colleran and Restoration Specialist Janet Larson took the park board on a tour of areas pertaining to natural resources management located within the park system.

The tour included stops at Civic Center Park where management practices have yet to start, Big Willow Park which has been maintained for approximately seven years, and Lone Lake Park where management practices began approximately nine years ago. The tour provided the park board an opportunity to visually review progress made in the management of natural areas.

The Civic Center Park tour provided excellent examples of natural resources areas that have been over-grown with buckthorn and other non-native vegetation. As a result, there were no signs of new hardwood growth or native wildflowers.

Big Willow Park showed signs of wildflowers returning and new trees maturing. The tour included a stop at one of the deer “exclosures” areas that showed the negative impact that deer have on the re-growth of native plantings.

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Lone Lake Park exhibited an even greater return of native plantings, wildflowers and even wildlife (birds) to the area. Wildflowers that have returned to the prairie include Gray-Headed Coneflower, Joe-Pye Weed, Culvers Root, Blue Vernain, Marsh Milkweed, Goldenrod, Bonset, Wild Bergamot and Yellow Ox-Eye.

The park board thanked and complimented staff on an excellent presentation, and the value of the tour especially when future discussions of the natural resources management program are presented to the board.

The park board returned from the tour at 7:05 p.m. to resume the meeting in the Boards & Commissions Room.

**B. Consideration of Gateway Concepts**

Amanda Prosser representing Brauer & Associates, Ltd. attended the meeting and presented the latest in a series of concepts for gateway themes developed from park board input.

Prosser reviewed listings of potential landscape presentations that were recommended by Public Works staff. Plantings were categorized under the following:

- Deciduous trees
- Ornamental trees
- Coniferous trees
- Shrubs
- Evergreen Shrubs
- Perennials/wildflowers
- Grasses

In addition, Prosser presented three different font possibilities for the park board's review.

Prosser concluded by presenting three concept options (Options #1, #2 and #3). Each concept included landscaping themes developed with the plants previewed earlier in the evening. Colleran noted that the plant options prepared by staff provide the flexibility needed to adapt to different locations and needs.

Johnson indicated that city identification projects are taking place on a number of fronts including trail signage, water tower identification, presentation of the city's logo and the park board's gateways project. He requested that any recommendations developed by the park board be made to the city manager so that he can use this information to help make decisions

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on city branding needs throughout the community. Johnson added that the city manager's primary concern is consistency.

Lehman indicated support for any of the three font types presented.

Gefvert commented that he preferred a concept that provided a theme and was useful 12 months a year. He added that the use of coniferous or spruce trees was preferred.

Rude commented that it was difficult for her to designate a preference due to the characteristics each potential location provides. Anderson agreed with Rude noting that plantings should be selected location to location. Anderson added that he also liked the coniferous look as a primary feature. Rude asked if the potential locations could be categorized for future discussions. Barone noted that this could take place as part of any future CIP discussions.

Lehman indicated that he felt any of the concepts could work depending on the location being considered. He reminded the park board that flexibility in the plantings was an important aspect to keep in place.

Goodyear noted his preference in the wording to say "Minnetonka" only, adding that the font type was not a concern to him. Other members generally agreed.

Johnson noted that he had a recent discussion with the city manager about the gateway project process. Johnson requested that the park board forward any recommendations to the city manager so that he could incorporate the park board input into an overall review of "branding" and identification projects going on throughout the city. Johnson explained that several "branding" projects are currently under consideration including signage reviews, water tower logos and vehicle identification.

With no further input provided, Johnson indicated that he had enough information to present to the city manager. He noted that he would keep the park board informed of any progress on the gateway project.

### **C. Review of Trail Signage**

Elstad provided background to the existing sign plan for the trail system implemented in 1988. He noted that the original logo has been replaced with a new logo that is included on the new trails map and will be incorporated into the new sign plan.

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Elstad noted that \$5,000 is included in the 2007 CIP to develop and install signs throughout the system. He reviewed eight facets of the plan, noting that most signs will be fabricated and installed by Public Works staff.

Lehman asked how direction signs will be used on the system. Elstad responded that they will be placed at strategic locations to identify directions to significant parks and landmarks. Barone added that neighborhood connections would not be identified, only significant destination points.

Elstad reported on related trail sign projects under consideration by Three Rivers Park District. He noted that the District will be installing new sign kiosks along the LRT trail corridors this year. Anderson asked if it was possible for the city to partner in the information provided at these kiosks. Elstad indicated the design of the kiosks was still in the planning phase and perhaps this was a possibility.

Dick asked what materials the signs would be constructed of. Elstad stated aluminum would be used with enhancements to prevent fading and deterioration.

Gefvert indicated that he liked the consistency and simplicity of the new plan. He questioned what the timeline for implementation was. Elstad indicated that the timeline depended on availability of the Public Works crews. Gefvert suggested looking into the use of volunteers.

**4.D Consideration of Revised Park Renewal Completion Schedule**

Vetter provided background to the item including a summary of input received from the park board at the August 2, 2006 meeting. Barone noted that funding is included in the 2007 CIP for the Burwell Park expansion project along the creek corridor.

Gefvert moved and Mills seconded a motion to adopt the revised park renewal project schedule as submitted. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

**5. Park Board Member Reports**

None.

**6. Information Items**

In addition to items included in the meeting packet, Barone provided an update on the city's negotiations to purchase the Broin property located to the west and south of the Civic Center. Barone also provided an update on the Glen Lake redevelopment project, including a summary of actions taken to date against the developer who removed several trees without authorization.

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**7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items**

The park board reviewed the upcoming 6-month agenda schedule. No changes were made.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.