

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

1. Roll Call

Chair Lehman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members Cody Dick, Bruce Gefvert, Tim Goodyear, Denny Lambert, Paul Lehman, Freinde Mills and Cathy Rude were present. Attending staff were Geralyn Barone, Dave Johnson, Jo Colleran and Perry Vetter.

2. Approval of Minutes – November 1, 2006

Lehman noted one name correction on page 5 of the minutes. Noting the correction, Gefvert moved and Goodyear seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of November 1, 2006 as amended. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

Jon Guy, representing the Minnetonka Diamond Club, provided an update on construction of the Veteran's Field Baseball Complex at Minnetonka High School. Guy reported that \$1.8 million of the \$3.4 million project had been committed for the project, and thanked the park board for their support of the \$250,000 that has been dedicated to the project. Guy reviewed the Minnetonka Diamond Club website and presented project status photos from the groundbreaking to current. Guy noted that a new Minnetonka Diamond Club website would be operational on December 7, 2006.

Guy introduced Jeff Bailey, President of the Minnetonka Girl's Softball Association. Bailey previewed plans for Phase II construction of two new and two improved girl's softball fields. Bailey reviewed the plans including landscaping, parking, dugouts and field design. He noted that completion of these improvements, estimated to cost \$1 million, would allow for a "home" field complex for the Minnetonka Girl's Softball Association. Bailey added that most of the 580 players in their association would then move from Bennett Family Park to this new complex, taking considerable pressure off of Bennett Family Park and opening up space at Guilliam Park.

Mills asked what age group would utilize the new fields. Bailey replied ages 9 - 19 years old.

Lambert asked if there were plans to light the new fields. Bailey indicated there were no plans at this time.

Guy indicated that \$150,000 in Minnetonka Diamond Club funding has been committed to the project, of which \$40,000 had been collected.

Lehman thanked Guy and Bailey for their reports.

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4. Business Items

A. Gray's Bay Marina Annual

Pavelka provided an overview of the 2006 season including the following:

- Marina opened on April 7 and closed October 31.
- 2007 leases were sent to slip holders in October and 10 holders did not renew for 2007.
- Using a grant from the LMCD, Environmental Sentry Protection, LLC installed monitoring equipment at the launch to inspect boat and trailer cleaning habits.
- Gas prices peaked at \$3.89 for marina sales.

Pavelka reviewed the Marina Business Plan and indicated that 2006 estimated reviews will be approximately \$11,000 higher than budgeted. As a result, Pavelka noted that the transfer to escrow will be estimated at \$25,591 compared to the budgeted amount of \$15,900. Pavelka noted that this increase will help fund future improvements to the facility.

Gefvert asked how gas prices are set. Pavelka stated the city maintains a price that is on the average for other businesses on the lake.

Goodyear asked how expenses were allocated to the operating budget and escrow fund. Pavelka replied that the operating budget covers all annual costs for staffing, supplies, services and assigned expenses such as work performed by public works crews. He explained that the escrow fund will only be used for future planned improvements. Johnson added that the escrow fund will only be used to cover the city's cost of improvements, noting that the DNR will fund their responsibilities.

Pavelka informed the board that the Gray's Bay Marina received a 2006 State Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) Award for the cooperative arrangement and for providing needed public access to the lake. Barone noted that the award was actually a national award submitted by the DNR.

Gefvert asked how the number of 29 boat slips was determined. Pavelka and Barone explained that the amount was factored in as part of the initial agreement between the neighborhood, the State and the City of Minnetonka.

Rude moved and Lambert seconded a motion to accept the Gray's Bay Marina Business Plan as presented by staff; and to recommend no changes to the Gray's Bay Marina Operations Plan for 2007. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

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B. Status Report on Park Property at 13608 Spring Lake Road (MNDDT Parcel)

Vetter provided the background to this item, noting that in January of 2006 residents came to the city with a petition to consider acquiring a parcel of land at 13608 Spring Lake Road from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT). In the petition, residents requested that the city use the property, if acquired, for park purposes. Vetter noted that at the park board's direction, staff contacted MNDOT and on November 2, 2006, were informed that the land would be conveyed to the city. Vetter added that the city council has since adopted a resolution accepting the property.

Vetter asked for park board input regarding the next step in the process, suggesting that an initial neighborhood meeting be scheduled with the park board to obtain resident input.

Gefvert noted that the acquired parcel is 2.8 acres and asked Vetter what existing parks were of similar size. Vetter indicated that the property was approximately the same size as Junction Park.

Lehman asked if the same process would be used for this property as is for park renewal projects. Vetter responded that an assessment of possible amenities the site could offer would be conducted, but suggested that no concept plans be developed until neighborhood input is collected.

Rude asked where the funding would come from for development of the park. Vetter responded that the development would be done over the long-term, however, some improvements could be done efficiently with the use of city crews and possibilities such as using play equipment taken from other parks for a few years until new equipment can be budgeted.

Rude stressed the importance of providing effective communication with residents so that they have a clear understanding of the eventual plans for the park.

Lambert agreed that meetings with the neighborhood should be held with a clean slate and no pre-conceived ideas. He added that it would be beneficial for staff to have an idea of what types of amenities would fit into a park this size.

Gefvert suggested that direct mailings be prepared for residents in close proximity, along with notices in publications such as the Minnetonka Memo.

Vetter informed the park board that he would begin preparing an informal assessment of the property and select a date for the first neighborhood meeting.

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C. Preparation of the 2007 Park Board Strategic Plan

The park board reviewed the 2006 Park Board Strategic Plan. No changes to the mission and vision were made for 2007. The board's four established goals also remain as is for 2007.

Johnson informed the board that staff will revise the objectives and action steps, and bring the entire strategic plan back to the board for consideration in January.

5. Park Board Member Reports

None.

6. Information Items

The board reviewed information provided in the meeting packet regarding the removal of geese in the city by a private contractor.

A letter from a resident, requesting that lifeguards at Libbs Lake Beach no longer be provided, was reviewed. Johnson noted that the board will be reviewing park regulations at an upcoming meeting and suggested that consideration of this item be taken at that time.

7. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Cody Dick noted that he will not be in attendance at the January 3, 2007 meeting.

The board requested that park board member assignments be included in the next agenda packet so that revisions to assignments can be made.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.