

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
January 3, 2007**

1. Roll Call

Chair Lehman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present included Jahn Anderson, Bruce Gefvert, Tim Goodyear, Denny Lambert, Paul Lehman, Freinde Mills and Cathy Rude. Attending staff included DeeAnn Bloom, Jo Colleran, Dave Johnson and Perry Vetter.

2. Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2006

Lambert moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of December 3, 2006 as submitted. All voted “Yes.” Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Business Items

A. Adoption of the 2007 Park Board Strategic Plan and Action Steps

Johnson provided an overview of the Strategic Plan, noting that the draft plan submitted to the board was based on input received from the park board at the November 1, 2006 meeting.

Johnson reviewed the Strategic Plan including the vision, mission, designated goals and related objectives. Johnson noted that the four established goals did not change from 2006 and included:

1. To protect natural resources and open space
2. To review and maintain parks
3. To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities
4. Enhance long-term park board development

Johnson also reviewed the 23 objectives outlined in the plan. The park board did not request any changes to the Strategic Plan.

Colleran reviewed the 18 action steps associated with the goal “To protect natural resources and open space.” Gefvert asked if a natural resources inventory was planned for 2007. Colleran responded that the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) that was reviewed by the board in 2005 is still utilized by staff for certain applications. Colleran noted that the MLCCS does not inventory individual trees; it does classify resource domains throughout the city.

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
January 3, 2007**

Lambert asked if there were any planned adjustments to tree planting inventories, noting the loss of vegetation does not seem to be recovered through plantings. Colleran explained that a primary objective of the buckthorn removal program was to promote new growth of native plantings.

Vetter reviewed the seven action steps associated with the goal "To renew and maintain parks." No questions or changes were made to any of the action steps.

Johnson reviewed the 15 action steps designated for the goal "To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities." Mills requested that an additional action step be drafted to conduct an overall review of park locations to determine where the city does not provide adequate coverage of parks and related programs.

Johnson reviewed the 20 action steps associated with the final goal to "Enhance long-term park board development." Rude requested that an additional action step be added to promote communication with other city boards and commissions on projects affecting our parks.

Goodyear moved and Anderson seconded a motion to adopt the 2007 Park Board Strategic Plan, and approve the designated action steps with two additional steps added as discussed. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

B. Review of Park Regulations under Section 1135 of the City Code

Vetter provided an overview to this item, noting that the park regulations were last reviewed in detail in 1990. He added that changes in the way our parks are used have occurred since the last review, resulting in some staff concerns that he felt should be addressed.

Gefvert asked if any comparisons of park regulations have been performed with other cities. Vetter indicated that for certain aspects of the regulations, comparisons have been done, but not an overall comparison.

Vetter distributed a handout that included all the park regulations and highlighted those rules or regulations staff felt should be reviewed by the park board. Areas for discussion included:

- Definition of "Park Facility"
- Park hours - variations for athletic fields
- Horse riding in parks
- Off-leash policy for dogs
- Use of fire pits
- Motorized vehicles
- Camping in the park system

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
January 3, 2007**

In addition, Vetter suggested that related issues, not currently defined in the park regulations, be reviewed by the board and considered for inclusion. These issues included use of the park system for geocaching, administration of the "Parks for Tomorrow" program, designation of private property adjacent to park land, and the use of boardwalks for fishing.

DeeAnn Bloom, Minnetonka Police Department Community Services officer, addressed the issue of off-leashed dogs in the parks. She reported that concerns raised by residents are most prominent in Lone Lake, Jidana, and Big Willow parks. Bloom reported that issues related to dogs off leash on the trails, and owners not picking up after their dogs have increased significantly over the past few years. Bloom added that the use of Purgatory Park for off-leashed dogs has spread to non-residents, significantly increasing the use.

Anderson suggested that the possibility of requiring a "shock" collar or similar control devise be considered. Vetter responded that staff had briefly discussed a dog obedience certification program that owners would be required to take in order to have their dogs off-leash in the natural areas of the parks as currently allowed if the dog is under "voice command."

The board directed Vetter to report back at a later meeting with staff recommendations on the areas of concern other than off-leashed dogs. With respect to the issue of off-leashed dogs, the board asked that this be scheduled for future discussion.

C. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair Positions

Lambert expressed his appreciation for the leadership Lehman provided during the past eight years serving on the park board. In addition, he wished both Lehman and Mills well in their future endeavors.

Lambert moved and Mills seconded a motion to appoint Tim Goodyear as Park Board Chair for a term of February 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

Lambert moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to appoint Cathy Rude as Park Board Vice-Chair for a term of February 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

5. Park Board Member Reports

Gefvert congratulated Lehman on his recent selection as an outstanding Boards & Commission member by the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA).

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
January 3, 2007**

Goodyear thanked the city's public works crews for the outstanding job of replacing the outdoor ice rinks following a long stretch of unseasonably warm weather. He reported that ice at Spring Hill Park was in excellent shape.

6. Information Items

The board reviewed two items included in the meeting packet. The first item was a draft copy of the board's 2006 annual report to the city council. The second item was a listing of park board member park assignments. The board asked that the park assignments listing be brought back for discussion once new members have been assigned to fill the two openings.

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

Johnson reported that staff was in need of conducting a Gray's Bay Marina lottery to replenish the waiting list for boat slips. Johnson noted that options for conducting a lottery include scheduling it as part of the February meeting; scheduling a special meeting; or having staff conduct the lottery. The board requested that the lottery be conducted at 6:00 p.m. on February 7, 2007 as part of the regular park board meeting.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.