

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
February 7, 2007**

1. Roll Call

Chair Goodyear called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members present included Jahn Anderson, Cody Dick, Bruce Gefvert, Denny Lambert and Cathy Rude. Attending staff included Geralyn Barone, Jo Colleran, Dave Johnson, Kelly O'Dea, Mike Pavelka and Perry Vetter.

2. Approval of Minutes – January 3, 2007

Lambert moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of January 3, 2007 as submitted. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items not on the Agenda

None.

4. Business Items

A. Administration of the Gray's Bay Marina Boat Slip Lottery

Pavelka reviewed the process used for conducting the lottery. He explained that 59 residents' submitted entries for the lottery, adding that the first five names selected would be offered boat slips for the 2007 season, and the following 54 names would be placed on a waiting list in the order selected. Park board member Anderson conducted the selection of the lottery picks.

Upon completion of the process, Pavelka informed those in attendance that the official outcome would be posted on the city's website by Friday, February 9, 2007.

B. Review of Planned Improvements for Bennett Family Park (BFP)

Johnson distributed an Athletic Field Needs Study (AFNS) progress report detailing projects completed or approved since the AFNS was updated in 2004. The progress report indicated that as of February 1, 2007, a total of seven new community athletic fields and four improved fields have been either constructed or approved for construction. Sports benefitting from this improvement included: regulation baseball, soccer, lacrosse, football and rugby.

Johnson introduced Bob Jasper, Director of Long-Range Planning for BFP, who provided a status report for planned improvements to Bennett Park. Johnson noted that Jasper's report was informational only, adding that no board action was being requested.

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
February 7, 2007**

Jasper provided a presentation that included background on the park. He noted that in 2006, 778 youth were registered in the East Tonka Little League program; 576 in the Minnetonka Girl's Softball Association and 246 in the Tonka Babe Ruth Association.

Jasper proceeded to a review of a conceptual plan for improvements considered for Bennett Park. The plan included the development of a Miracle Field, on the existing field #3, the addition of lights on little league baseball fields #2 and #4, the addition of lights on the Babe Ruth field #1 and shortening of the fence on the field, the conversion of field #5 from a multi-use field to a regulation field for 13 year-old play, the addition of a youth field in the southwest portion of field #3, and other related site and amenity upgrades.

Jasper explained that the addition of lights for little league use would not increase the number of games played, only help to ensure that those games played were able to be completed. He noted that BFP was requesting from the city permission to use these lights until 10 p.m.

With respect to the lighting of the Babe Ruth field, Jasper indicated that the number of games played would increase from 209 to 300 if use of the lights was permitted until 11 p.m. same as Big Willow Park.

Jasper summarized neighborhood meetings held to date to inform interested residents on the planned improvements and provided plans to improve parking and reduce noise levels. Jasper informed the board that if the plan is approved by the city as proposed, BFP would relinquish their rights to develop a portion of the conservation easement obtained by the city as defined in an agreement between BFP and the city.

Jasper closed by reviewing the funding plan in place for the project. He estimated the project cost to be \$1,400,000, with funding coming from private donations, fundraising events, Miracle Field sponsors, existing leagues that utilize the fields, and surrounding communities. He requested city consideration to help fund the conversion of field #5 and the addition of lighting on field #1, explaining that both projects would help meet the identified needs of the city's AFNS.

Jasper opened the floor to park board questions.

Gefvert asked why concession stand profits were not used to assist in the project. Jasper noted that as a private park, BFP is responsible for covering all financial responsibilities associated with the park including staffing, maintenance and utilities. Bob Litske, BFP president, noted that net profits from concession sales total approximately \$10,000 annually and, as indicated by Jasper, are applied to park operations on an annual basis.

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
February 7, 2007**

Lambert asked what the surface of the Miracle Field would be. Jasper responded that due to the need for ADA accessibility, the surface would be synthetic and require minimal maintenance.

Hearing no additional questions, Jasper thanked the board for their time and the city of Minnetonka for their past partnerships in helping to support BFP. The board expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the BFP board in providing the valuable programs they offer.

Goodyear noted that due to a potential conflict of interest, he will excuse himself from any future park board actions taken by the board. Goodyear explained that he has children participating in BFP programs.

C. Consideration of a Policy Regarding Scheduling and Use of the Civic Center Amphitheater

Pavelka provided a presentation outlining potential components of a scheduling and use policy for the Civic Center Amphitheater. Areas of discussion included types of permitted uses, resident/non-resident use, fees, and logistical issues such as parking, equipment, restroom facilities and amplification.

Gefvert suggested that when reserving the facility the renter receive a period of time inclusive of the event, setup and tear-down needs.

Dick questioned approved uses as determined by the city. His concern was that youth events such as a Battle of the Bands' event might not be approved. Johnson responded it was staff's intention to expand the existing teen program with use of the amphitheater for various events.

Rude questioned the policy stating no concessions unless approved by the city. Pavelka explained that staff is recommending this language only to ensure that any concessions sold meet the city's health division requirements.

Anderson suggested developing a list of approved vendors that could be utilized by renters. Johnson indicated staff has an approved list already which is used for the Summer Festival concessions sales.

The board requested that use by non-residents be allowed on a lower priority from residents. A request was made for staff to develop a fee schedule for reserving the facility with resident and non-profit uses being charged less than non-resident use.

Pavelka indicated that he would incorporate the recommended changes and bring the policy back for consideration at a future meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
February 7, 2007**

D. Consideration of Athletic Field Use Fees

Vetter provided background and reviewed the staff report included in the meeting packet. He noted that at the November 1, 2006 meeting, the board directed staff to proceed with developing athletic field use fees for two categories of use:

- 1) Use of community fields
- 2) Use of dedicated fields.

The board proceeded to discuss fees associated with the use of community athletic fields.

Lambert voiced support for the fees recommended by staff. Recommendations included increasing the use of the Big Willow regulation baseball field from \$25 per game to \$40 per game; Big Willow soccer from \$15 per game to \$20 per game; and implementing new fees for use of the Guillian softball field (\$10 per game) and Lone Lake soccer field (\$10 per game). The rest of the board concurred.

The board next discussed organizational use fees for associations that gain exclusive or dedicated use of city athletic fields. Vetter explained that associations that fall into this category include the Big Willow baseball program, Glen Lake Mighty Mites, Hopkins-Minnetonka Babe Ruth Association, and Glen Lake Girl's Athletic League (GAL).

Vetter reviewed a table developed by staff that illustrated the recovery of maintenance fees ranging from 25% to 90% of the total cost.

Lambert indicated support for the adoption of fees to cover 50% of the maintenance costs.

Gefvert suggested consideration of 66% of the total.

Dick expressed concern that the cost not be too high for associations to handle. Vetter noted that the next step in the process, once the park board has made their recommendation, is to invite affected associations to a public hearing to discuss the fee recommendations.

Rude voiced concern that the cost for youth to participate in a wide variety of activities is getting very expensive.

Goodyear suggested a total of 75% of the maintenance costs be recovered by fees, with 50% applied towards maintenance and 25% towards Capital funding. Lambert supported this plan. Hearing no objections, Vetter indicated he would develop a fee schedule based on the input received and report back to the board

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
February 7, 2007**

at a future meeting. Vetter reminded the board that any fee changes would be implemented in 2008.

5. Park Board Member Reports

Lambert reported on the Big Willow Park and Guillian Park renewal meetings that took place on February 1. He added a follow-up meeting is scheduled for March 1.

6. Information Items

The board reviewed information included in the meeting packet related to the Governor's Fit City Program and a status report on the outdoor ice rink volunteer program.

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

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

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.