

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA PARK BOARD
May 2, 2007**

1. Roll Call

Chair Goodyear called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present included Cody Dick, Kyle Gallagher, Bruce Gefvert, Tim Goodyear, Amber Greves, Denny Lambert and Cathy Rude. Attending staff included Geralyn Barone, Jo Colleran, Dave Johnson and Perry Vetter.

2. Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2007

Lambert moved and Greves seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of the March 7, 2007 meeting. All voted “Yes.” Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items not on the Agenda

DeeAnn Bloom, Community Service Officer (CSO) for the Minnetonka Police Department, extended an invitation to park board members to join in a ride-along with CSO officers at a time and day that works for any interested member. Bloom noted that the ride-along experience would help members better understand the issues CSO officers face in the park system. Bloom suggested evening and weekend shifts due to increased calls for assistance during those times.

4. Business Items

A. Neighborhood Meeting – Oakhaven Park located at 13608 Spring Lake Road.

Vetter provided an introduction to the item noting that the city first received a petition from neighborhood residents in January, 2006 requesting city consideration to develop a park on property located at 13608 Spring Lake Road. Vetter explained that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) owned the property and initially planned to use it as part of the Interstate 494 expansion project. After a series of negotiations, MNDOT agreed to transfer title of the 2.8 acre property to the city through a conveyance that allows city use of the property for park and open space purposes. Vetter noted that staff has named the site Oakhaven Park as a working title.

Vetter introduced Jason Amberg of Brauer and Associates, Ltd., who was retained by the city to provide project assistance. Amberg reviewed an aerial map of the site. Goodyear opened the floor to public comments.

Marie Carlson, 13915 Spring Lake Road, indicated that there are no parks in the neighborhood that are easily accessible by children living in the area. She requested that no trees be removed, and that trails, swings, play equipment and possibly a basketball court be added to the site. She closed by saying that she felt the neighborhood is fragmented and needs a sense of community.

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Nancy Corniea, 13624 Spring Lake Road, voiced opposition to developing the site for park purposes. She noted that she loves children; however, she is opposed to the noise a park would bring and felt the cost of developing a park would be better spent on improving roads and filling potholes. She questioned why the city needs to place a development on every available open lot.

Roger Anderson, 13615 Spring Lake Road, requested that the site be left natural and indicated that he lives near the property and enjoys the wildlife. He noted that McKenzie and Sunrise Parks adequately serve the neighborhood.

Rude asked Anderson if he was requesting no maintenance of the site. Anderson responded "Yes, no maintenance and that the property would be kept natural".

Joe Hayes, 14406 Tonka Downs Drive, noted that as a youth, he and his friends would like to have a meeting place to gather instead of always going to their own homes.

Julia Fredrickson, 13613 Lake Street Extension, indicated that she would like a rubber surface on the play equipment and not woodchips like she has at school. She also requested monkey bars.

Amy Fredrickson, 13613 Lake Street Extension, indicated that McKenzie is a very nice park; however, crossing Williston Road is a dangerous situation for her children.

Kris Torberg, 13816 Spring Lake Road, agreed with Fredrickson, adding that older children can go to McKenzie Park but not younger children due to the lack of sidewalks and the speeding on Williston Road. She added that for those who live in the southern part of her neighborhood, Sunrise Park was too far away.

Amy Fischer, 13736 Spring Lake Road, questioned if a study had recently been conducted to determine the number of children in the area of the proposed park, Barone indicated that the most recent data the city would have is the 2000 census. She added that parks are not placed based on the number of children in an area, instead accessibility that is not restricted by high traffic roadways is used as the primary measure.

Jeff Persigehl, 4201 Christy Lane, indicated that he would like to see the park designed more for families and adults. He suggested consideration of this park to be the first "green park" in the city, adding that this would speak to the city's natural theme. For amenities, Persigehl suggested horseshoes, shuffle board and possibly tennis. He added that an interactive learning station, native forest and woodchip trails were also possibilities he would like to see considered.

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Sue Knott, 13600 Lake Street Extension, indicated that the proposed park would be in her back yard. She indicated that she enjoys the property as it is and requested leaving it alone and undeveloped.

Linda Sedgwick, 14016 Spring Lake Road, voiced support for an active park with activities for children. She noted that currently she needs to drive to the nearest park adding that the roads in her neighborhood are narrow, winding and dangerous.

Reed Fischer, 13736 Spring Lake Road, indicated that he would like a basketball court, either full or half court.

Rude asked staff for a summary of the park size and the possible amenities that could be placed on the site. Vetter explained that the city currently maintains eight parks ranging in size from .4 to 4.0 acres noting that the proposed park is 2.8 acres in size. Vetter indicated that amenities such as a basketball court (full or half), tennis courts, or a parking lot would not be appropriate for the site. Vetter also added that due to the cost for copper piping, he would recommend not adding a drinking fountain to the site. As for amenities that would be appropriate at the site, Vetter provided a list including a games court, playground equipment, shade structures, trails, green space and a backstop.

Marie Carlson asked if a basketball hoop, such as the one located at Sunrise Park, could be included. Vetter indicated that it would.

Amberg provided a summary of the resident input provided.

Hearing no further requests for input, Goodyear closed the public hearing.

Rude asked what funding was available for park development at this location. Vetter indicated that \$150,000 was included in the CIP.

Goodyear asked staff for specific information included in the agreement with MNDOT for use of the site. Vetter responded that there were three general statements: 1) that the property was no longer needed for the 494 project; 2) that the property was conveyed to the city at no cost; 3) that the parcel was to be incorporated into the city's parks and open space system.

Goodyear asked if the proposed location was determined to be deficient of adequate park coverage. Vetter responded that the POST plan indicates that this area is one of six in the city that is not adequately provided with parks due to barriers that prevent accessibility.

Rude noted that for park renewal projects, staff typically develops 2-3 concepts to bring to the park board for review. She suggested that this same process be

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used for this project. Gefvert suggested that no more than three concepts be developed.

Rude moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to develop 2-3 concepts for Oakhaven Park to be brought back to the park board for considerations at a future meeting. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

B. Consideration of Best Practices Policy for Parks and Trails Maintenance

Vetter provided an introduction to this item. He noted that the Parks and Trails Division of Public Works is responsible for the planning, development and maintenance of all parks and trails in the city. Vetter explained that from a staff perspective, the development of a Best Practices Policy is needed to move from operating in a reactive mode to more of a proactive mode in the future.

(Chair Goodyear was excused at 8:30 p.m. for an unexpected reason and vice-chair Rude assumed the chair position).

Vetter reviewed the points of discussion included in the staff report and asked for park board member input.

Greves commented that the document was very comprehensive and thorough. With respect to the standards developed, Greves asked if under the area of turf areas and cleanliness, was 10 pieces of litter in 100' x 100' area deemed acceptable. Vetter responded that it was not, and as an example, stated that if a condition such as this was to occur, field crews should have caught these conditions earlier.

Rude asked how often park reviews would be conducted. Vetter indicated that parks would be inspected as time permits on a park by park basis. He suggested that park board members might be connected to this process as part of their park assignment responsibilities.

Vetter reviewed the history of chemical use in the park system to control weeds and insects noting that several years ago chemicals were commonly used to eliminate weeds in the parks. However, due to recent concerns related to health, the public has expressed concerns related to chemical use in parks. Gallagher indicated that he felt kids were fine with weeds in the parks and noted that he was opposed to the use of chemicals to eliminate weeds. Greves agreed, noting that dangers related to chemical use are unknown at this time.

Colleran asked about chemical use on competitive athletic fields where users request weed free turf. Greves responded that the affect chemicals have on children appears to be most critical in the first five years of life. She indicated that fields for this age group should not be treated with chemicals.

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Dick indicated that general areas of the parks did not need to be treated with chemicals unless weeds take over a particular area. In these cases, Dick felt that special exceptions should be made and properly posted.

In a review of Section C regarding recreational areas, the board felt that the language included for chemical use (chemicals: fertilizer, herbicide, etc., appropriate for the situation and applied by certified applicators) was acceptable.

Greves requested that a standard be developed for Section C3 (Playground Areas) that relates to graffiti. Vetter responded that a standard would be added.

Vetter indicated that park board member suggestions would be implemented and the Best Practices document would be brought back to the board for final considerations at a future meeting.

C. Review of Itinerary for the Annual Park Board Tour

The park board reviewed a list of potential tour stops developed by staff for the May 9, 2007 planned tour. Additions to the list suggested by board members included stops at Oakhaven and Lone Lake parks and possible locations for dog parks.

It was noted that several members would be unable to attend the May 9 tour due to conflicts. The board discussed the possibility of changing the tour date to July. Johnson indicated that he would poll all members to decide on the best date available.

5. Park Board Member Reports

Gefvert noted that he attended the Eco Fair held on March 17 and he thought the sessions provided were excellent.

6. Information Items

Goodyear provided a Shady Oak Beach sub-committee update regarding proposed fee structure changes for the beach to be implemented in 2008. Goodyear explained that the fee schedule recommended by the sub-committee involves a per-person rate of \$12 for residents and \$15 for non-residents. Goodyear handed out a matrix that indicated the cost comparisons for households ranging from two to six members.

The general consensus of the board was that the non-resident rate of \$15 per person should be increased. Goodyear indicated that he would bring the park board's comments back to the sub-committee for consideration. He added that a

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final recommendation will be brought back to the Minnetonka and Hopkins park boards for consideration at a future meeting.

The board reviewed an assignment list for the parks and made changes based on the new members Greves and Gallagher.

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

The board confirmed that the May 9 tour would be rescheduled for July.

Barone noted that the Minnehaha Creek Headwaters dedication was scheduled for May 24 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.