

Minutes of the Minnetonka Park Board
February 6, 2008

1. Roll Call

Park board members present included Jahn Anderson, Bruce Gefvert, Amber Greves and Denny Lambert. Staff members in attendance included Geralyn Barone, Jo Colleran and Dave Johnson.

Vice-Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Gefvert noted one correction, requesting that his name be replaced with Goodyear regarding a comment on outdoor ice rinks under Park Board Member Reports.

Gefvert moved and Greves seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of January 9, 2008 as amended. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

David Parker, Principal at Groveland Elementary School and Mary Hauff, 4028 Dublin Drive addressed the park board with a request to consider providing City funding towards new play equipment and athletic field improvements planned for Groveland Elementary School. Parker informed the park board that the school's PTO is in the planning and discussion phase and working closely with the School District.

Hauff distributed a handout that outlined community benefits, city of Minnetonka benefits and potential roles for all possible partners on the project. She explained that partnerships are possible with the city and other potential users in need of play equipment or the use of athletic fields. She added that in addition to the city of Minnetonka, the PTO is also discussing options with Bennett Family Park, Tonka United Soccer and Minnetonka Community Education Services (MCES).

Johnson informed the board that as part of their Strategic Plan, the board will be reviewing areas of the city that are deficient of parks. Noting that Gro-Tonka Park is in close proximity, Johnson suggested that the park board review any possible benefits associated with improved athletic fields at the school. Johnson indicated that the city currently does not use these athletic fields, and historically, has received minimal use of fields in the Minnetonka School District.

Gefvert asked what the process typically is for the replacement of elementary school play equipment. Parker explained that the District may be able to assist with in-kind services, however they do not fund the replacement cost of new equipment. He went on to explain that the District has an in-house safety inspector that monitors the conditions of play equipment throughout the District.

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Gefvert asked if the current state of the equipment required any immediate replacement. Parker indicated it did not.

Lambert asked if any initial estimates had been prepared for both the equipment replacement and field upgrade. Hauff responded that the play equipment replacement is expected to be in the \$100,000 range.

Anderson asked what the current and projected enrollment at Groveland was. Parker indicated the current enrollment was 480 students and was expected to grow 5-10% next school year and then level off.

Greves asked if funding from any other partnerships was a possibility. Hauff indicated that Bennett Family Park, Tonka United Soccer and MCES were all possibilities.

Lambert suggested that Parker or Hauff research the Minnesota Twins Community youth field grant program.

Johnson noted that no official action could be taken this evening because the item was not placed on the agenda for discussion. He suggested that the park board review this project as part of the CIP review scheduled for the March 5, 2008 meeting. The board concurred with that direction.

4. Business Items

A. Consideration of the 2009-2013 CIP

Due to the absence of four park board members and key staff, the park board decided to delay this discussion until the March 5, 2008 meeting.

B. Adoption of the 2008 Park Board Strategic Plan Action Steps

Johnson reminded the park board that the Strategic Plan was adopted at the January 9, 2008 meeting. He added that staff had prepared a series of 55 action steps designed to assist the park board in meeting their established goals and objectives for 2008.

Staff reviewed the action steps identified under each of the park board's four established goals. Johnson noted that the action step document is designed to be a working document that can be amended as needed throughout the year.

The board accepted the action steps as submitted.

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5. Park Board Member Reports

Lambert reported that the City Council approved park renewal plans for Guillian and Big Willow Parks at their meeting of January 28, 2008. Lambert served as the park board representative for this meeting.

Greves reported on the Minnehaha Creek Corridor meeting that she, Lambert and Gefvert attended on January 31. She noted that the meeting was very informative and encouraged others who were unable to attend to attend one of the upcoming public open houses that are scheduled. Barone noted that the next open house is scheduled for February 21.

6. Informational Items

Colleran reported on the status of the city tree sale program. She informed the park board that 250 trees had been ordered to date with total orders expected to reach the maximum of 1,600 trees. She noted that the program was increased in 2007 to accommodate 1,300 orders.

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

Colleran noted that the 2008 Eco-Fair is scheduled for March 8.

Johnson noted that the park board's park responsibility listing would be included in the March meeting packet for review and updating.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.