

**1. Roll Call**

Park Board members in attendance included, Kyle Gallagher, Tim Goodyear, Amber Greves, Denny Lambert, and Patrick Robben. Staff members in attendance included Geralyn Barone, Jo Colleran, Dave Johnson and Perry Vetter.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Lambert moved and Robben seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 7, 2009 meeting of the park board. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

**3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda**

None.

**4. Business Items**

**A. Review of a proposal for the new Kid's Corner active summer daycare program**

Dave Johnson, Recreation Services Director, provided background on the proposed Kid's Corner Summer childcare program for children entering grades 1 – 5. Based on resident requests, Johnson explained the program has been a goal of the recreation services department for the past few years but lacked an adequate space to house the program within city facilities. He added that the State requires that a park & recreation board formally approve such a program before it can be offered.

Johnson reviewed the specifics of the proposed program including the following:

- Program will be offered from June 8 – August 21, 2009 (11 weeks)
- Program hours are Mondays – Fridays, from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Program would utilize city parks and facilities to provide a highly active summer childcare alternative
- The program will also provide one off-site fieldtrip per week
- The Williston Center will be the base site for the program
- Cost is \$135 per week with a minimum of 10 weeks required
- Children are required to bring their lunch each day

Johnson closed by indicating that the two primary goals of the program were to  
1) Provide a quality childcare alternative at a reasonable rate; and  
2) Provide a highly active childcare option. He opened the floor to any park board member questions or comments.

Greves inquired as to the background and qualifications of the staff to be hired. Johnson responded that for the leader and assistant leader positions, staff was looking for people with either elementary school teaching qualifications and experience, or a degree in parks and recreation and related experience. He added that all staff will undergo background checks and other hiring requirements as required by the city.

Greves noted that the sample activity schedule included in the staff report indicated that children would be utilizing the Williston Center pool and questioned if lifeguards would be present. Johnson indicated that while the Williston Center pool is not guarded, the Kid's Corner program will provide lifeguards whenever the pool is utilized for the program. Greves asked if children could wear floatation jackets while swimming. Johnson indicated they could, however jackets would not be provided through the program. Greves closed by stating that she felt that a highly motivated staff was required for a program like Kid's Corner to be successful.

Gallagher asked if first aid staff would be available on site. Johnson responded that there is not a dedicated first aid station, however some Williston Center staff and, at a minimum the lead Kid's Corner staff will be certified in First Aid and CPR. Gallagher asked if there were any restrictions for children with special needs. Johnson indicated that there were none.

Robben questioned the 5 p.m. ending time for the program and suggested that this might be restrictive to parents who work until 5 p.m. or even 4:30 p.m. He asked if there would be a policy for late pickups. Johnson responded that a policy had not yet been developed. He reassured the board that staff would remain in place until each child was picked up at the end of the day, regardless of the time. Johnson added that staff will prepare a policy and also look into extending the time to 5:30 p.m.

Robben asked how the cost of the program compared to other offerings in the community. Johnson replied that the rate of \$135 was considerably lower than private day care, and slightly lower than programs offered through the local school districts.

Lambert commented that he felt the program idea was excellent and asked if residents would receive a discounted rate. Johnson responded that with the exception of Shady Oak Beach, all recreation programs provide an early registration period for residents but not a discounted rate.

Greves noted that she understood the goal of a highly active program, however she requested that the children be provided adequate time to devote to reading so that their skills won't diminish throughout the summer months. She also requested that games played during the day are of the less contact variety. Johnson assured Greves that, while the goal is for high activity, adequate reading and quiet time will be provided at the start and end of each day, as well as over the lunch period. She added that she felt it was important that the kid's have an opportunity to engage with the leaders and other children. Responding to the non-contact game request,

Johnson responded that the summer playground program has a long history of providing such games and this practice will continue with the Kid's Corner program.

Greves closed by suggesting that the program utilize Sunrise Ridge Park due to its close proximity to the Williston Center.

Goodyear asked if the program required any additional insurance coverage outside of the standard policy. Johnson indicated it did not.

Goodyear asked how staff would differentiate the Kid's Corner program from other programs currently offered by the school districts. Johnson responded that the two primary differences were 1) the goal of being highly active; and 2) the program's access to city facilities such as the Williston Center and Ice Arena and the programs and amenities each provides.

Lambert moved and Greves seconded a motion to approve the Kid's Corner summer childcare program as developed by staff to begin in June of 2009. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

**B. Consideration of 2009 park board action steps**

Staff reviewed new additions and changes to the 56 action steps developed to meet the goals defined in the park board's 2009 Strategic Plan. Goodyear opened the floor to board member comments and questions.

Robben suggested that an action step be added under the goal "To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities and programs" related to the continuing work the board is doing to define off-leash regulations. Parks and Trails Division Manager Perry Vetter indicated he would develop an action step to address the work.

Greves commented that she appreciated the action step developed to conduct an ADA audit of park facilities.

Hearing no additional requests for changes or additions, Johnson informed the board that an updated document would be developed and reviewed for progress throughout the year.

**5. Park Board Member Reports**

None

**6. Information Items**

Natural Resources Division Manager Jo Collieran reported on the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club's recent donation of \$10,000 to restore and beautify the Gray's Bay Marina and Headwaters Park. Collieran noted that over the past four years the Club

has donated a total of \$25,000. Lambert asked if the Club would receive any special recognition. Colleran responded that the city council had already recognized them at a recent meeting.

Goodyear acknowledge new park board member Patty Acomb who was in attendance for the meeting. He noted that she will begin her term with the March 4, 2009 meeting.

**7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items**

The schedule was reviewed and no changes made. Johnson reminded the board of the upcoming Kids' Fest event scheduled for Sunday, February 8, 2009.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.