

**1. Roll Call**

Park Board members in attendance included, Patty Acomb, Bruce Gefvert, Tim Goodyear, Denny Lambert, and Patrick Robben. Staff members in attendance included Geralyn Barone, Perry Vetter, Jo Colleran, Dean Elstad and Lorry Mendez-Burns.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Robben moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 4, 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. Appointment of Park Board Vice-Chair position**

With the appointment of Amber Greves to the city council, Goodyear entertained a motion from the floor to fill the vacancy for the Vice-Chair position. Gefvert moved and Acomb seconded a motion to appoint Patrick Robben as Park Board Vice Chair for a term to begin April 1, 2009 and expire on January 31, 2010. Robben accepted. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

**B. Consideration of park and trail projects for the 2010 - 2014 Capital Improvement Program**

Vetter lead this discussion and requested the park board to review, rank and recommend projects slated for the 2010 - 2014 park dedication fund portion of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). These recommendations will be forwarded to the city council to use as a guideline in deciding funding of future projects.

Vetter provided the board with the list of nine projects, based on forecasts made previously in 2006, and asked them to rank the projects in order of funding importance. The projects included had previously been approved by the park board and the city council.

The following priority category listing was provided to the board for review:

1. All park board recommended and city council adopted agreements (city owned and non-city owned) be funded as agreed upon.
2. Rehabilitation of existing trails in order to maintain a preventative and proactive maintenance system.

3. Park and Trail Investment Plan projects based upon a 30 year asset inventory are completed to prevent deferred, emergency or corrective repairs. This category would include city athletic fields.
4. Building and Structure related projects are completed to protect the investment of each respective facility.
5. Expansion of the trail system by selecting highly rated segments from the Trail Improvement Plan.
6. Planning and system studies that would provide the research and planning materials to benefit the public, staff, Park Board and City Council on matters pertaining to the park, trails, open space and recreational needs of the city.
- 7 a. Expansion of the trail system by the construction of miscellaneous trail links not identified through the Trail Improvement Plan, but petitioned to the city by residents.
8. Non city owned athletic field improvements and expansion.
9. Non city owned park and trail amenities petitioned to the Park Board and City Council.

In addition, the board was asked to rank projects that were not scheduled in case the possibility came up in the future:

- 7b. Expansion of the park system by adding new amenities rated highly desirable to existing parks.
- 7c. Expansion of the park and open space system by purchasing additional property acreage.
- 7d. Development of park amenities on property previously designated as park property, but currently undeveloped.

Lambert questioned the benefit of recommending projects beyond next year with the economic situation as it is.

Barone responded that the council reviews five-year projections and overall funding for all projects, and then considers all resources available to the city. It is really important in this planning process, especially the way we are fiscally situated, that we have a good sense of where we are going.

Lambert asked how much of a reduction the city experienced this year. Barone responded approximately \$500,000 for all capital projects.

Lambert asked what is anticipated in 2010. Barone responded it is contingent upon a variety of funding impacts, including any action by the legislature.

Gefvert inquired about the estimates of the line items and said he read some articles recently where the city engineers were pleasantly surprised that some city projects are coming in under budget. He asked if there was some flexibility.

Vetter responded the bidding climate is advantageous to the city at this time, depending on the project. Specialty items have less of a margin. Projects that can be done in-house amount to the cost of materials.

Gefvert asked how much of the Opus trail was private and how much are city trails.

Vetter responded only the parts that connect the businesses or the residential units to our existing trails are private. He noted the Minnetonka Memo will feature an article on the trails by Dean Elstad next month.

Gefvert stated it would be nice to have them in good shape with the additional publicity because it is a beautiful trail system that gets used a lot.

Gefvert asked if addition of the light rail transit (LRT) project would impact any of the projects near the Opus trails. He suggested the city should be looking at trail extensions to facilitate access to the stations.

Barone responded a specific planning process needs to occur and the city would advocate for this.

Goodyear asked if trail repair in the Opus area would be delayed until more is known about the LRT project.

Barone responded staff would work with the community development department regarding this.

Elstad added that Hennepin County is committed to all modes of transportation. He noted providing bike routes for commuters from the southwest to downtown and maintaining a good trail system are high priorities.

Barone initiated a discussion on the unfunded prioritization schedule and asked the board for feedback. Vetter mentioned he had been contacted by a group looking for a home for an archery range in Minnetonka but nothing has come of it.

Barone mentioned Vetter was working with the city's web coordinator on integrating the park renewal website into the city's website.

Goodyear thanked staff for all the work on this item.

Acomb moved and Lambert seconded a motion to approve the proposed 2010 - 2014 CIP and recommend it to the city council as presented by staff. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

## **5. Park Board Member Reports**

Acomb reported on a presentation she attended by the Urban Land Institute for Twin Cities-area cities with aging populations and an interest in developing affordable housing for residents. She noted that the five participating in a pilot program designed to ensure long-term economic stability included: Minnetonka,

Brooklyn Park, Richfield, Rosemount and Shoreview. These cities that are located in different parts of the metro area face different challenges, but the challenge of an aging population is common to all. The pilot program is designed to help motivated cities find an array of affordable housing and development options.

Lambert reported on the Minnetonka Mills corridor development initiative that is working with Corridor Development Initiative (CDI), a facilitator hired to assist in the planning, design, and development along the major corridors near the creek.

Lambert noted the first public meeting would be held at ICA Food Shelf Meeting Room on April 14. Subsequent meetings would be held May 19, June 2 and June 16. Barone added that a post card mailing went out inviting the public to attend and that more information can be found on the city's website.

Acomb asked if the meetings are for public presentation or public input. Lambert responded that at the first meeting, both a presentation and time for input in small group discussion were part of the program.

Gefvert reported that during his most recent visit to the parks he is assigned to, he noticed the path at Green Circle is in poor condition.

**6. Information Items**

**Park Assignments**

The park board reviewed and formed new assignments for 2009 as follows:

<b>2009 PARK BOARD MEMBER PARK ASSIGNMENTS</b>						
<b>Bruce Gefvert</b>	<b>Chair Tim Goodyear</b>	<b>Denny Lambert</b>	<b>Kyle Gallagher</b>	<b>Vice Chair Patrick Robben</b>	<b>Elise Raarup</b>	<b>Patty Acomb</b>
Glen Moor	Boulder Creek	Big Willow	Burwell	Groveland	Elmwood-Strand	Gray's Bay Causeway
Green Circle	Covington	Civic Center	Jidana	Gro Tonka	Knollway	Gray's Bay Marina
Junction	Holiday Lake	Crane	Meadow	McKenzie	Lake Rose	Headwaters Park
Kinsel	Kelly	Ford	Minnetonka Mills	Mini Tonka	Mayflower	Libbs Lake
Lone Lake	Lake Charlotte	Glen Lake	Oberlin	Oakhaven	Mooney	Linner
Pioneer	Purgatory	Glen Lake Station		Tower Hill	Westwood	Orchard
Shady Oak Beach	Reich	Guilliam		Victoria-Evergreen	Woodgate	Sunrise Ridge
	Spring Hill	Hilloway		Wilson		

### **Park Board Tour**

The park board asked staff to plan an itinerary and prepare a priority listing for the annual tour. Oakhaven Park, Headwaters Park (wetland interpretive sign tour), and Kinsel Park were suggestions mentioned by staff as possible sites to tour. The park board requested that the tour be kept to around two hours and they would prefer a picnic type dinner at a park. Park board members who could not make the 5:15 p.m. start time could catch up with the group later at a designated park for the picnic. An alternate site for dinner will be added to the tour in case of rain.

### **Natural Resources**

Colleran provided the park board with updates from the natural resources division's educational items and covered:

- The Eco Series of Walks and Talks now includes a small pruning seminar.
- In February, they held a bird talk on raptors and a pond workshop with 30-50 people attending each of these events. For Kids' Fest a herpetology society including snakes and lizards was organized, and they also partnered with Three Rivers Park District for a snow shoe walk. The tree sale advertised in February resulted in 1,600 trees being sold – 200 less than 2008.
- In March, the Eco Fair had 38 exhibitors and approximately 170 people in attendance. In addition, a recognition was held for all the volunteers who committed about 2,000 hours to natural resources either by working at our parks pulling garlic mustard, monitoring deer exposures and bluebird houses, and studying wetlands and our lakes. A buckthorn workshop was also held with about 40 people in attendance.
- The April edition of the Minnetonka Memo highlighted natural resources with a special, colored pull-out pamphlet featuring the Eco Series: Academy of Walks & Talks.

## **7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items**

Goodyear noted the upcoming Boards & Commissions training session on April 22, 2009. Barone added the training was a working meeting limited to the city council, park board, planning commission and the economic development authority. She highly encouraged the park board to attend indicating that the goal and purpose of the meeting was to provide tips and tools in dealing with public discussions on challenging issues. The meeting was expected to wrap up by 8:45 p.m.

Colleran added that the natural resources ordinances needed a little more background work and public input before the ordinances are prepared in a draft format for the city council.

**8. Adjournment**

Lambert moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.  
All voted "Yes." Motion carried.