

1. Roll Call

Park Board members in attendance included, Patty Acomb, Kyle Gallagher, Tim Goodyear, Elise Raarup, and Patrick Robben. Staff members in attendance included Geralyn Barone, Jo Colleran, Dave Johnson, Mike Pavelka and Perry Vetter.

Chair Goodyear called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Acomb moved and Raarup seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of September 2, 2009 as submitted. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

Janet Larson, Natural Resources Specialist, introduced Boy Scout Mark Jewell of Pack #340 at Ridgewood Church who presented to the park board the description and outcome of his Eagle Scout Project. He explained that his project included the repair of four existing deer exclosures at Victoria-Evergreen Park.

Jewell noted that his project included 15 hours of pre-planning and 82 labor hours over a two period from August 7 – 8 to complete. Goodyear asked how the project turned out. Jewell responded that the project was completed successfully and on time.

Robben asked what the next step of the process was to earn his Eagle Scout. Jewell explained how this has been a goal for him since he was in the 4th grade. He explained that his Eagle Scout project had to be related to Public Works and approved in advance of starting the project. He is now required to go before a board of review to complete.

The park board thanked him for his work in the park system and Goodyear added that many of these projects would not be completed if not for Eagle Scouts who take them on.

4. Business Items

A. Consideration of 2010 athletic field use fee schedule

Dave Johnson, Recreation Services Director, provided a brief introduction to this item, noting that those in attendance, including the park board, were involved with the public meeting that took place immediately prior to the park board's regular meeting. Johnson added that important input was received and questions asked by those in attendance. He closed by indicating that staff was available to answer any questions and that the desired outcome was to develop a final recommendation regarding 2010 athletic field use fees to forward to the city council for review in late November. Johnson added that an informal review of the park board's final

recommendations will be scheduled as part of the park board/city council joint meeting on November 4.

Gallagher asked if the city's youth soccer program would be required to reserve fees in accordance with the proposed fee schedule. Johnson responded that all city recreation programs that use athletic fields have field use costs built into their participation fees.

Goodyear raised a question regarding the fees for the use of the four Civic Center fields should be reduced from the proposed amount of \$10 per field for 1.5 hour block of time. Goodyear proposed that the fee be reduced from \$10 to \$5 per field so that the reservation of the entire site was more in line with the soccer field at Big Willow Park. Johnson replied that the \$5 rate would be more consistent with other fields included on the fee schedule and would reduce revenue approximately \$4,000 however will still increase the anticipated amount significantly from 2009.

Raarup asked for clarification on the residency requirements included in Categories A & B on the fee schedule. Johnson explained that the percentage of 50% was used so that all organizations that serve the Minnetonka or Hopkins School District would meet the minimum requirements. Johnson explained that the percentages were not based on actual participation, but instead potential participation.

Gallagher questioned why the capital funds collected would not be reserved and used for the future development of new fields. Johnson responded that available land for new fields is at a shortage, and if found, the cost is prohibitive. He noted that in the past, funding for new opportunities such as the softball fields at Guilliams Park or the Legacy and Veteran's fields at Minnetonka High School have been able to be planned far enough ahead and funded through the Park Fund. He went on to explain that several of the fields included on the fee schedule under consideration were improved over the past few years with use of Park Renewal bond referendum dollars that will not be available in future years. For that reason, Johnson indicated that staff is focusing efforts on providing funding for future improvements to existing fields.

Jon Brueske, representing the Hopkins Lacrosse Association, commented that the city's fields are of good quality and staff has been excellent to work with. Overall, he felt that the fees being proposed were fair.

Dan McGie representing the Glen Lake Mighty Mites agreed that the fees seemed fair and reasonable.

Hearing no further questions or requests for comment, Acomb moved and Gallagher seconded a motion to recommend to the city council the athletic field fee schedule as proposed with the exception of a reduction in the civic center field charge from \$10 to \$5 per field. The park board further recommends that the fee schedule as recommended remain in place with no further increases through the 2011 season. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

B. Review of staff recommended policies related to the scheduling of outdoor hockey rinks

Johnson provided an introduction and background to the item, noting that the park board last reviewed the scheduling of outdoor ice rinks at their August 5, 2009 meeting and directed staff to report back to the board with recommendations on a deposit process for the reservation of ice; and scheduling changes including reductions in both available times and locations.

Johnson explained that staff's recommendations included the following:

1. Implement a deposit of \$25/night that will be returned if time reserved is used.
2. Reduce the number of sites available for reservation from six to five (Boulder Creek would be eliminated as an option).
3. Shorten the reservation time to 1.5 hours (7:30 - 9 p.m.).

Johnson closed by indicating that both area youth hockey associations were informed of the recommendations and did not express concerns. Both were also notified of the meeting and invited to attend if interested; however neither is in attendance.

Goodyear suggested that signage be prepared at all impacted sites to assist the attendants in managing any scheduling questions that might arise.

Robben moved and Raarup seconded a motion to adopt the outdoor ice rink scheduling process for the 2009-2010 season as recommended. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

5. Park Board Member Reports

None

6. Information Items

Johnson noted that there were several informational items in the meeting packet, including updates on three aspects of the Natural Resources Management Program. Natural Resources Division Manager Jo Colleran responded to questions related to the donation of a conservation easement recently made to the city under the Living Legacy program.

Other areas of review included updates on volunteer programs to foster stewardship practices; the water quality improvement project at Lone Lake Park; a 2009 summer recreation programs summary; and possible discussion items for the November 4, 2009 joint meeting of the city council and park board.

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

The board reviewed their upcoming 6-month schedule and made no additions or changes.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.