

1. Roll Call

Park Board members in attendance included, Patty Acomb, Kyle Gallagher, Bruce Gefvert, Tim Goodyear, Elise Raarup, and Patrick Robben. Staff members in attendance included Geralyn Barone, Jennifer Garvey and Dave Johnson.

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Gefvert moved and Gallagher seconded a motion to approve both the regular and joint meeting minutes of November 4, 2009 as submitted. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

Eagle Scout candidate Michael Schnack presented the outcomes of his Eagle Scout project at Jidana Park that was previously approved by the park board. Schnack's project involved removal and replacement of the old canoe landing and traction grid; as well as the addition of two new permanent benches for viewing the creek.

Schnack explained that the project took place in July and August of 2009 and saved the city approximately \$9,000 in labor costs. He presented a slide show that showed the progression of work completed and asked if the park board had any questions.

Goodyear commented that the project was impressive and seemed to be more extensive than other past projects. Schnack responded that his troop leader had confidence in his abilities and assigned him a project that involved a significant amount of responsibility.

Gallagher echoed Goodyear's comments and asked if the project responsibilities tied in any way to Schnack's future plans or ambitions. Schnack responded that he will be attending the North Dakota State University and hopes to pursue architecture.

The board all thanked Schnack for completion of the project and followed his presentation with a discussion of how to recognize volunteers who complete service projects that benefit the park system. A suggestion was made to feature this project in an upcoming edition of the Minnetonka Memo, and also for the park board to have a discussion of recognizing volunteer efforts at an upcoming park board meeting.

4. Business Items

A. Consideration of 2010 picnic facility fees

Jenny Garvey, Program & Aquatics Manager, provided background to the item noting that the fees in place have varied little since first being established in 1990. Garvey reviewed the fees in place noting that both resident and non-resident groups are divided into two size definitions (25 – 50 and 25 or more). She explained that other picnic related fees were in place for both resident and non-resident non-profits as well as beer permits. Garvey noted that the only significant changes made to the fee structure occurred when sales tax was applied to the resident and non-resident fees a few years back.

Garvey reviewed the staff recommendation to eliminate the group size fee affiliation and instead proposed the following fee categories:

Group	Fee
Resident (non-profit)	\$40
Resident	\$43
Non-resident (non-profit)	\$75
Non-resident	\$77

Garvey reported that by incorporating the new fee structure, and based on the same number of reservations experienced in 2009, picnic fee revenue would increase approximately \$2,400, (from \$9,200 to \$11,600) in 2010. She noted that the staff recommendation was contingent upon approval by both the Minnetonka and Hopkins park boards.

Goodyear opened the floor to the park board members for questions or comments.

Gefvert asked if residents received any benefits or priority for reservations. Garvey responded that there is no longer a priority registration period for residents due to a lack of need. She added that at the beginning of the season it is rare that a reservation is not completed due to scheduling conflicts because of the number of sites available. Garvey noted that the reservation period for 2010 will begin on January 25th.

Gefvert inquired about the \$25 alcohol fee and what it entailed. Garvey explained that the fee allows a group to have beer or wine onsite for the specified date and time on the permit. She added that the permit holder is required to be an adult who is held as the responsible party, and who must come to city hall to provide proof of identification prior to receiving the permit. Gefvert asked what percentage of picnic permits request alcohol and Garvey responded approximately 25%.

Gefvert indicated that he felt the alcohol permit fee was too low and suggested increasing it to \$50. Raarup expressed concern that raising the fee might encourage people not to apply for the permit but still have alcohol on site without a permit.

Acomb asked how time periods were allocated for picnic shelter use. Garvey responded that the time is provided up to a 5-hour maximum and can be scheduled any time from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. She noted that this is a customer service enhancement over simply providing two periods of the day for reservations. Acomb noted that a group she participated with in the past was pressured to end their event early due to the next group arriving and questioned what the time periods were between reservations. Garvey responded that a 30 minute gap between reservations is customary; however some groups occasionally show up early.

Robben questioned why fees are collected for picnic shelter use. Garvey noted that the fee is not associated with direct staffing costs. Johnson added that back in the late 1980's, the recreation department was directed to make administrative changes that would increase net revenues by \$75,000 and picnic shelter fees were one of the new areas that fees were added.

Robben noted that resident fees were adjusted to \$43 to cover the sales tax not applied to the resident non-profit fee of \$40. However the non-resident fee of \$77 was only \$2 higher than the \$75 fee for non-resident non-profit groups. He questioned if the \$77 non-resident fee fully covered the tax rate included. Garvey indicated that it did not. Robben suggested increasing the non-resident rate from \$77 to \$80 to cover sales tax.

Hearing no further discussion, Robben moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to approve the proposed new picnic shelter reservation fee with one change to the non-resident rate increasing from \$77 to \$80; and that the alcohol permit fee of \$25 remain as is and not be adjusted at this time. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

B. Development of the 2010 Park Board Strategic Plan

Dave Johnson, Recreation Services Director provided an overview. He provided the 2009 park board strategic plan with date changes made to adjust to 2010, and asked for park board member feedback on and changes to the vision, mission goals and objectives. The board indicated that no changes to the vision mission or goals were desired.

Johnson reviewed the four park board goals and asked for changes/additions to the objectives in place. The four goals included:

- To protect natural resources and open space
- To renew and maintain parks and trails

- To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities and programs
- To enhance long-term Park Board development

Gallagher indicated his desire to research the possibility of providing a nature center in the city, noting that he travels outside of the city to visit other centers that are available.

Gefvert requested that the board review the system in place for establishing priorities on open space parcels for purchase or protection.

Raarup expressed concerns related to box elder trees and asked for a staff report on educational opportunities or possible ordinance changes to reduce negative impacts box elder trees represent.

Goodyear requested that the park board review plans in place that ensure continued maintenance of the existing trail system segments.

Johnson noted that as a result of the impressive presentation earlier in the evening, the park board had requested that a volunteer recognition process be established to thank those who volunteer their time, efforts and resources to improve the park system. He asked if the park board wanted that aspect added to the plan and the park board responded favorably.

Hearing no further changes, Johnson indicated that staff will develop a final draft of the 2010 park board strategic plan and report back to the board in February.

C. Appointment of 2010 Park Board Chair and Vice-Chair positions

Goodyear opened the discussion by noting that he has enjoyed serving as the park board chair over the past three years, however he felt strongly that someone new take over during his final term on the board. Following further discussion, the board acted as follows:

Goodyear moved and Gallagher seconded a motion to appoint Patrick Robben as Park Board Chair for a term to begin on February 1, 2010 and expire on January 31, 2011. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

Gallagher moved and Gefvert seconded a motion to appoint Patty Acomb as Park Board Vice-Chair for a term to begin on February 1, 2010 and expire on January 31, 2011. All voted "Yes". Motion carried.

5. Park Board Member Reports

Goodyear took the opportunity to thank Gefvert for his years of service on the park board, noting that he was leaving due to a term limit requirement.

Gefvert noted his appreciation and provided his input on future operation of the Glen Lake ski trail that he was a proponent of over the past four years. He appreciated the efforts of all involved and encouraged continuation, even if it means in a reduced schedule.

6. Information Items

The board reviewed items included in the meeting packet with no additional items discussed.

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 9:17 p.m.