

1. Roll Call

Park Board members in attendance included, Patty Acomb, Tim Goodyear, Denny Lambert, Marvin Puspoki, Elise Raarup and Madeline Seveland. Staff members in attendance included Geralyn Barone, Nicole Gorman, Dave Johnson, and Perry Vetter.

Chair Lambert called the official meeting to order at 7p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Lambert noted one typo correction. Acomb moved and Goodyear seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of April 6, 2011. All voted "Yes." Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

None.

4. Business Items

A. Report on outdoor ice rink operations

Nicole Gorman, Senior Services and General Program Manager reported on this program.

Gorman reviewed the changes implemented for the 2010/11 warming house season that affected the program's operations and staffing. She noted the changes which had been previously approved by the park board at their September 1, 2010 meeting, involved the hiring of employees with added responsibility and requirements, working at multiple sites as part of their routine schedule, increased pay levels, and a reduction in the number of employees from approximately thirty to eleven.

Gorman also indicated that extended hours on Saturday increased participation to 1,845 ice rink visitors for the season – an increase from the previous year.

Gorman noted that expenditures increased by \$1,453, compared to the last year's budget, however total expenses were below the proposed season's budget of \$21,150. She attributes the increase in expenditures to staff changes and extended hours on Saturdays.

Gorman asked for any park board member comments or questions.

Lambert asked if Gorman recommended any further changes for the 2011/2012 season. Gorman responded that the only recommendation staff had was to revise the Saturday schedule to include only rinks that benefitted from the extended times.

She explained that the parks with the lowest number of users occurred at Gatewood, Covington and Boulder Creek; and the parks with the highest number of users occurred at Meadow, McKenzie, Gro Tonka and Glen Lake. She noted that staff is recommending continuation of extended hours on Saturdays for the parks with the highest number of users for the 2011/12 season.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Lambert thanked Gorman for her management of the outdoor ice rink program. Johnson added that Gorman just completed her second year with this assignment and has done an outstanding job addressing employment issues that have long existed.

B. Status report on perspective dog park master plans

Perry Vetter, Assistant Public Works Director, provided the introduction to this item. He reminded the board that at the December 2, 2010 park board meeting, staff was directed to proceed with the development of master plans for consideration of Big Willow, Crane Lake and Kelly parks as potential dog park locations.

Vetter indicated that the final reviews will detail findings in several areas including site characteristics, site definition, proximity to existing surroundings, operation planning, other area dog park facilities, utility needs, and cost estimations. Vetter concluded by indicating that staff will compile the above information and complete master plans for the three identified locations within the next 10 – 12 weeks. He anticipates submitting results at the park board meeting on September 7, 2011.

Vetter asked for any park board member comments or questions.

Acomb asked if any of the parks caused initial concerns. Vetter noted that Kelly Park, being the current location of the community garden plots, would require displacement of the gardens to another area which would be difficult.

Lambert indicated that his primary interest will be in the area of rules and guidelines pertaining to the development of the selected location or locations. He closed by asking if staff could include a progress update at the August 3, 2011 meeting. Vetter indicated he would.

C. Park Board park assignments

Dave Johnson, Recreation Services Director, provided the park board's listing of park assignments that had not been updated since 2009 due to board member changes. The board made some additions to the listing and agreed to hold off on completing all assignments until upcoming appointments are made by the council.

5. Park Board Member Reports

Acomb provided a summary of the work session held to discuss possibilities for the potential joint facility with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) that she, Puspoki and Seveland attended as representatives of the Park Board. She noted that she liked the process and the potential the project possesses. Seveland added that there was a possible venue to review the project at the upcoming annual creek clean-up event scheduled by the MCWD.

6. Information Items

Johnson noted that the park board's official park renew responsibilities are now complete with the Council's approval of plans for Oberlin and Mayflower Parks that occurred on May 16th. He pointed out that Vetter has been instrumental in managing the Park Renewal process from the time it was approved following the 2001 Park and Open Space referendum, completing 46 parks throughout the entire process. The board thanked Vetter for all of his work with the park renewal process.

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

The board reviewed the upcoming 6 – month meeting schedule and made no changes. Lambert requested that Mayor Schneider be invited to attend the dog park discussion at the September meeting.

8. Adjournment

Lambert adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.