

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 8, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Katrine Nau opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Committee Members present: Chair Katrine Nau, Eugene Earney, Renee Rossman, Planning Commission Liaison Scott Marotz and Council Liaison Dick Backlund. Those Absent: Denise McDowall Seyko. Also Present: Public Works Director Michael Goebel, Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District Gina Hugo, City Council Member Chuck Heitz, EDA President Doug Hayes and City Planner Katie Larsen.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Earney motioned to accept the January 11, 2009 minutes as presented. Seconded by Committee Member Rossman, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

(The order of discussion was changed)

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. COUNCIL MEMBER CHUCK HEITZ

Council Member Heitz stated that one goal of City Council for 2010 is to complete the sidewalk along Humboldt Drive which is presently intermittent. This is one avenue for people to use to get from the train station to Lakeside Park. City Engineer DeWolf estimates there is 2,000 feet of sidewalk at 6 feet wide that is needed to complete the sidewalk at a cost of \$115,000.00. Council Member Heitz inquired if the Park Board would be interested in helping fund the completion of the sidewalk. The feasibility of some landscaping along Humboldt Drive was also discussed. EDA President Doug Hayes presented other avenues of transportation their Department is contemplating for people riding the train to Big Lake once they arrive. Discussion followed regarding funding options for the completion of the sidewalk. No action was taken.

6B. CITY PLANNER KATIE LARSEN, RAIL PARK CONCEPT PLAN

The City received an application for a Concept Plan for the Big Lake Rail Park. The applicant is Northstar Land, LLC and they are proposing to create an industrial park served by a rail spur off the BNSF line. City Planner Larsen reviewed the history of the Hudson Woods Park Dedication Agreement and the residential subdivision preliminary plats of Hudson Woods and Oak Glen. City Planner Larsen reviewed the trail around the wetlands, a component of the Hudson Woods Park Agreement that was to be fulfilled in the 2nd phase. Concept Plan B of the Big Lake Rail Park now indicates this wetland area as an industrial use with no trail. It does, however, include 1.34 acres of additional parkland as well as connecting trail from Houghton Drive to the proposed collector road. Discussion followed. Planning Commission Liaison Marotz made a motion to recommend to Council to acquire approximately 1.34 acres of additional parkland to Hudson Woods Park, include a walking trail from Houghton Drive to the new collector road and accept a cash payment in an amount equal to the cost of extending the walking trail around the wetlands as proposed in the Park Dedication Agreement. Seconded by Committee Member Earney, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3A. POLLINATOR DAY EVENT

Discussion took place on the various events and funding in regards to the Pollinator Day Event and the Oak Savannah Prairie Restoration Project. It was the consensus of the Board not to pursue the music entertainment at this time. Additional funding will be applied for through the Fish and Wildlife Grant Program in the amount of \$1,500.00.

3B. OAK SAVANNAH PRAIRIE RESTORATION PROJECT

Discussed along with Item 3A. Pollinator Day Event.

3C. DOG PARK

The Board discussed various options and public interest in establishing a Dog Park. The Park Board requested Public Works Director Goebel to formulate a list of questions that would be placed in the City's Newsletter verifying that the residents are interested in a Dog Park.

3D. RIVER OAKS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Continued discussion took place in regards to making improvements to River Oaks Park. The Board will walk the area when weather permits.

3E. UPDATE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER DICK BACKLUND REGARDING THE JOINT MEETING AND ATHLETIC COMPLEX

Council Member Dick Backlund updated the Park Board on the response from the various entities that attended the January 21, 2010 Joint Meeting in regards to establishing a joint Athletic Complex. Council Member Backlund felt the response was well received and worth the time to set a meeting date with the various entities to discuss this in more detail. The Board directed Public Works Director Goebel to present a list of possible dates that could work at the next Park Board Meeting.

3F. PARK BOARD MEMBER APPLICATIONS

The Park Board received and reviewed three applications for the vacant Park Board position. It was the consensus of the Park Board to have the applicants appear at the next Park Board Meeting so the Board could meet the candidates. The Board also decided if any additional applications are received before the next meeting those applicants will also be invited to appear at the March 2010 Meeting.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

5. STAFF UPDATE

7. ADJOURN

Committee Member Earney motioned to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Seconded by Planning Commission Liaison Marotz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.