

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Earney opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Committee Members present: Chair Gene Earney, Denise McDowall Seyko, Renee Rossman, Planning Commission Liaison Scott Martoz and Council Liaison Dick Backlund. Those Absent: Committee Members Debbie Kelly and Katrine Nau (Katrine Nau was on the telephone (speaker phone) with the Parks Advisory Committee throughout the meeting). Also Present: Public Works Director Michael Goebel, Gina Hugo from Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District and Bill Bonder from Sherburne County Soil and Water.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member McDowall Seyko motioned to accept the October 13, 2009 minutes as presented. Seconded by Planning Commission Liaison Martoz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3A. DISCUSS MCDOWALL PARK – OAK SAVANNA RESTORATION

Gina from Sherburne County Soil and Water informed the Committee that the City of Big Lake was approved a \$4,000.00 grant from Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. The grant money is designated to the Oak Savanna Restoration Project. The Committee reviewed the budget for the project and the draft timeline that was provided in the packet of the growing season for 2010 activities in the McDowall Park Oak Savanna Restoration Project. Gina discussed National Pollinator Week, which will be held June 21, through June 27, 2010. Discussion followed regarding partnership between the City of Big Lake and Sherburne Soil Water Conservation District to facilitate an event during that time which would relate to education and activities that include plants and insects that improve pollination. Due to the fact that Spud Fest takes place during this week the consensus of the Parks Committee was to schedule the event on June 19, 2010 as a kick off to Pollinator Week. Other items of discussion included funding and the obstacle of parking. Registration for the event was also discussed. Funding options

will be looked into for pursuing grant money for this event. Committee Member Nau made a motion to recommend to City Council that the City of Big Lake in partnership with Sherburne Soil Water Conservation District facilitate a Pollinator Event on June 19, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in McDowall Park. Seconded by Planning Commission Liaison Martoz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

### 3B. DISCUSS LEGACY GRANT

Public Works Director Goebel is waiting to hear back from the landowner regarding a price. This will become a 2010 project as the deadline for 2009 has expired.

### 4. OTHER BUSINESS

The invitation to the Public Open House for the Northstar Commuter Rail was shared. Committee Member McDowall Seyko called for a special meeting on November 17, 2009 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Big Lake City Hall for the Public Open House for the Northstar Commuter Rail. Seconded by Planning Commission Liaison Marotz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Committee Member Nau stated the Community Ed Board is putting together a facility use summary which will include City park use that will be provided to the Park Board.

Public Works Director Goebel made an inquiry regarding a dog park from Elk River. He has not had a response back yet. He will continue to make further contacts.

A reminder was given regarding the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual City of Big Lake Committees Workshop on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Big Lake City Council Chambers.

### 5. STAFF UPDATE

### 6. NEW BUSINESS

### 7. ADJOURN

Committee Member Earney motioned to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member Rossman, unanimous ayes, motion carried.