

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 14, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Earney opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Committee Members present: Chair Gene Earney, Vice Chair Kristi Uphoff, Denise McDowall Seyko, Planning Commission Liaison Scott Marotz, Council Liaison Patricia May and Brad Schnitzler (arrived at 6:11). Also Present: Public Works Director Michael Goebel and Senior Planner Katie Larsen. Committee Members absent: none.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member McDowall Seyko motioned to accept the December 10, 2007 minutes as presented. Seconded by Council Liaison May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

*(the order of discussion was changed)*

3B. COUNCIL APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

The December 10, 2007 Committee Recommendations were reviewed. It was noted that City Council did approve the Committee's Recommendations. Public Works Director stated the ad for the vacant position on the Parks Advisory Committee will be published in the West Sherburne Tribune this week. No further discussion.

3A. ATHLETIC COMPLEX UPDATE, SET DATE TO PRESENT AT COUNCIL WORKSHOP

The Parks Committee reviewed the final draft of the proposed Athletic Complex with all park improvements previously discussed. At this time the Committee feels it is time to present the draft to the City Council. Discussion followed on a Council Workshop date to present the draft. Committee Member McDowall Seyko made a motion to call for a Special Meeting on February 20, 2008 at 7:00 in the City Council Chambers to present at the City Council Workshop. Seconded by Planning Commission Liaison Marotz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Discussion followed regarding canceling the February 11, 2008 Parks Advisory Committee Meeting or not. The consensus of the Committee was to keep the February 11, 2008 Parks Advisory Committee Meeting as set.

Discussion followed in regards to the funding needed for the proposed Athletic Complex and the desire of the Committee to complete the First Phase in its entirety once construction begins. An approximate estimate of the proposed Athletic Park excluding city water/sewer and any additional land is \$3,000,000.00. Public Works Director Goebel will compile financial information for the February 20, 2008 City Council Workshop.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Earney inquired if there has been any progress on acquiring the First Right of Refusal from Mr. Jim DeChene. Nothing is completed. Public Works Director Goebel is waiting on a legal description from Mr. DeChene.

Sherburne County contacted Public Works Director Goebel and expressed an interest in possibly having someone from Big Lake serve on their Sherburne County Parks Board. The Sherburne County Parks Board meets the first Thursday of the month. Public Works Director Goebel will look into this further.

Included in the Parks Committee Packet was the hand out from the Big Lake Sports Association that was presented to the City Council at their last meeting. Committee Member McDowall Seyko inquired as to what direction City Council gave to the Big Lake Sports Association. At this point the City Council favored option number 3 given from the Big Lake Sports Association which would be Dynamics donates land to the Big Lake Sports Association (BLSA) and the BLSA would fundraise and handle the construction of the stadium. The BLSA would retain ownership and liability of the stadium. However, if the BLSA were to dissolve, the City of Big Lake would be the beneficiary of the stadium. City Council has also directed they work with the Parks Advisory Committee.

5. STAFF UPDATE - None

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. BUDGET REPORT

The fund balance as of December 31, 2007 for Regional Parks is \$67,673.18. The fund balance as of December 31, 2007 for Local Parks is \$102,985.27. There are still a few small items that need to be paid out of local parks.

Chair Earney gave an update regarding Big Lake Township's Park. The Township will put in a bituminous trail in the high ground, then going to a trail in the flood plain area. The trail will be approximately one mile long.

The rental of the house in Gallus Park was discussed. At this point the developer is collecting the rental money for the home as it is not City Property yet.

7. ADJOURN

Committee Member Schnitzler motioned to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member Uphoff, unanimous ayes, motion carried.