

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2006**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Uphoff opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. Committee Members present: Vice Chair Kristi Uphoff, Eugene Earney, Brad Schnitzler, Chair Terry Carlson (arrived at 6:26 p.m.) Planning Commission Liaison Scott Martoz and Council Liaison Patricia May. Committee Members absent: Denise McDowall Seyko. Also Present: Public Works Director Michael Goebel.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Earney motioned to accept the August 14, 2006 minutes as presented. Seconded by Council Liaison May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3A. DISCUSS COST ESTIMATE TO INSTALL A TRAIL ALONG HIGHLINE DRIVE

Public Works Director Goebel stated the estimate he received to install an asphalt trail along Highline Drive including the curb cuts was \$76,920.00. Discussion followed regarding the amount of available park funds and the future projection of funds. It was the consensus of the Committee to wait on the project. No action taken.

3B. DISCUSS COST ESTIMATE TO INSTALL LIGHTS BY PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Public Works Director Goebel contacted Connexus Energy for a bid to install lights by playground equipment in various parks. Connexus Energy services all but one park. Approximately eight lights will be needed. Public Works Director Goebel has not received a bid back yet. Connexus Energy forwards the information onto their subcontractor so there is a delay in receiving the bid.

3C. PARK CONSTRUCTION UP-DATE

Public Works Director informed the Committee that Hudson Woods is now graded. The concrete works begins tomorrow and upon its completion the irrigation will be installed and the park will be seeded. The playground equipment is ordered and expected to be installed this year.

Public Works Director Goebel is in the process of designing plans for the park on Putnam Avenue.

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that work in Highline Park will be starting anytime. The black dirt has been delivered for fill in the low areas after that is completed the irrigation will be installed. It was also mentioned of the large amount of oak wilt in this park and Public Works Director Goebel asked the Committee to consider replacing some trees.

3D. ATHLETIC COMPLEX DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed a future regional park and noted that it is in the 5 Year Park Plan for the year 2008. The area that was discussed is the 26 acre bio-solid application site located by the airport on Highway 25. The land is rectangular shape with a 30 foot easement onto Highway 25. Various amenities were discussed along with availability of additional land, the feasibility of the site and the future growth of the City in this area. Mr. Robert Hokstra from the Baseball Association has offered their support of an athletic complex. It was also suggested that a vocational school or local college might use this as a project and draft a plan or sketch of the future park for the Committee. Public Works Director Goebel would like the Committee to visit the site after the crop is harvested. Committee Member Schnitzler motioned to recommend to City Council a 40 acre regional park located on Highway 25 by the airport on the 26 acre bio-solid application site with the purchase of additional land to total 40 acres, which would include the following amenities; 4 baseball fields, soccer fields, a complete concession stand with restrooms, water and storage, a picnic area, a playground area and equipment, an ice skating rink, adequate parking area, shelters with electricity which can be reserved, two basketball courts, a volleyball area, horseshoe pits, irrigation, lighting for the entire park and trees. Seconded by Planning Commission Liaison Martoz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

3E. REWARD PROGRAM

The City Council has expressed their concern regarding the damage/vandalism that has occurred in the various parks. There is a proposal for a crime fund which will be a budgeted item that will be going to the Council for their approval which upon approval will be used for this program. Damage to parks is presently down to minor items. Surveillance signs have been posted in Lake Ridge Park.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that the next Parks Committee Meeting falls on October 9th, which is Columbus Day. A consensus was taken to see if the holiday affected anyone's schedule. Vice Chair Uphoff made a motion to hold the October Parks Committee Meeting on Monday, October 16th instead of October 9th. Seconded by Chair Carlson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

The November meeting date for the Parks Committee was also discussed. No change to

the November meeting date was made.

Committee Member Earney inquired about the trail in Hidden Rivers. Public Works Director Goebel confirmed that piece of trail was taken out and a lift station was installed in that area.

Public Works Director Goebel would like to schedule a time for the Parks Committee to visit the proposed park site along Eagle Lake Road and the river at the next meeting.

5. STAFF UPDATE - None

6. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion took place regarding having a representative from our Park Committee attend the Sherburne County Park Board meetings. Their meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Sherburne County Government Center. The County Park Board consists of 16 people with Pam Thomas as the Big Lake Township Representative. There was interest expressed from Vice Chair Kristi Uphoff on attending some meetings. Public Works Director Goebel will contact the Sherburne County Park Board to get on their mailing list and receive a schedule and we will forward the information onto our Park Committee members. If any Committee member would like to attend the Sherburne County Park meetings they are to notify Secretary Cathy Lindberg who will contact Public Works Director Goebel and the other Committee members.

7. ADJOURN

Committee Member Earney motioned to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member Schnitzler, unanimous ayes, motion carried.