

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

DECEMBER 11, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Carlson opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. Committee Members present: Chair Terry Carlson, Vice Chair Kristi Uphoff, Eugene Earney, Denise McDowall Seyko, Brad Schnitzler, Planning Commission Liaison Scott Martoz and Council Liaison Patricia May. Also Present: Public Works Director Michael Goebel. Chris Stalpes, Dave Kuensler and Julie Vickerman from the Becker – Big Lake Ice Association. Jeff Gaysto, John Michaelis and Tom Campbell from the Big Lake Youth Athletic Association. Jerry Larson and Jay Whiteoak from Big Lake Fast Pitch Association. Mike Morehead from the Big Lake Baseball Association and Jeremiah Mack from Big Lake Community Ed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Uphoff motioned to accept the November 13, 2006 minutes as presented. Seconded by Committee Member Schnitzler, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3A. BIG LAKE YOUTH ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS

Big Lake Youth Athletic Organizations were invited to the Parks Committee Meeting to share with the Committee their needs and wants for their athletic organizations. The Parks Committee's goal is to incorporate the community's needs when planning the future Athletic Complex located on Highway 25.

Public Works Director Goebel updated the organizations that were present of the approved future plans for a 26.6 acre Athletic Complex to be located on Highway 25 with the potential of increasing the size to 40 acres, scheduled for construction in 2008.

The Becker – Big Lake Ice Association had numerous questions. Funding of the arena was discussed. Their research shows 90% of arenas are City built

and funded by the City. They project they need 3 ½ to 4 ½ million dollars for the arena which they propose to divide between different entities if it becomes a corporate project. The Becker – Big Lake Ice Association would propose supplying 1 million dollars with 2 million dollars being supplied by the two City's and the other million supplied by private donors. They are projecting the arena to hold 500 to 700 people. They are still pursuing two other options, one with Dynamics with that property located on Highway 10 and the other option would be in Becker if the Sherburne County Fairgrounds relocates there. Sherburne County is moving forward with their potential relocation plans and is presently doing a feasibility study which should be complete in mid January of 2007.

Big Lake Baseball ages run from 6 years to 16 years. The Legion Team runs from 17, 18 and 19 years old. There are approximately 450 children involved with 130 children playing off of school campus. Big Lake Baseball can keep as many fields as the Parks Committee can build busy. They also stated if the fields are lighted that they can make use of the night time as well. Fall leagues are defiantly growing. The Baseball Association also provides kick backs throughout the year, they made mention they recently gave the school \$25,000.00.

Community Ed noted there are only four soccer fields they are able to use and there are no facilities for adult leagues. The fields vary in size depending upon the different age groups. Community Ed does make use of the green space in the City to practice on. Community Ed has also shown an interest in hosting future tournaments depending upon availability of fields.

Big Lake Softball has also stated the more fields the better for their organization. They are continually increasing in size and play all their fall league games away as there are no home fields available for them. They were interested in the amenities that the new Athletic Complex could offer. Their desires would be a two story concession stand with running water and restrooms, a kitchen facility in the concession stand, a ticket booth, equipment storage area and covered bleachers. They also noted their desire to have the ability to water infields between games.

Discussion also followed between the groups. It was noted that the playground area should not be located too close to the fields in case of stray balls and leaving ample space for the ability to reach different areas in the Athletic Complex by vehicle when bringing in concessions, etc.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Public Works Director Goebel stated that City Engineer, Brad DeWolf from Bolton and Menk, Inc. has donated \$5,000.00 of work to the City in creating a preliminary engineering draft layout of the proposed Athletic Complex. The

26.6 acre City owned land has been previously surveyed. Planning Commission Liaison Martoz stated if Bolton and Menk can give the Parks Committee a footprint of the land he can do some preliminary work on the draft in order to save some money with Bolton and Menk.

Committee Member Earney attended the Sherburne County Parks Commission Meeting on December 7, 2006 and was well received at their meeting. Committee Member Earney distributed copies of his notes and a couple of handouts from the meeting. Their trail system was discussed with the possibility of connecting up someday. Committee Member Earney shared that the Sherburne County Parks Commission has appointed members at large on the Board and it is his recommendation that we request City Council to ask Ewald Petersen to consider appointing a member at large from the City of Big Lake when he is sworn in as County Commissioner. No action taken.

Public Works Director Goebel distributed copies of an e-mail from Mr. Bob Gramsey sent to City Administrator Johnson regarding park fees. Mr. Gramsey asked that the Parks Advisory Committee review the park fees and make a possible recommendation to City Council to set park fees based on valuation of lots according to the actual sale of the lot and have the fees collected at the closing of lot sale or at the time the building permit is issued. Mr. Gramsey also suggested for the fee to be at 3.5%. Discussion followed in regards to the market and how that impacts development. Planning Commission Liaison Martoz made a motion to recommend that the park fees remain at \$3,500.00 with no reduction and not to increase the park fee by \$500.00 in 2007 which is the scheduled increases in 2007, 2008 and 2009 and resume with the scheduled increases in 2008. Seconded by Council Liaison May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Committee Member Earney suggested that the Parks Committee invite a member of the Big Lake Township Board to attend our Parks Advisory Committee Meetings in regards to the future Athletic Complex which is presently located in Big Lake Township. Public Works Director Goebel stated he would invite them.

5. STAFF UPDATE – None

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. SELECT CHAIR

Chair Terry Carlson's term is up for appointment. Denise McDowall Seyko made a motion to reappointment Terry Carlson for Chair on the Parks Advisory Committee. Seconded by Planning Commission Liaison Marotz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

6B. SELECT VICE CHAIR

Vice Chair Kristi Uphoff's term is up for appointment. Discussion followed. Committee Member Schnitzler made a motion to appoint Committee Member Earney to Vice Chair. Second by Council Liaison May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7. ADJOURN

Committee Member McDowall Seyko motioned to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Seconded by Chair Carlson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.