

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

MAY 8, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Carlson opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Committee Members present: Chair Terry Carlson, Brad Schnitzler, Kristi Uphoff, Denise McDowall Seyko, Planning Commission Liaison Scott Martoz, and Council Liaison Patricia May. Committee Member absent: Eugene Earney. Also Present: Public Works Director Michael Goebel and Becker – Big Lake Ice Association Representatives, Kent Vickerman, Chris Stolpus, Brad Paula, Brenda Gust, Mark Ethan and Bryce Green. Dan Loegering of the Big Lake Sports Association. (Dan was unable to stay due to a conflict in time but will update the Parks Advisory Committee on the baseball complex at a different date).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Schnitzler motioned to accept the April 10, 2006 minutes as presented. Seconded by Planning Commission Liaison Martoz, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Chair Carlson authorized item 6A to be discussed before item 3.
(For record keeping purposes, all items are listed in their original order)

3. OLD BUSINESS

3A. REVIEW COST PROPOSAL FOR TRAIL ALONG HIGHLINE DRIVE TO PARKING LOT

Public Works Director Goebel presented a proposal from Universal Enterprises of Mid, MN, Inc., for the paving along Highline Drive to the parking lot in Highline Park. The proposal is for two walkways, one 10' x 186' and the other is 6' x 280' in the amount of \$7,080.00 which will include labor and material. Committee Member Carlson made a motion to accept the proposal from Universal Enterprise of Mid, MN, Inc. Committee Member McDowall Seyko, seconded the motion, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Public Works Director Goebel asked if the Board would like to visit any other sites. The Board is to let him know if they would like to visit any sites in the future.

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that the American Legion donated

two more park benches. Committee Member Schnitzler made a motion to accept the donation of the two benches from the American Legion. Seconded by Council Liaison May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that vandalism is taking place in some of the parks. Some of the park name signs have been painted. The Public Works Department was able to remove most of the paint. Lighting was discussed for Lake Ridge Park and Shores of Lake Mitchell Park. Public Works Director Goebel will bring back prices on lighting.

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that the City owns approximately 20 acres by the airport and additional land alongside the 20 acres is available. This site was discussed regarding a potential future site for a regional park. Public Works Director will check into the financing of the site. He also asked the Committee to drive out and look at the site.

5. STAFF UPDATE

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

The Becker – Big Lake Ice Association is registered as a non-profit organization. The Association resides in District 10 Hockey. The Association presented a handout to the Parks Committee which was then reviewed. The handout contained their Mission Statement, short and long term goals, the projected growth of the area, along with demographics for both Becker (City / Township) and Big Lake (City / Township) and a comparison of Sartell / St. Stephens demographics. Their current situation is the majority of ice time is purchased in St. Cloud. Family's average driving is 2 to 5 times a week to practices and other locations for games. Last season approximately 20 new families did not join due to the lack of a local arena. With the increased demand of ice time in surrounding communities the Becker – Big Lake Ice Association cannot schedule adequate ice time to support their organizational needs. The solution the Association is proposing is to build a single sheet indoor ice arena to support the needs of the youth hockey. The arena details were reviewed. The estimated cost of the arena is 3.5 to 4.5 million dollars. Areas of revenue were discussed along with proposed expenses. Ideally the Association would like a commitment from the City (which could be divided between the different entities, City Township and Parks) for 1.5 million dollars. The Association is also in the process of obtaining a gambling license. The estimated income from pull tabs is approximately \$8,000.00 a month. The Association is looking at three different locations for the arena, one in Big Lake Market Place, one location in Becker and the other being centrally located.

Discussion resumed after the Becker – Big Lake Ice Association left. Presently there is no funding mechanism through the Parks Committee for hockey. The possibility of City bonding was discussed along with raising park dedication fees, with both scenarios needing

to be approved by Council. The Parks Advisory Committee will wait to see how the Association progresses.

Discussion took place regarding an additional ball field in Highline Park and facilitating the additional parking. Public Works Director Goebel was holding off on the irrigation until the decision is made regarding the ball field. Public Works Director Goebel will bring back prices on leveling the area and on irrigation.

7. ADJOURN

Committee Member Schnitzler motioned to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member McDowall Seyko, unanimous ayes, motion carried.