

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2013**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Katrine Nau opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Committee Members present: Janae Stern, Denise McDowall Seyko, Eugene Earney and City Council Liaison Nick Christenson. Also Present: Public Works Director Michael Goebel. Those Absent: Committee Member Renee Rossman and Planning Commission Liaison Scott Marotz.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Earney motioned to accept the October 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Committee Member McDowall Seyko, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

(The order of discussion was changed, moving Item 6C forward)

6C. PRESENTATION: SHERBURNE COUNTY HEALTH / HUMAN SERVICES

Matt Jackson with Sherburne County Health / Human Services spoke to the Committee regarding his work on the State Wide Health Improvement Program Grant (SHIP Grant). The first portion of the grant is completed. The City of Big Lake received a portion of the funds which was used towards the revision of the City's web-site. The second portion of the grant will focus on tobacco free outside space policies which could include parks, athletic facilities and golf courses throughout the County. Jackson distributed handouts. This is a limited grant with money available now until June. Discussion followed. There are free generic signs available if the Committee wanted to place them in the parks. City Council Liaison Christenson will bring this item for discussion at the next City Council meeting and further discussion will take place at the next Parks Advisory Committee Meeting.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3A. INTRODUCTIONS TO NEW COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE – NICK CHRISTENSON

Introductions were made by the Parks Advisory Committee Members to the new City Council Member Nick Christenson who will now serve on the Parks Committee. City Council Member Liaison Christenson was welcomed to the Parks Committee.

3B. RIVER OAKS PARK OPEN HOUSE DATE (?)

It was the consensus of the Board to have the River Oaks Park Open House on Sunday, June 2nd from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Possible ideas for the day's activities include Outfitters, Fish and Wildlife Services, geocaching, a bon-fire, smores with Boy Scouts assisting with campfire safety, gift card give away, mock campsite set ups, and a suggestion box for River Oaks Park Improvements at the Expo. City Council Liaison

Christenson will bring the suggestion box idea to the Council for their consideration and to see if any Park Committee Members could be present at the booth during the Expo.

3C. DISCUSS RIVER OAKS BUILDINGS

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that Contractor Ken Geroux walked the buildings with Public Works Director Goebel to see if any of the buildings could facilitate an indoor / outdoor shelter. Mr. Geroux thought the price would be too much per square foot to transform any of the buildings for a shelter. An option that was discussed was to burn the buildings for Fire Department training. There was also discussion on the property's septic system, which is a newer system with two holding tanks and a drain field. Committee Member McDowall Seyko made a motion to recommend the buildings be burned by the Big Lake Fire Department. Seconded by Committee Member Stern, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

3D. DISCUSS ADJACENT PROPERTY NEXT TO RIVER OAKS PARK

Public Works Director Goebel was in contact with the property owners of the adjacent land next to River Oaks Park, they are still interested in selling their property. It is approximately 8.2 acres of dry land. There was no price stated at this time. Public Works Director Goebel also wanted to keep the property owner informed of the progress of the Park.

3E. ANNEXATION PROCESS – RIVER OAKS PARK

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that Big Lake Township was in favor of allowing the property to be annexed into the City. The paper work for the annexation is almost complete at Sherburne County.

3F. PROGRESS UPDATE ON RIVER OAKS PARK

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that the clean-up at the park is going good and the trail along the river is almost complete. There is still much tree trimming to be done.

3G. DISCUSS PARK DEDICATION BUDGET

The total Park Dedication Budget to date is \$98,300.00, this does reflect the first half of the apartment complex (located by the North Star) fees.

3H. DISCUSS CITY PROPERTY BY AIRPORT

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that he has been in contact with some of the local farmers to get a feel for the interest in purchasing the property. Discussion followed on the need for additional City ball fields and a possible solution would be lights. Chair Nau will contact Brad Schnitzler regarding setting a possible meeting date with various organizations and entities to discuss this need.

3I. 2013 GRANITMAN BIG LAKE TRIATHLON, AUGUST 3, 2013

This item was an FYI for the Parks Advisory Committee.

3J. 2013 LUPIS FOUNDATION EVENT, MAY 18, 2013

This item was an FYI for the Parks Advisory Committee.

3K. GET OUTDOORS EVENT – SET DATE (?)

It was the consensus of the Parks Advisory Committee to have one outdoor event this year and that event will be the River Oaks Park Open House.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee the date for the Jaycees Fishing Contest is set for February 23rd from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Board that there was some damage in McDowall Park to signs, garbage cans and bird houses.

5. STAFF UPDATE - None

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. APPOINT CHAIR

Committee Member McDowall Seyko made a motion to recommend Katrine Nau to serve as Chair for the Parks Advisory Committee. Seconded by Committee Member Stern, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

6B. APPOINT VICE CHAIR

Chair Nau made a motion to appoint Janae Stern as Vice Chair. Seconded by Committee Member McDowall Seyko, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

6D. DONATION FROM ELK RIVER LIONS of \$2,000.00 – PICNIC TABLES (10) FOR RIVER OAKS PARK

This item was an FYI for the Parks Advisory Committee. The picnic tables are being built by the Public Works Department.

6E. JACOB TURNNER AND EAGLE SCOUTS BUILT AND INSTALLED 6 BIRD HOUSES, 2 BAT HOUSES IN MCDOWALL PARK

This item was an FYI for the Parks Advisory Committee.

6F. POLICY FOR ALLOWING ADDITIONAL MEMBERS ON PARK BOARD

Presently the bi-laws for the Park Board are for seven members. Chair Nau stated that there is interest from City residents to serve on the Park Board. Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons in changing the number of Board Members. Committee Member Earney made a motion to recommend increasing the Park Board Members to nine with a minimum of seven members. Seconded by Committee Member Stern, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7. ADJOURN

City Council Liaison Christenson motioned to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member Earney, unanimous ayes, motion carried.