

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2013**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Katrine Nau opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Committee Members present: Katrine Nau, Denise McDowall Seyko, Eugene Earney, Renee Rossman, Planning Commission Liaison Scott Marotz and City Council Liaison Nick Christenson. Also Present: Public Works Director Michael Goebel, Police Chief Joel Scharf, Economic Development Commissioner Doug Hayes and Sherburne County Community Health Coordinator Matt Jackson. Those Absent: Committee Members Janae Stern.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Planning Commission Liaison Marotz motioned to approve the February 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Committee Member Earney, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3A. DISCUSS SMOKING BAN

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that the Parks Advisory Committee's recommendation to implement a smoking ban in City parks went before City Council. City Council requested that the Park Board come up with a sample ordinance. Police Chief Scharf shared his concerns regarding implementing and enforcing a smoking ban in City parks, especially in Lakeside Park due to lack of police staff. He also expressed his concern of having an ordinance on the books if it could not be enforced. Public Works Director Goebel shared his concern that the burden of enforcement of the ban not fall on Lakeside Park Attendants. Committee Member Rossman stated she is not in favor of implementing a smoking ban in City parks. Discussion followed if the smoking ban could be implemented in the smaller City parks with the exclusion of Lakeside Park. Community Health Coordinator Matt Jackson will check to see what the specific guidelines are from the Tobacco Free Youth Recreation in regards to free signage and with the state in regards to funds.

3B. RIVER OAKS PARK OPEN HOUSE

The Open House for River Oaks Park is set for Sunday, June 2, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Chair Nau is in contact with Clearwater Outfitters. Some other organizations and businesses that the Committee would like to have participate are the Boy Scouts, the Refuge, 4-H, Soil and Water Conservation and the Big Lake Fire Department. The Committee discussed placing bird houses in the park, having frisbee golf, geocaching, and a suggestion box. Discussion followed regarding delegation of duties and responsibilities. Committee Members will email Chair Nau during the month with their ideas and contacts.

Public Works Director informed the Committee that the house on River Oaks Park property is scheduled to be burned by the Big Lake Fire Department on April 6th after the asbestos is removed. The Big Lake Fire Department will also burn the brush pile in the park.

3C. UPDATE ON PROPERTY BY AIRPORT

The property by the airport was discussed at the last Council Workshop Meeting. Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that it will be discussed again at the next Council Workshop if anyone would like to attend. Public Works Director also contacted Dan Loegering regarding the property.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that the warming house and skating rinks are officially closed for the season.

Public Works Director Goebel stated with Soil and Water Conservation and the surrounding communities in Sherburne County we are preparing for Emerald Ash Bore. Volunteers are needed to do tree surveys in each community. If anyone is interested they are to let Public Works Director Goebel know. Committee Member McDowall Seyko volunteered.

5. STAFF UPDATE

Public Works Director Goebel is advertising for season part time help.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. DISCUSS GET OUTDOORS EVENT NEXT WINTER

Discussion took place regarding holding a "Get Outdoors Event" next winter. Some ideas that were mentioned were ice fishing, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, polar plunge and snowmobile rides. Committee Member McDowall Seyko stated that the Jaycees and Spud Fest are possibly going to plan a winter event after the fishing contest on the same day. It was discussed that the Park Committee could partner with these other organizations for the event.

7. ADJOURN

Planning Commission Marotz motioned to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by City Council Liaison Christenson, unanimous ayes, motion carried.