



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 1, 2006 - 6:30 p.m.**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City of Centerville held the regularly scheduled meeting on February 1, 2006, at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

Present: Chairperson Tedd Peterson
Committee Member Suzanne Seeley
Committee Member Linda Merkel
Committee Member Kevin Amundsen
Committee Member Kathy Peil

Council: Jeff Paar

Staff: Kim Stephan

Approved

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

Chairperson Peterson called the February 1, 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. SET AGENDA

Motion was made by Committee Member Peil, seconded by Committee Member Seeley to set the February 1, 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Agenda as is. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

III. APPEARANCES

Mr. Drew Johnson, Report on the Adopt a Wood Duck House Project

Mr. Drew Johnson made an appearance to give a final report on the Adopt a Wood Duck House Project that has now been completed for his Eagle Scout Project. There were 31 wood duck houses built and installed, 15 of which were in Centerville. Mr. Johnson supplied a map of Centerville locations and pictures of some being installed and after completion. The total project cost was \$1,158.43 of which the City of Centerville provided \$565.97. City Council approved \$700 for this project, but because of donations received from those who adopted wood duck houses, the additional \$134.03 was not requested from the City. Mr. Drew Johnson said the project took a lot more time than he had originally anticipated and some modifications had to be made to his plan to accommodate Anoka County in placing some of the houses in the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park. The houses placed around the marshes had to be

done differently with poles and netting. Most of the houses were in place after the wood duck nesting season so Mr. Johnson was not able to answer if the houses were being used by wood ducks or not. Overall, Mr. Johnson was happy with the project and felt it was a success. The committee asked Mr. Johnson to keep the committee updated after he had presented his project to the Boy Scout Council.

Ms. Lisa Hockert, Centennial Youth Hockey Association

Ms. Hockert made an appearance to discuss the Centennial Youth Hockey Association's goal to accomplish a new ice arena for the Centennial Community at the Schwan's Super Rink expansion in Blaine. Also in attendance was Mr. Paul Erickson who is with the National Sports Center.

Currently, the Centennial Youth Hockey Association (CYHA) has 668 players, 550 families, who skate at the Centennial Arena and the Schwan's Super Rink. The CYHA and teams are renting up to 700 hours (over and above local rinks) at arenas in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Fridley, South St. Paul and East Bethel; at times up to 25 miles from home. The association would rent more hours if they could find them. The CYHA has made a down payment to secure rights to 860 prime hours on one of the new rinks at the Schwan's Super Rink, which will open in October 2006. Ms. Hockert reported Centennial is the 12th largest out of 160 youth hockey associations in the State of Minnesota, and the largest association in Minnesota Hockey's District 10. The new sheets would be NHL size; the existing four (4) sheets are Olympic size.

Mr. Erickson gave a brief history on ice rinks in general, such as there are 280 indoor ice arenas in Minnesota, of which 80 were built on city property and are owned and operated by a city. The cities of Lexington, Circle Pines, Centerville and Lino Lakes have never been involved in an ice arena business, though the school district built the Centennial Ice Arena, which involved tax payer monies. The City of Andover has recently built an indoor ice arena which cost \$4.2 million and is completely owned and operated by the City.

When the Schwan's Super Rink was built in 1998 it involved six (6) cities and two (2) counties. Four (4) sheets of ice were built at the cost of \$750,000 per sheet. Mighty Ducks Grants were available at the time, which reduced the price to \$500,000 per sheet. With the first build, the CYHA purchased ½ sheet of ice for \$150,000. With the expansion of four (4) more sheets of ice the price is \$1,000,000 per sheet and there are no grants available at this time. If the cities back the Anoka County HRA Bonds, the price can be reduced to \$780,000. Anoka County also wants to ensure cities back 1,340 hours of ice per year. Mr. Erickson stated there is no problem booking ice from September through March, winter hours have always sold out. The Schwan's Super Rink is state owned, non-profit and self supporting. The ice rate is set yearly in the budget to be self maintaining. Chairperson Peterson questioned when the funding would be required, to which Mr. Erickson stated the expansion is currently under construction, opening in October 2006 and the funding needs to come from the City's 2006 budget. It was asked whether there is room for future expansion. Mr. Erickson said there is potential for two (2) more sheets of ice, but some soccer fields would be lost.

The CYHA is recommending that the Cities of Centerville, Circle Pines and Lino Lakes share the backing of 1,340 ice hours/year for 20 years. Of the \$780,000 for a sheet of ice, the CYHA will contribute \$680,000 and the three (3) cities will collectively contribute \$100,000. The City of Lexington has only 1% of the players involved in the CYHA and will not be involved in this project. The formula used to calculate the cost to each city was the population of the cities and percentage of hockey players in each. Of the 668 players registered, Centerville has 13.5%, Circle Pines has 8.0% and Lino Lakes has 69.0%. The financial breakdown would be Centerville \$16,000, Circle Pines \$14,000 and Lino Lakes \$72,000. If the ice hours are not sold, the same formula would be used to calculate the costs to each city. Both Ms.

Hockert and Mr. Erickson gave multiple examples of how the hours are always sold, there are always waiting lists and different associations have demands much greater than the supply.

The CYHA currently uses approximately 1,600 hours of ice time by all programs, but the 44 teams also buy ice on their own. The CYHA raises money through charitable gambling. There is an agreement with the Schwan's Super Rink to be able to host a tournament on four (4) sheets of ice for one weekend a year, which is also used as a fund raiser. The Schwan's Super Rink is committed to having a strong Figure Skating Program, as well as Open Skating and a Senior Skating Program.

Ms. Hockert and Mr. Erickson have already met with the City Administrator, Mr. Larson; prior to attending the Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting and with the recommendation of the committee they would like to attend the next City Council Meeting. Council Member Paar requested this item be added to the February 8, 2006 City Council Agenda. Chairperson Peterson explained that while the Committee supported the project, the funds could not come from the Parks & Recreation Committee's budget at this time because of commitments to funding other projects. Committee Member Peil said she certainly agreed to the concept and felt there was virtually zero risk. All Committee Members and Council Member Paar thought this was a great opportunity for all the Cities involved.

Motion was made by Chairperson Peterson, seconded by Committee Member Amundsen to recommend to City Council consideration of the proposal submitted by the Centennial Youth Hockey Association and the Schwan's Super Rink and to allocate general fund monies to support the project. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Peterson mentioned at this time that the Committee was considering putting a cover over the current hockey rink in Centerville as it has been difficult to keep ice. There has only been skateable ice for about 10 days this season. Even if the temperatures are below 30, the white concrete pad holds the heat and it is thought it would help considerably to shade it from the sun. There is a tent rented each year during Fete des Lacs to cover this area so this would also eliminate the need to rent any further tents. This is in early discussion stages, but Chairperson Peterson asked if the CYHA would be able to help with this venture. Ms. Hockert stated while the CYHA has committed to raising funds for the new ice arena, they often use charitable gambling funds to support the communities and suggested going to their web site at www.centennialhockey.org for an application to apply for funds.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

January 4, 2006 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Committee Member Seeley, seconded by Committee Member Merkel to approve the January 4, 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes as is. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

SCORE Funds

The committee was supplied with a copy of a memo from Mr. Brad Fields, Director, Integrated Waste Management, to Anoka County Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah answering questions regarding the use of SCORE Funds in Anoka County. Also included was State Statute regulating the use of these funds. Chairperson Peterson stated Mayor Capra has contacted Mr. Fields and is still pursuing the use of SCORE Funds for park equipment made from recycled materials. The committee felt these guidelines were not

clear, nor were the questions answered directly. Committee Member Seeley stated the following statement would most likely rule out the use of funding for park equipment; ***'may use the money only for the development and implementation of programs.'*** Committee Member Peil felt, however, the statute could be interpreted as being about developing programs and what the committee needed to do was to create a program around recycling and using recycled products. The committee does not understand why a park made from recycled material does not qualify as educational. Signs can be provided by the manufacturer stating exactly what all the equipment is made from such as how many tires it required to supply the shredded material used in the fall zone. Brochures can be created and distributed at the park as well as at the schools. Presentations could be done as to what the park was made from. The committee will proceed with the plans for the park without counting on any SCORE Funds, but will continue to pursue the idea of using SCORE Funds.

Earth Day Participation

The Wargo Nature Center held a meeting tonight regarding their plans for the upcoming Earth Day. As it was scheduled for the same time as the Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting, committee members were unable to attend. The Wargo Nature Center is very involved in Earth Day and committee members and residents are always encouraged to participate. Committee members will contact Wargo independently if they would care to be involved in the Wargo Earth Day Celebration. The committee discussed ideas to do within Centerville on Earth Day and opted to clean up our parks as in the past years. Both Chairperson Peterson and Committee Member Peil are already involved in Little League clean up projects in the Centennial area and will not be able to be involved with the Parks & Recreation Committee on Earth Day. Committee Member Seeley volunteered to be the contact person for volunteers. Ms. Stephan will put the information on the web site and on the next committee agenda for discussion.

VII. UPDATES

Requesting Donations from Local Businesses for Play Structure at Laurie LaMotte Park

Ms. Stephan, Chairperson Peterson and City Administrator, Mr. Dallas Larson drafted and sent a letter to all local businesses requesting donations for the play structure at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park. At this time one business, Center Frame & Wheel Alignment, has sent a \$50 donation. A thank you letter has been sent to Mr. Kruger.

Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park Play Structure

The committee met at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park on Saturday, January 21, 2006 to discuss the placement and type of play structure for this park. A representative met with the committee from EF Anderson, a distributor of play structure equipment.

Chairperson Peterson looked at parks in other communities that also used wood chips and the problems were the same as in the parks in Centerville. The representative from EF Anderson was to supply the committee with parks in the area which use the recycled shredded tires as the medium for the fall zone, but we have not heard back from them at this time. Chairperson Peterson wants to talk to maintenance workers in parks who have used the recycled material to determine what type of problems, if any, that they have had, before making a considerable investment in the material.

The benefits & disadvantages of different equipment were discussed. Mr. John Meyer, Finance Director, informed Chairperson Peterson that if the committee was spending \$10,000 to \$50,000 they had to acquire a second bid. Game Time is one of the other companies that the City has used for equipment in the past

and the committee was considering some of their equipment. Chairperson Peterson will contact Game Time to see if they can send a representative out, perhaps to the next committee meeting.

Review of Skate Night with Horse Drawn Hayride & Bonfire

Unfortunately, due to the unseasonably warm weather, there was not ice on the rinks for skating, but the committee still held the bonfire and horse drawn hayride. The event was well attended in spite of the lack of ice and the committee felt it was a success.

St. Paul Water Utility Property on Centerville Lake

The following update to the committee was from Mr. Dallas Larson, City Administrator regarding the property at 1601 LaMotte Drive.

Council passed a motion scheduling a public hearing for February 22, to consider an application for grant funds from Minnesota DNR and authorized a request that capital bonding funds to be allocated to DNR for a grant for Centerville to purchase the land at 1601 LaMotte from St. Paul Regional Water. This is one last shot at securing grant dollars to buy the land along Centerville Lake. The City would close the purchase on about one-third of the property now and execute an option agreement to buy the balance. We need to make sure we are not committed to buy anything that we are requesting grant reimbursement on. The application to DNR would request 100% funding on the remaining land or about \$350,000. We are hopeful to get at least one-half of that amount. The council made it clear that it doesn't want to do anything to jeopardize the ability to purchase the entire property at the agreed price, but want to secure grant funds if it is possible. It is expected that a decision on the grant would be made in July, so if unsuccessful, we will plan to proceed with the purchase at that time.

The committee does not want this process to become lengthy as it has already been in the works for years. They also do not want to take a chance at losing the property. Council Member Paar assured the committee that the City Council felt the same way and simply wanted to fully explore the possibility of receiving a grant.

Committee Member Seeley, Mayor Capra, Mr. Paul Palzer, Public Works Director/Building Official and Mr. Joel McPherson, Building Inspector all toured the house on the property on January 26, 2006. The feeling was the house was still in really good shape and it was a shame to have to tear it down. The committee discussed the option of moving it if the cost of tearing it down could be applied instead to the cost of moving it. There has been interest by the Centerville Lions to use the house as the Lion's Haunted House. The Centerville Lions are looking at various possibilities of where the house could be moved to within Centerville and getting bids to move the house to see if it is even a possibility.

Church of St. Genevieve Trail Easements

Chairperson Peterson previously brought up concerns regarding the easements not being recorded on the plat of St. Genevieve's new addition. A copy of a Warranty Deed was supplied to the committee which includes a legal description of the perpetual easement for public trail, drainage and utilities purposes over, under and across; then describes the property. The representatives of the church have this agreement, but as of yet, have not signed it.

Chairperson Peterson met with City Administrator, Mr. Dallas Larson and Mr. Tom Wilharber, representative of St. Genevieve's Church, to look at the trail easements on the church property. The church is also currently looking at getting a variance from the City as there is a problem with the location

of the driveway at the current addition site. The Parks & Recreation Committee had made a recommendation, which council approved, to request an easement from the Church in the northwest and southeast corners of the property to allow connection to trails and City property. Mr. Larson had requested an easement all along the south of the property where there is already a Met Council easement for a forced main. Mr. Wilharber stated the church would have a problem with an easement along the southern edge of the property as the church had other plans for that area. Chairperson Peterson stated that speaking on behalf of Parks & Recreation Committee he did not have a problem removing the language for the southern easement as long as the City still has an easement on the northwest and southeast corners of the property. Anoka County has an easement along Centerville Road. There is an existing sidewalk in front of Chauncey Barret and the downtown redevelopment plan shows a sidewalk on both sides of Centerville Road in the down town area.

VIII. FINANCIALS

The committee had requested a financial report specific to the Parks & Recreation Committee be included in each monthly packet. Chairperson Peterson met with Mr. John Meyer, Finance Director, to explain what information the committee would like to see provided in the monthly financials. Committee Member Amundsen questioned why it was shown that the entire amount of the park property at 1601 LaMotte Drive was being paid by the Parks & Recreation Committee when it was his impression when the decision was made to buy both of the lots that the City would find a way to finance part of the property. The committee also questioned why there are still items listed in the statement that were completed in 2004 and 2005 such as the parking lot at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park. It is listed as needing to be moved back to the General Fund. Chairperson Peterson will follow up with these questions and report back to the committee. Chairperson Peterson also pointed out to the committee that listed under Projected Liabilities is a TE Trail Grant Match for 2008 of \$71,250. If the City receives this grant it will connect Meadow Lane & Chauncey Barret to Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park & Clearwater Creek Trails.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Committee Member Amundsen, seconded by Committee Member Peil to adjourn the February 1, 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting at 8:38 p.m. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Transcribed by Kim Stephan