



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, October 4, 2006 - 6:30 p.m.**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Parks & Recreation Committee of the City of Centerville held the regularly scheduled October 4, 2006 meeting at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

**Present:** Chairperson Kathy Peil  
Committee Member Suzanne Seeley  
Committee Member Linda Merkel  
Committee Member Kevin Selander  
Committee Member Carrie Jakober

Approved

**Absent:** Committee Member Kevin Amundsen

**Council:** Council Member Jeff Paar

**Staff:** Kim Stephan

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**1. Roll Call**

Chairperson Peil called the October 4, 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park where the committee met to tour the park. They also viewed 1601 LaMotte Drive and Tracie McBride Memorial Park, meeting back at City Hall at 7:15 p.m.

**II. SET AGENDA**

Ms. Stephan requested an update of the Center Street Trail Stub be added.

**Motion was made by Chairperson Peil, seconded by Committee Member Seeley, to set the October 4, 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Agenda with the above addition. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

**III. APPEARANCES**

**IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**September 6, 2006 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**

Committee Member Seeley requested the word 'quested' be changed to 'questioned' in the following sentence on page 2. *Mr. Palzer quested whether the committee wanted to reuse the sand which will be removed from the park.*

Committee Member Seeley requested the following sentence on the top of page 3 be changed to reflect a rain garden type of drainage opposed to a rain garden. *The committee discussed whether or not a water fountain could be installed using some type of rain garden for the water runoff.*

Committee Member Seeley also asked to clarify the paragraph on page 3 regarding the CommUnity Impact Grants from Home Depot in that the response in the minutes were from the City Attorney and it was never the Parks & Recreation Committee's intention to involve the Centennial School District.

**Motion was made by Committee Member Merkel, seconded by Committee Member Seeley, to approve the September 6, 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes with the above corrections. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

## VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### **Oath of Office - New Parks & Recreation Committee Members**

Chairperson Peil administered the Oath of Office to both the new committee members; Mr. Kevin Selander and Ms. Carrie Jakober and welcomed them to the committee.

### **Tracie McBride Memorial Park Renovations**

The committee received a letter from Mr. Josh Nelson who is 10 years old and lives near Tracie McBride Memorial Park. Mr. Nelson's letter requested renovations for the park that would include moving the sandboxes over towards Brian Drive making room for a baseball or football field. Ms. Stephan also received suggestions from a teenage resident requesting the City consider football fields at either Tracie McBride Memorial Park or Acorn Creek or both. It was said that on any given fall night there are football games being played by the neighborhood kids at both parks and even a small football field would be great.

Chairperson Peil did not bring in the playground equipment catalogs, but will do so at the next meeting. Chairperson Peil will also meet with Mr. Paul Palzer before the next committee meeting to determine exactly what needs to be removed from Tracie McBride Memorial Park and when it can be done.

The committee discussed having a full court basketball court at Tracie McBride Memorial Park and the advantages and disadvantages to having lights. Having lights may disturb the neighboring residents, but Committee Member Seeley stated that without lights it would really limit the playing time during the school year. The lights would not have to be very high for this purpose and they could be on a timer to shut off at say 9:00 nightly. The committee discussed having a football field either at Tracie McBride Memorial Park or Acorn Creek Park. Acorn Creek has a lot of unutilized open space and the committee would like to consider not only a football field at this park, but a parking lot as well. There is currently no parking.

### **Consideration of Shelter at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park**

The committee questioned if the City were to build a picnic shelter at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park and wanted to install a water fountain, could it be done without installing sewer by having the water run off into a rain garden type drainage area?

Mr. Palzer, Building Official, said state code does allow for this and it could be done.

Chairperson Peil informed the new members that there is approximately \$24,000 in charitable gambling funds that were donated to the City by the Spring Lake Park Lions a few years ago and has been held for warming house renovations. Currently there are no further renovations that are going to be done to the warming house so these monies could be used for a shelter at this park.

Chairperson Peil questioned what is the purpose of the structure? The committee felt the main purpose would be shade and water for those families who are involved the sporting activities at the ball fields. The committee questioned would it be better to have bleachers or picnic tables? Bleachers would limit the shelter to games only, but picnic tables would limit the seating at the games. Chairperson Peil stated we have catalogs specific to just shelters. Concrete will probably be the most expensive item. The water may also be expensive since it would have to be run quite a distance.

### **1601 LaMotte Drive / Centerville Lake Property**

Some questions that came up when the committee toured the property were: 1) Do we own the parcel where the pump house sits and if so, are we responsible for removing the pump house also? 2) If we do not own the pump house parcel, can we put up a privacy fence around it to hide it from the view of the park and/or to keep children from playing in that area?

The committee discussed the fence that currently surrounds the property and whether just the gate should be removed and the rest of the fence left up, basically to keep people who are using the park from encroaching on the neighboring properties. The fence in front is surrounded by lilac bushes. A fishing pier is being considered, though there were objections from the abutting properties concerning a pier. The committee thought perhaps a dock with a 'T' at the end and seating would be a nice addition. Chairperson Peil stated there are often grants available for fishing piers. The committee has many upcoming projects and expenditures so whatever is done at this park will probably be done in phases.

The committee needs to consider a name for the new park at 1601 LaMotte Drive. Committee Member Amundsen had suggested a name at the last committee meeting that reflected the park being environmentally friendly, such as EcoPark. Mayor Capra suggested as the City's 150th birthday approaches in 2007, a name reflecting the heritage and history of the City might be appropriate. One suggestion was Heritage Landing. The committee liked the name Heritage Landing, but one concern was 'landing' implies boat launch and there will be no boat launch at this site. There may also be confusion over Heritage Landing and Heritage Lab, which is in the Anoka County Chain of Lakes Regional Park. The committee will come up with some ideas before the next committee meeting.

The committee discussed indoor bathroom facilities at 1601 LaMotte Drive opposed to a satellite. There is indoor plumbing at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park, but the bathrooms cannot be open without an attendant at the park. The same rules would apply to 1601 LaMotte because of liability issues. If a satellite is used at 1601 LaMotte Drive there are various places it could be hidden from view or an enclosure structure could be built.

Ms. Stephan reported the City is waiting further information regarding the following issue concerning this property:

Mr. John Meyer, Finance Director and Mr. Paul Palzer, Public Works Director were out visiting the new park property and reviewing the work for the demolition of the house and garage and remembered that the storm sewer system at that driveway is not complete from the 2004 street improvements. **An email was sent by Mr. Palzer to Mr. Mark Statz, City Engineer with the following questions:**

*Do you have plans for the completion of the storm sewer system? Does it include a pond on the new park property or just some piping and a rain water garden type structure? Let me know if you have a plan and if this needs to be reviewed by the Rice Creek Watershed prior to completion of the work.*

**Update from Mr. Palzer September 25, 2006:**

*We are waiting for a plan from Mr. Mark Statz, City Engineer, for the new park property. We are hoping to put whatever they come up with along the south property line.*

**Update from Mr. Dallas Larson, City Administrator, on the demolition of the house and the DNR Grant:**

*The demolition proposal presented at the last City Council meeting for the building demolition appeared a bit high. We have requested a proposal from another area company and should have that for consideration shortly. All inquiries to move the home have resulted in the determination that it isn't cost effective.*

*Our request for a DNR grant to purchase the remaining St. Paul Water parcel was approved in the amount of \$150,000. Finance Director, Mr. John Meyer, is working on the grant agreement and related paper work. We should be able to close on the remaining land by mid November.*

**VII. UPDATES**

**YMCA Summer Program(s)**

Committee Member Amundsen will update the committee on this item at the next scheduled committee meeting.

**Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park Play Structure - Sod & Trail Stub**

The sod has been installed for a cost of \$2,178.00. This exceeded the original quote (not to exceed \$2,000) as more sod was needed than originally estimated. The sod was laid approximately 15' further to resolve a potential drainage problem. The trail stub has been installed.

**Forming Subcommittees**

Since there is a significant amount of research & planning to be done before spring 2007, the committee formed subcommittees breaking them into the following:

1) Tracie McBride Memorial Park & Acorn Creek Park (Chairperson Peil, Committee Member Jakober, Council Member Paar) 2) Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park Shelter (Committee Members Amundsen & Selander) and 3) 1601 LaMotte Drive (Committee Members Seeley & Merkel).

### **Pheasant Marsh 3rd Addition / Center Street Trail Stub**

Pheasant Marsh, 3rd Addition has completed paving and curb. Bike paths and restoration are in the process of being done. Mr. Tedd Peterson, Public Works Staff, walked the proposed trail through Pheasant Marsh 3rd and the extension to Center Street with representatives of JR Hill (the company installing the trail) and Bonestroo (City's engineering firm) to insure the placing of the trail and the curves on the trail were conducive to plowing. The City is working with JR Hill to install the trail stub from where the Pheasant Marsh trail ends to Center Street. The idea was this was the opportunity to install this trail stub as without the stub the Pheasant Marsh trail will just end in the field. Some issues have come up however, that will put the Center Street trail stub on hold. The abutting property owner at 1890 Center Street has a fence and landscaping installed on the utility easement of the out lot, approximately 30' outside of their property line. The City asked the property owner to remove the fence and install it back within their property line. The homeowners report they were told years ago the property was theirs. In researching the property, the out lot is not owned by the City as was previously thought by City Staff, but was tax forfeiture in 1992 and is owned by the county. The City is currently pursuing the option of buying the out lot from the county and working with the property owner to resolve the issue.

### **Update from Mr. Dallas Larson, City Administrator:**

#### **Downtown Redevelopment**

*The City's grant application to Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development will have a decision in October. The grant focuses on Block 8, which is the block north of the city property. (This concerns the Parks & Recreation Committee as the grant mentioned above includes multiple trail stubs).*

*We met with Father Fitzgerald of St. Genevieve to discuss an option on the property they own next to the lake (rectory). He indicated that they may consider an option for later purchase, but they are not interested in parting with any property at the present time. I am working with the City attorney to draft an option agreement that would give the City the opportunity to buy the property if they decide to sell.*

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by Chairperson Peil, seconded by Committee Member Seeley, to adjourn the October 4, 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting at 8:20 p.m. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

Transcribed by Kim Stephan