



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 1, 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 November 1, 2006 meeting at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

Present: Vice-Chairperson Suzanne Seeley
Committee Member Kevin Amundsen
Committee Member Linda Merkel
Committee Member Kevin Selander
Committee Member Carrie Jakober

Approved

Absent: Chairperson Kathy Peil

Council: Council Member Jeff Paar

Staff: Kim Stephan

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

Vice-Chairperson Seeley called the November 1, 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

II. SET AGENDA

Vice-Chairperson Seeley requested a discussion of Chairperson Peil's resignation and a nomination for a new Chairperson be added to the agenda.

Motion was made by Committee Member Amundsen, seconded by Committee Member Merkel, to set the November 1, 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Agenda with the above addition. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

III. APPEARANCES

Mayor Capra made an appearance and briefly discussed the Anoka County Sesquicentennial with the committee.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

October 4, 2006 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Vice Chairperson Seeley requested the word ‘concerns’ be changed to ‘concern’ in paragraph 5, page 3 of 5. Vice-Chairperson Seeley also requested clarification in the next paragraph, same page, that the committee was discussing indoor plumbing at 1601 LaMotte Drive, opposed to a satellite.

Motion was made by Committee Member Amundsen, seconded by Committee Member Jakober to approve the October 4, 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes with the above corrections. Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Abstain – 1 (Amundsen). Motion carried.

VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Resignation of Chairperson Kathy Peil from the Parks & Recreation Committee

Chairperson Peil resigned from the Parks & Recreation Committee effective November 1, 2006 with the following email:

Hello Park Members,

I am not able to attend tonight’s meeting and unfortunately am going to officially resign from the committee at this time. I am not able to dedicate the time necessary to remain productive to this committee. I hope all goes well with the projects that are coming up this summer! P.S. I insist that there be no city funds spent on a plaque! Kathy Peil

The committee will send a card of appreciation to Ms. Peil instead of ordering a plaque per Ms. Peil’s wishes.

Vice-Chairperson Seeley agreed to be the interim Chairperson, but would prefer not to make it official until the committee recruits two (2) new members. This item will be added to next month’s agenda for discussion.

City of Centerville Code of Ethics

Included in the packet was a copy of the City of Centerville Code of Ethics. This needs to be signed yearly (in January) by all committee members, but the new members need to review it and sign it to finish out the current year.

Completed forms were given to Mr. John Meyer, Finance Director.

Centennial Youth Hockey Association - Use of Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park Hockey Rink for the 2006-2007 Season

Mr. Brian Hronski, Outdoor Ice Coordinator for the Centennial Youth Hockey Association (CYHA), sent a request to the committee regarding the use of Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park ice rink for the 2006-2007 hockey season. CYHA would like to use the rink for outdoor ice as they have in the past and are requesting extended dedicated hours.

The committee discussed the association's request for additional ice time and opted to keep the days and hours the same as in the past seasons, allowing Centerville residents access to the ice with the exception of 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Motion was made by Vice-Chairperson Seeley, seconded by Committee Member Amundsen to recommend to City Council approving the Centennial Youth Hockey Association's use of the hockey rink for the 2006-2007 season with a dedicated half sheet of ice from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. and a dedicated full sheet of ice from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. All in Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

The signed waiver from CYHA has been received by the City.

Centennial Youth Hockey Association's Use of Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park for Dry Land Practice

CYHA requested the use of Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park for Dry Land Practice from August 10, 2006 through September 2006. This was approved by the committee and by City Council, but CYHA was unable to use that time. CYHA again requested the use of Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park for Dry Land Practice beginning in October and running through the start of outdoor ice. I sent the request directly to City Council with the guidelines set in the previous Parks & Recreation Committee's recommendation and City Council approved it at the October 11, 2006 City Council Meeting. CYHA is currently using the facilities at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park for Dry Land Practice. The City has a current schedule and a list of coaches using the facility.

Open Skating Coupons for Schwan Super Rink

When the City of Centerville entered into the agreement to support the Schwan Super Rink's expansion, it was agreed the City would receive passes to coordinate some type of City event and offer free ice time to residents. City Administrator Larson recently received 48 Open Skating Coupons and would like to pass them on to the Committee to determine a use for them.

The committee discussed possible ways to use these coupons, but really could not make a decision without further information. Council Member Paar questioned why 48 coupons were given to the City? He remembered free ice time for Centerville residents for a community event, but did not specifically remember how it was proposed be offered to residents and neither did the committee members.

The committee also questioned: 1) Whether Centerville residents get a discount at open skate days, and if so, what is the discount. 2) The City received 48 coupons for free skating at open skating. Is this what we are supposed to use for Centerville's Parks & Recreation's skate night functions? Will the City get these every year? 3) Does the City of Centerville get a discount if we rent the whole sheet of ice for just our residents for a Parks and Recreation event, and what would that cost be? 4) If the city of Centerville's Parks & Recreation Committee sponsors a skate day for the residents do we get a discount for the rental party area, and what is that cost? Council Member Paar said he would contact Lisa Hockert, President of CYHA, to get more information. This will be discussed at the next scheduled committee meeting.

Consideration of Dedication of Park at 1601 LaMotte Drive during the Anoka County Sesquicentennial

Mayor Capra requested this item be passed onto the committee for discussion:

I met with the Anoka County Sesquicentennial committee for the 150th of Anoka County. They wanted to know if we (the city) would like to have the formal dedication of the lake property park be part of the official Anoka County sesquicentennial celebration.

I told them I would get back to them. After their suggestion I thought maybe we could have the park open as soon as it is completed, but hold a formal dedication during our Fete des Lacs celebration. I would like to have the Parks & Recreation Committee discuss this at their next meeting and provide input back to the council.

The committee liked the idea, depending on when and where the dedication would take place. It was not clear to the committee when the Anoka County Sesquicentennial begins or takes place. If the celebration is in May, the park won't be ready to open. The park should be ready to formally open by August, during Fete des Lacs. The committee needs clarification on the timing of the event.

Motion was made by Committee Member Amundsen, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Seeley to recommend to City Council proceeding with the plans to dedicate the park at 1601 LaMotte Drive during the Anoka County Sesquicentennial, but having the formal opening of the park during Fete des Lacs. All in Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

Replacing Skate Park Equipment

Public Works supplied pictures of the skate park equipment that was removed due to damage and suggested not ordering replacements from Sun Ramp as it was felt the quality was not as good as some of the pieces from other vendors. Replacement parts were checked into to repair the existing pieces that were removed, but Public Works Staff found this not to be a feasible option.

The committee questioned whether it was due to vandalism or wear and tear. Ms. Stephan thought it was both. From the pictures it looked like the pieces were chipboard. With both Committee Member Peil and Committee Member Peterson resigning from the committee there is no longer any 'institutional knowledge' of the skate park and the equipment installed. The committee does not know how many pieces were removed, what the pieces are that were removed or what it needs for replacements. They questioned whether Mr. Peterson could be asked to stop by the next scheduled committee meeting and update the committee as to what was removed and what needs to be replaced. Ms. Stephan will invite Mr. Peterson to attend.

Available Property in Peltier Preserve

Per Mr. Dallas Larson, City Administrator:

Would you let the P & R Committee know that a representative of the owner of Lots 4, 5 and 5a, of Peltier Preserve, has asked if the City is interested in buying these lots for a park? I told him that it would be unlikely that we could afford them, but that I would pass his idea on to P & R for their feedback.

The representative who met with Mr. Larson also dropped off pictures of a similar park in Lindstrom (for comparison) a memo regarding 'why it would make a great park' and information about possible funding through The Minnesota Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, for the committee's consideration.

Two of the committee members live in the area and are familiar with the property. Committee Member Amundsen said he thought the lots were originally selling for \$180,000 each, but there has been difficulty in selling them at that price. He questioned whether there were any pre-existing agreements with the developer stating a park could not be put in that development. Vice-Chairperson Seeley thought she remembered the developer specifically did not want to give the City property, but residents in the area were interested in a park at the time this was developed. The committee would be interested in knowing what type of price the owner was looking for, what kind of funding or financing could be available, and could the City buy one or two lots or does it come as a package of all three? The committee would be interested in further discussion depending on the price. The committee would not see this as a high maintenance park, but perhaps as a canoe launch.

VII. UPDATES

YMCA Summer Program(s)

Committee Member Amundsen spoke with Ms. LaChelle Williams, the representative from the YMCA who met with the committee last spring regarding the YMCA offering Park Play Days at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park in July & August of 2006. Both sessions were cancelled by the YMCA as there was not enough interest to warrant holding the program. Committee Member Amundsen questioned how the program could have been better promoted to get resident participation and asked whether the YMCA would be interested in trying the program again in 2007. Ms. Williams stated the new YMCA building is in the process of being built and next year there should be space and staff available for programs to be held at the YMCA building. While the idea of programs at the parks in Centerville is still an option, it has not been well attended in the last few years.

The committee discussed why the programs are not working at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park. This last season it was short notice, but the information was on the cable channel, the web site and the City sign. Flyers were available at City Hall and at local businesses. The only thing that was done differently in previous years was copies were also sent out in the Friday Flash from Centerville Elementary School. This was not done in 2006. Committee Member Jakober stated as a parent of young children in daycare it would not work for her to leave work and pull her children out of daycare to bring them to a 2 hour program in the middle of the day. Most daycare programs provide the same types of activities the YMCA program is offering. Children are involved in so many activities that parents have to be selective in the programs because of time constraints and limitations on families. The committee questioned whether this was something that should be pursued further? Committee Member Amundsen will talk to Ms. Williams again and determine what her position is on this and the committee will revisit this item in February or March 2007.

Pheasant Marsh 3rd Addition & Center Street Trail Stub

Per City Administrator Larson, the City Engineer is satisfied with the as-built grading plan for Pheasant Marsh 3rd Addition and the City can begin by issuing up to five permits for model homes. Additional requirements will need to be met before occupancy permits can be granted.

Included in the packet is a copy of the Park Dedication Fees paid by Ground Development for Pheasant Marsh 3rd Addition in the amount of \$84,000.

The Pheasant Marsh 3rd Addition trail & the Center Street trail stub should be completed within the next week. The base is in place, but the contractor has been waiting for some of the sections to dry out before laying the asphalt. Included in the packet is the invoice from James R. Hill, Inc. for surveying costs associated with the Center Street trail stub in the amount of \$850.

The committee requested monthly financials be included in their packets. This request will be forwarded to the Finance Director.

Acorn Creek Park & Tracie McBride Subcommittee Updates

The committee questioned at the last committee meeting whether both parcels shown on the map of Acorn Creek Park belonged to the City as it wasn't clear where the boundaries were. Ms. Stephan checked the PIN numbers for both parcels with Anoka County and found both parcels are owned by the City. The committee wanted to know if there was enough room for both a parking lot and a football field, which it appears there is. Council Member Paar talked to City Administrator Larson to inquire about the possibility of grants for football fields. Mr. Larson said those type of grants were very difficult to get, but he would check with Mr. Meyer, Finance Director. Council Member Paar also stated that some of the Council Members were concerned with lights on the field at Acorn Creek Park and 'light pollution'. Council Member Lee is involved in youth football and will check with Lino Lakes representatives to see if they are interested in participating financially in a field in Centerville. Council Member Lee also said that the younger football players don't use goal posts, which could eliminate some of the costs.

There were no subcommittee updates on Tracie McBride Memorial Park. Chairperson Peil was on this subcommittee and the committee does not know if she talked to Mr. Palzer about any of the demolition issues at the park. The committee briefly discussed leaving as much of the park 'green' as possible, with picnic tables closer to the shade of the existing trees, possibly a Frisbee Golf Course near the rear of the park. The subcommittee will continue to explore the ideas of a full size basketball court and/or gazebo at Tracie McBride Memorial Park.

1601 LaMotte Drive – Centerville Lake Property

The committee discussed shelters and gazebos and whether it would be more cost effective to purchase a prefabricated gazebo or have one built. The consensus was prefabricated products in general are more expensive and less quality. Committee Member Selander has an architect in his family whom he will ask to take a look at both 1601 LaMotte Drive and Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park and possibly give suggestions.

Committee Member Merkel questioned what would be done with the well access in the middle of the property. Ms. Stephan will direct this question to the Building Official, Mr. Paul Palzer. Vice-Chairperson Seeley said while passing the lake property she noticed the gate was not locked and wondered why not? Ms. Stephan will check with the City Administrator and report back to the committee.

Vice-Chairperson Seeley looked at maps for Centerville Lake and the depth in front of the park property is shallow at approximately 5' or less. If a fishing pier were installed it would have to be a really long pier and probably would not be feasible.

The committee is not ready for a park name at this time; the feeling is a name will probably come up naturally as the park evolves. Committee Member Amundsen has been gathering information from the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) and various vendors who deal in environmentally friendly products. The idea is to make this park into a demonstration type area where lake front property owners can see various ways to set up their own lakeshore to create less run off from streets and prevent products like fertilizer from running into the lake. Both Centerville and Peltier Lakes are green partially from fertilizer run off. Committee Member Amundsen would like to see a curb knock out where lilac bushes are now and have a rain garden installed. He also stated RCWD has all kinds of grants for rain gardens. The lake shore itself needs to be cleared of the plants that have been growing unchecked for years and replaced with native plants. It was questioned if the plants that are currently there have been growing for years aren't they native plants? Committee Member Amundsen said no, the vegetation that is currently there are not native; they are noxious plants like buckthorn. Native plants in the water also helps to prevent erosion.

City Administrator Larson reported at the October 25, 2006 City Council Meeting that there hadn't been any viable proposals to move the home, so the contractor will be given authorization to proceed with demolition. The City is closing on the remaining portion of the property on November 21, 2006.

The storm sewer system at that driveway is not complete from the 2004 street improvements. Mr. Dallas Larson, City Administrator, reported the plan is to grade a temporary drainage swale/rain garden to get the water away from LaMotte Drive to the southerly edge of the property. Further drainage and treatment, if needed, would be incorporated into a final park development plan.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Committee Member Amundsen, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Seeley, to adjourn the November 1, 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting at 8:45 p.m. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.