



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, February 7, 2007 - 6:30 p.m.**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Parks & Recreation Committee of the City of Centerville held the regularly scheduled February 7, 2007 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  
Committee Member Lori Harris

Approved

**Absent:** Committee Member Darrin Mosher

**Council:** Council Liaison Tom Lee

**Staff:** Staff Liaison Kim Stephan  
Mr. Paul Palzer, Public Works Director  
Mr. Mark Statz, City Engineer

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**1. Roll Call**

Vice-Chairperson Seeley called the February 7, 2007 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

**II. SET AGENDA**

Vice-Chairperson Seeley requested appearances by Mr. Trevor Weigel, Eagle Scout Project and Mr. Doug Porter, Centennial Soccer Club be added to the agenda. Also added by Vice-Chairperson Seeley was a discussion under Committee Business regarding a letter received February 7, 2007 from Mr. Mark Spitzmueller, President, Bald Eagle Water Ski Shows, Inc.

**Motion was made by Committee Member Amundsen, seconded by Committee Member Merkel, to set the February 7, 2007 Parks & Recreation Committee Agenda with the above additions. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

**III. APPEARANCES**

**Mr. Trevor Weigel** made an appearance to discuss some questions he had regarding a potential Eagle Project. He had previously attended a Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting to get ideas for upcoming projects the committee may be able to use his assistance with. Mr. Weigel suggested that for his Eagle Project he could move all the lilac bushes, replant them along the property borders, remove the fence and reseed where the house was previously

located at. Committee Member Amundsen said the plans have changed regarding the fence, which the St. Paul Water Utility will move as soon as they are able this spring, relocating it to their pump house property on the northern property line. Also, the pavilion may need to go where the house used to be so that area will not be completely reseeded. Vice-Chairperson Seeley stated that the committee would certainly like to work with Mr. Weigel, but the park plans are currently still evolving and asked whether he would be interested in working on rain gardens, lake shore erosion or other landscaping projects. Mr. Weigel said he would be interested and is meeting with the Eagle Scout Council in the next month and will have a better idea of exactly what type of requirements are necessary to meet his goals. He will keep the committee informed.

**Mr. Doug Porter, Field Director for the Centennial Soccer Club**, made an appearance to discuss the use of the fields at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park. Mr. Porter presented a letter requesting the use of the fields. This will be added to the March 7, 2007 committee meeting agenda for a recommendation to City Council. It was briefly discussed whether parking would be a problem with the Centennial Soccer Club using the facilities at the same times as Centennial Lakes Little League. Mr. Porter and the committee members did not think it would be a problem, but will ask both groups to let the City know if parking does become a problem.

**Mr. Mark Statz, City Engineer & Mr. Paul Palzer, Public Works Director, 1601 LaMotte Drive**

At the January 10, 2007 City Council Meeting, City Council approved up to \$1200 for engineering services to the Park Committee for the 1601 LaMotte Drive park planning. Council Member Lee gave the following update to the committee: There is an existing easement, for a water pipe, running through the new park property. We can not build within this easement. Council has funded and requested that the City Engineer, Mr. Mark Statz, attend the next Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting to identify the location of this easement and assist in locating an allowable foot print for the pavilion. Mr. Statz was also instructed to assist the committee in determining the feasibility, technical requirements, specifications and design elements of the desired artesian well fountain.

Mr. Dallas Larson, City Administrator, contacted the St. Paul Water Utility regarding moving the fence at 1601 LaMotte Drive and was told the St. Paul Water Utility would like to relocate the fence from the front of the property to the new property line between the pump house property and what the city now owns. They will do the relocation in the spring, as soon as possible after the frost is out of the ground. Mr. Larson also reported that the surveyor that did the original work for St. Paul Water Utility wanted about \$1,200 to locate the trees on a plan and to stake the water main location. Bonestroo's firm will do it for about \$500.

The following was an outline for the discussion, prepared by Vice-Chairperson Seeley and Mr. Statz.

**Park Improvement Plans for 1601 LaMotte Drive, Centerville**

**1. Define Park Improvements**

- a. Rain Garden
- b. Gazebo / Pavilion
- c. Shoreline Restoration
- d. Grading
- e. Artesian Spring Usage
- f. Rain Garden
- g. Drinking Fountain
- h. Electrical
- i. Open Area
- j. Trails (Porous)
- k. Benches
- l. Bike Racks
- m. BBQ Grills

- n. Signage
- o. Checker / Chess Board on Stump of Tree Near Lake

## **2. Identify Research / Information Needed to Proceed**

- a. ADA Requirements for Trails
- b. Shoreline Restoration

## **3. Outline Dependencies / Progression**

- a. Map Ideas
- b. Cost Estimates of Improvement Ideas
- c. Sketches / Concept Plan
- d. City Council Approval

## **4. Define Bid Requirements**

- a. Bids Needed / Requirements of Bid Process
- b. Deadline for Bids
- c. Deadline for Improvements

Mr. Statz explained if the project is \$50,000 or more the City is required to advertise for bids and the lowest bid has to be taken. If the project costs are \$10,000 - \$50,000, the City is required to have multiple quotes, but does not have to necessarily take the lowest quote, depending on the issues involved. Mr. Statz stated it is possible to split projects off and go with different contractors on different items, but if possible it is advantageous to use just one contractor so if there is a problem the City does not have multiple contractors trying to decide who is responsible for the problem.

Mr. Statz supplied pictures of some example rain gardens and stated this would potentially fulfill the requirements with the Rice Creek Watershed District from the 2004 Street Project, directing water runoff to the rain garden(s) from the two catch basins on LaMotte Drive. Mr. Statz did also say however, that some places just do not work for rain gardens, depending on the soil conditions. Mr. Statz provided the committee with a copy of a letter written to Mr. Karl Hammers, Rice Creek Watershed District, by the previous City Administrator, Ms. Kim Moore-Sykes, on June 23, 2004, that in summary says; *"The City intends to develop a storm water treatment feature that will maximize land available for active use. To accomplish this, the City anticipates implementing an enhanced grass swale or biofiltration system to remove storm water pollutants."* Mr. Statz feels a rain garden and/or a swale incorporating the artesian spring would accomplish this objective. Vice-Chairperson Seeley has talked with Ms. Dawn Dubats, RCWSD, regarding information and funding possibilities, as well as potentially using this as an educational site. Ms. Dubats stated the RCWSD would be able to help with a plan, calculating how large the garden has to be, as well as selection of plants and possible funding. The committee would like to include interpretive educational signs where relevant. Committee Member Amundsen stated the committee would like a rain garden in front of the property and a grassy natural area near lake shore. The intentions are not to have a dock or beach area. In discussing how to take care of the lakeshore erosion problem, Committee Member Amundsen said the Anoka County Conservation Department informed him that rip rap (boulders along the lakeshore) is not a good option because it just dissipates the water to the sides affecting the neighboring properties. Mr. Statz said there are many viable ways to stabilize the lake shore that can be looked at.

Committee Member Amundsen asked Mr. Statz whether the City was required to have ADA accessible trails and if so would we be able to use porous materials which may not be as easily accessible to wheelchairs. Mr. Statz thought that the trails/walkways could be a porous material, but a walkway directly to a gazebo, for instance, would have to be ADA accessible. He will check on this and report back to the committee. Mr. Palzer asked the

committee to consider what they would like to do for parking, if the parking was to be the Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park, do we incorporate a crosswalk between the two parks?

Mr. Statz supplied the committee with an informative printout from The Minnesota Department of Health on 'Commonly Asked Questions About Springs'. The artesian well/spring at 1601 LaMotte Drive cannot safely be used for drinking water because it is difficult to determine where it is being fed from and the chances of the water being contaminated are quite high. The options are then to use it as a fountain or a running stream. The pipe is currently a foot below ground level, the department of Public Health states the City needs to seal it or bring it a foot above ground. Mr. Palzer stated as the pipe is raised pressure will be lost so it really can't be determined at this time whether there will be enough pressure to operate any type of fountain. Committee Member Harris said what she envisioned was the sound of water, even a trickle, going over rocks, possibly into a pond or swale and running down to the lake.

Mr. Statz discussed the possibility of 'mass grading' the entire parcel all at one time, but the conclusion was made that if many of trees are to be saved, mass grading would not be appropriate. Committee Member Amundsen asked if Mr. Statz or Mr. Palzer knew what the manhole cover was for that is located on the property, where does it come from or go to and can we get rid of it? Mr. Palzer stated he had talked to the St. Paul Water Utility and to previous tenants of the house who thought it was probably sanitary sewer, but Mr. Palzer says it is not sanitary sewer. Mr. Palzer is not sure what it was used for and suggested monitoring it this spring.

Vice-Chairperson Seeley also informed Mr. Statz and Mr. Palzer that the committee would like to burn a checker / chess board into one of the big tree stumps near the lake shore after the tree is cut down. Mr. Palzer expressed concern that something like that would be vandalized, but Committee Member Harris said volunteers would burn the board into the wood so it isn't costing anything and felt it was worth going ahead with even if it does get vandalized. The committee also discussed the desire to have bike racks at this park, to which Mr. Palzer replied he thought there were some at Public Works that could be used. Mr. Statz asked the committee to consider whether they wanted electricity or lighting and where it would be placed.

Brief discussion was had on whether to allow pets in the park or not. Vice-Chairperson Seeley said it is too difficult to make a rule and then not be able to enforce it, also stating we haven't had problems with pets in the parks before and would prefer to continue letting people be good citizens and clean up after their animals.

Mr. Statz asked if the committee felt the easement should be staked out, to which Committee Member Amundsen replied no that would be more costly and is not necessary. Mr. Statz will have Bonestroo shoot all the trees, include them on the survey map, as well as the contours of the property and get the map to the committee within a week or so. He will also supply cost estimates for the improvements the committee has discussed. The committee will then provide the costs and a sketch of park improvements to City Council. Chairperson Seeley asked Mr. Palzer how much help could be expected from Public Works. Mr. Palzer replied there would be limited Public Works Staff available to help as spring is a very busy time and their schedule would probably not allow it. He did suggest looking into a work crew from the prison. The committee discussed the size of the pavilion / shelter at both 1601 LaMotte Drive and Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park and whether it would be possible to have two smaller ones at 1601 LaMotte opposed to one larger one. Committee Member Selander asked whether the committee would like to invite representatives of a manufacture of pavilions or a contractor to the next meeting. Vice-Chairperson Seeley stated not at this time, simply because then there is pressure to go with that particular company. Pavilions will be discussed in greater depth at the work session.

The committee would like to schedule a work session for the purpose of discussing park improvements for 1601 LaMotte Drive, on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at Centerville City Hall. Ms. Stephan will ensure this meeting is posted.

#### IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

##### January 3, 2006 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chairperson Seeley requested rain garden be added to the following list from page 6, last paragraph: *The items the committee would like to have completed before the dedication would be: A pavilion, barbeque grills, picnic tables, 5 or 6 permanent benches, bike racks and ultimately a fountain made with the artesian well.*

**Motion was made by Committee Member Merkel, seconded by Committee Member Amundsen to approve the January 3, 2007 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes with the above addition. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

##### Chairperson / Vice-Chairperson of Parks & Recreation Committee for 2007

The following motions were made at the February 7, 2007 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting:

**Motion was made by Committee Member Amundsen, seconded by Committee Member Merkel to nominate Vice-Chairperson Seeley as Chairperson of the Parks & Recreation Committee for 2007. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Member Seeley accepted the position of Chairperson.

**Motion was made by Chairperson Seeley, seconded by Committee Member Selander to nominate Committee Member Amundsen as Vice-Chairperson of the Parks & Recreation Committee for 2007. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Member Amundsen accepted the position of Vice-Chairperson.

##### Replacing Skate Park Equipment

At the January 9, 2007 City Council Meeting the Council approved on a 3-2 vote, the use of \$17,383.12 by the Parks & Recreation Committee for Skate Park Equipment.

A memo and Rhino Ramp price list from Dan Wagner, Dura Fun, was emailed to the committee and included in the packet. Dura Fun is the only distributor of Rhino Ramp equipment in Minnesota and Wisconsin. City Administrator Larson requests the committee get an additional bid. Committee Member Merkel will research getting another bid. Council Member Lee reminded the committee that assembly should also be part of the quote.

##### Naming of the Park at 1601 LaMotte Drive

Chairperson Seeley listed all the names that have been suggested. They are as follows:

- 1601 LaMotte Drive Park
- Clearwater Spring Park
- Turtle Bay Park
- Heritage Point Park
- Heritage Park
- Centerville Park
- Centerville Heritage Park

- Settler's Landing
- Point Park
- Hidden Spring Park
- Millennium Park

The committee discussed the merits of each name and voted. The committee thought Heritage Park would be confused with Heritage Lab in Wargo Nature Center and felt the word 'point' was misleading as there is not a point on the property. The committee considered Centerville Park as a tribute to Centerville and Centerville Lake, but thought there would also be confusion as many people refer to the beach at the Anoka County Chain of Lakes Regional Park as Centerville Beach. The committee felt Centerville Heritage Park was too long and did not feel the use of the word 'landing' would be appropriate as there is no landing and did not want to misrepresent the park as having a boat landing.

The committee's vision for this park has the theme of educating the public in eco-conservation, environmentally friendly and ecologically sound ways to preserve our green spaces. The committee plans to use rain gardens, permeable, porous type materials for trails, lakeshore restoration with native plantings and the use of the artesian well in some type of natural fashion, perhaps having the water run into a swale or a pond. The committee would like to name the park after the artesian well that was found on the property and call it Hidden Spring Park.

**Motion was made by Vice-Chairperson Amundsen, seconded by Chairperson Seeley to recommend City Council consider naming the park at 1601 LaMotte Drive Hidden Spring Park. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Request from Centennial Lakes Little League for Use of Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park Ball Fields for the 2007 Season**

The Parks & Recreation Committee received a letter from the Centennial Lakes Little League requesting the use of the Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park ball fields and the same service provided by Public Works Staff in regards to grooming the fields prior to games. This would be the same schedule as was approved in 2006. At this time, no other requests for the ball fields have been received. The Centennial Lakes Little League has worked with the city in the past donating all the backstops and purchased an attachment for the tractor, which is used in grooming the fields.

**Motion was made by Chairperson Seeley, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Amundsen to recommend City Council approve the request from Centennial Little League to use the three baseball and softball fields and facilities located at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park for the summer months of 2006 beginning April 1 through August 15, 2007, Monday through Friday from 4:00 p.m. until dark with the same service provided by Public Works Staff in regards to grooming the fields prior to games. All in Favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

**VII. UPDATES**

**Skate Night at Schwan's Super Rink – Horse Drawn Hay Ride at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park**

Included in the packet is a copy of the contract with Bunker Park Stable for the Horse Drawn Hay Ride. This was signed by Mr. Dallas Larson, City Administrator and a check for the full amount was sent to Bunker Park Stable, along with directions to Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park. Committee Member Amundsen volunteered to be the contact person and will meet the Bunker Park Stable Staff at the park. It was not necessary to purchase any supplies for hot chocolate and popcorn. The wood will be moved from Public Works to the park, Committee Member Mosher supplied wooden pallets. Mr. Palzer will call the Fire Department and ask if they can show up at the park at 8:45 p.m. and put the fire out.

The committee discussed the event at Schwan's Super Rink being held on Saturday, February 24, 2007 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This event is FREE to the community. To gain admittance, residents will need to show a license with a Centerville address or come with a resident of Centerville. This information is on the cable channel, the web site and will be on the City Sign. In addition, the first 48 people will receive an Open Skating Coupon Good for One Free Session of Open Skating. Chairperson Seeley & Committee member Jakober will hand them out to residents at the event.

### **Comprehensive Plan Review**

The Parks & Recreation Committee met on January 17, 2007 at a work session to review the Comprehensive Plan as it applies to Parks & Recreation. Staff supplied Vice-Chairperson Seeley with an electronic copy to which updates have been made for the committee's further review. Vice-Chairperson Seeley questioned whether this could be added to the March agenda opposed to February, as the committee currently has a full agenda for February. Vice-Chairperson Seeley also questioned what was the time frame for the committee to work on this, when does their review and subsequent input need to be finished by, and who is it submitted to? Mr. Dallas Larson, City Administrator responded: The March – April timeframe would be fine as we will be selecting a planner to work with the Planning & Zoning Commission and that process will take a couple of months to complete. It is expected a planner will be on board around April 1, 2007. Feedback from the Parks & Recreation Committee can wait until after that date.

### **Hanzal Plat – Trail**

After a lengthy Public Hearing at the February 6, 2007 Planning & Zoning Meeting, this item was tabled to allow Mr. Hanzal to make possible revisions that would work with a 10' front setback variance opposed to a 20' variance.

### **Available Peltier Preserve Property**

Lots 4, 5 and 5A, Peltier Preserve, which the committee has been looking at for possible park property, has been sold. The City never received an appraisal as requested. Up until recently the property on Anoka County Property Tax Records showed Mr. Ron Lillestrand and Integra Homes as owning the property. When the property was checked 01/29/07 it shows Julie Quale as the owner, with the last sale date being 09/06/06. It is not clear if Ms. Quale was offering to sell the property to the City or if it was Mr. Lillestrand, but the representative Mr. Larson, City Administrator, was discussing this with was Mr. Quale. Mr. Larson talked to Mr. Quale on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 and Mr. Quale said an appraisal would be forthcoming, but probably not before the next scheduled Parks & Recreation Meeting. The property's last sale prices in September were as follows: Lot 4 - \$175,000, Lot 5 - \$195,000 and Lot 5a – no price. The property is apparently still for sale.

### **Peltier Preserve Channel Park Property**

This property, as of 01/29/07, shows the owner as Integra Homes. Integra Homes has not been willing to work with the City to deed the channel park property to the City as originally intended. This item is with the City Attorney to determine if the City has any recourse.

### **Tracie McBride Memorial Park & Acorn Creek Park Renovations**

Committee Member Harris has met with some of the residents neighboring the park to look at various ideas as to what the community would like to see in this park. One idea that was suggested was a type of sand play area. The committee discussed how sand can be a problem with sanitation issues. Committee Member Harris asked what part of the fence surrounding the pump house can come down, if any? Mr. Palzer said the entire fence can come down as just the building will stay and if the committee wants to think about a water fountain, water is easily accessible with the pump house located on the property. Mr. Palzer also stated the pump house needed to be upgraded and the committee could think about colors to match the play structure. The cost of the upgrade would come from the water

fund. The committee decided to more efficiently work on both 1601 LaMotte Drive and Tracie McBride Memorial Park; a subcommittee for Tracie McBride should be formed. Committee Member Harris and Committee Member Jakober agreed to be on this subcommittee, as well as ask Committee Member Mosher if he would like to participate. Ms. Stephan has sent requests to both the Spring Lake Park Lions and the Dead Broke Saddle Club requesting Charitable Gambling Funds for the renovation of Tracie McBride Memorial Park. Donation requests were also sent to all local businesses.

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

Pavilions and shelters were discussed earlier in the meeting.

### **Use of Centerville's Park at 1601 LaMotte Drive as a Viewing / Staging Area for the Bald Eagle Water Ski Shows**

Mr. Mark Spitzmueller, President of the Bald Eagle Water Ski Shows, Inc., was present at the January Committee Meeting to discuss the possibility of the Club using the Park at 1601 LaMotte Drive as a viewing / staging area for the Bald Eagle Water Ski Shows. Mr. Spitzmueller also dropped off a letter for the committee members prior to the February meeting which again stated their desire to possibly use the park after doing some further research on the depth of the water in this are of the lake.

The committee appreciates that the Bald Eagle Water Ski Club has contributed positively to Centerville's community for many years and would like to see the club continue to perform on Centerville Lake. However, due to the shallowness of the lake in front of the new parkland, in combination with the Ski Club's needs, the committee feels the Ski Club's standard, normal activities would conflict with the park's theme of eco-conservation and sustainability. In particular, the following issues are of concern to the committee:

- The large inboard/outboard motor activity in the shallow confines of the area is likely to disturb and/or permanently disrupt the fish, turtle, frog and other lake eco-systems near the beach.
- The wake created by the boat(s) and skiers could exacerbate the shore erosion or counter our efforts to curb the erosion.
- A dock, particularly a lengthy one that would likely be needed to provide adequate depth for large boats, would disrupt the visual continuity of the natural shoreline – where we wish to promote native plant growth.

While the Bald Eagle Water Ski Club's proposed use of the new parkland may not mesh well with the focus and theme of our new park property, the committee would encourage the Club to seek an arrangement with other possible sites on Centerville Lake. Perhaps the Anoka County Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park's developed shoreline area might better accommodate the Ski Club's needs.

The committee would recommend to City Council sending the above response in a letter to the President of the Ski Club, Mr. Spitzmueller.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by Committee Member Harris, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Amundsen, to adjourn the February 7, 2007 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting at 9:45 p.m. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

Transcribed by Kim Stephan