



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, June 6, 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 June 6, 2007 meeting at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

**Present:** Chairperson Suzanne Seeley  
Vice-Chairperson Kevin Amundsen  
Committee Member Darrin Mosher  
Committee Member Kevin Selander  
Committee Member Lori Harris

Approved

**Absent:** None

**Council:** Council Liaison Tom Lee

**Staff:** Staff Liaison Kim Stephan

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**1. Roll Call**

Chairperson Seeley called the June 6, 2007 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**II. SET AGENDA**

Chairperson Seeley requested adding Mr. Trevor Weigel to the agenda under appearances for an update on his Eagle Scout Project.

**Motion was made by Chairperson Seeley, seconded by Committee Member Mosher to set the June 6, 2007 Parks & Recreation Committee Agenda with the above addition. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

**III. APPEARANCES**

**Mr. Trevor Weigel, Potential Eagle Scout Project at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park**

Mr. Trevor Weigel verbally presented his plan to the committee. It will involve removing the current sign and replacing it with a sign the City is purchasing, removing the old retaining wall blocks and replacing them with an oval shaped three tier bed. Mr. Weigel will then fill with

compost, plant perennials and mulch the area. Chairperson Seeley asked Mr. Weigel to present his plan to Mr. Dallas Larson, City Administrator, to have him sign off on it, as well as discuss the plans for the new sign and coordinate the installation.

Vice-Chairperson Amundsen suggested Mr. Weigel dig some of the daylilies from Hidden Spring Park for this project as the daylilies are being removed. Council member Lee asked for a schedule and time frame as to when this project will be completed. Mr. Weigel said he would have the project completed prior to Fete des Lacs.

**Mr. Mike Mastro, 1553 LaMotte Drive, Concerns Regarding Hidden Spring Park**

Residents from LaMotte Drive, Lino Lakes, were in attendance to discuss their concerns regarding Hidden Spring Park. Mr. Mike Mastro, 1553 LaMotte Drive, stated he had attended one of the first City Council meetings where the possibility of purchasing 1601 LaMotte Drive was discussed and he left with the impression that since he lives in Lino Lakes, and this park is in Centerville, that his concerns were irrelevant. Chairperson Seeley assured the Lino Lakes residents that the Committee/City certainly would like to be a good neighbor and welcomes their input.

Mr. Mastro said the biggest concerns of the residents were security and a berm/fence separating the park from abutting neighbors and stated that there were already issues involving misuse of the park. He also felt if the park were administered correctly the park would be a nice addition to the area.

Mr. Roger Hoffmeister, 1589 LaMotte Drive, stated there was already a problem with kids throwing big logs in water causing a hazard for boats and he questioned who do they call with problems like that? They did call the police in that instance, but who is responsible for addressing these issues? The police referred the problem to Public Works.

Mr. Roger Spinner, 1581 LaMotte Drive stated his concerns included the above mentioned items with addition to trash that will get out on the lake and potentially blow down the shoreland. He also mentioned a pier or fishing dock would be a major problem for the lakeshore property owners as the lake is shallow in front of their homes and there are islands which require boats to go past the park property or to the south end of the lake to enter the deeper part of the lake.

Mr. Mike Slettery, 1587 LaMotte Drive, stated his property abuts the park on the south and has noticed that the people who have been using the park, to this point, seem to be local kids and while that is great, they are also experiencing loud noise and graphic sexual language coming from the park. He is also concerned with vandalism and asked if any provision for fencing or marking the property line is planned. Mr. Slettery said he would like the look of a split rail fence to define the property line, but that doesn't do much for noise. He felt a berm and a privacy fence would make it more private. He also stated there is a section of chain link fence that appears to be remaining from the St. Paul Water Utility fence which partially goes down the south property line to his garage and wooden fence posts that are knocked down that looks like it also belongs to 1601 LaMotte Drive. Mr. Slettery is doing landscaping up to this fence in the next few weeks and would like it removed. Ms. Stephan will pass this information on to the City

Administrator and Public Works. Mr. Slettery felt lilac bushes were not enough of a division between the properties. Mr. Slettery asked if park hours were going to be posted, what they would be and would they be strictly enforced. He also suggested a gate be put at both Hidden Spring and Laurie LaMotte Memorial Parks that could be closed when the park was closed as he felt there are misuses of both parks.

Mr. Jack McDonald, 6901 LaMotte Drive, was concerned about the lake quality and requested the committee contact Anoka County, Rice Creek Watershed District and the DNR regarding getting help to clean up the weeds and algae in the lake. Vice-Chairperson Amundsen assured the residents in attendance that the committee was in contact with all of the above agencies and was doing everything possible to make this park an environmentally friendly park. He reiterated this will be an adult park. There will not be a dock, pier or boat launch at this park and after the lake shore restoration is completed it is the committee's desire to have it posted as no fishing or swimming. The residents were in favor of the no fishing or swimming as they felt that would eliminate some of the potential problems.

Mrs. Dorothy Mastro, 1553 LaMotte Drive, added her concern for the speed of traffic going down LaMotte Drive, particularly during ball games and suggested signage reflecting Children at Play or something similar. Chairperson Seeley stated there will not be parking at Hidden Spring Park, but a crosswalk going to the parking lot at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park. This may cause some traffic concerns in the beginning.

Chairperson Seeley repeated the concerns of the residents and stated, as a Park Board, we try and balance the needs of the community with the needs of property owners abutting parks. Chairperson Seeley stated if we close the park up with too much fencing we will not be able to get the policing we need and that is why the fence and lilacs were removed from the front of the property. The lilacs were available and while the cost to relocate them was too expensive, the committee still favors a hedge of lilacs along the south property line. Concerning whom do residents contact regarding problems at the park, Chairperson Seeley said the best option is the police. There is nothing the committee or the City can do if there are problems in the evening, the police will monitor it on a regular basis and any possible problems hopefully will be headed off right away.

Mr. Slettery asked if the committee was in favor of boundary on the property line, such as a fence. Chairperson Seeley said the committee would have to discuss it. The committee was not in favor of a berm or privacy fence, though Mr. Slettery was certainly within his rights to put up a fence if he so desired. Chairperson Seeley did say the committee would look at posting private property signage. Mr. Mastro said he had talked to Mr. Bill Tschida, St. Paul Water Utility, regarding people fishing from their property in front of the pump house. Mr. Tschida stated they would consider adding on to the existing fence extending it to the water's edge to discourage people fishing from this property. Council Member Lee said it may not be possible, as it would also involve the City, RCWD and the DNR.

Chairperson Seeley thanked the group for coming and their valuable input.

Ms. Stephan will pass the information on regarding the fence on the south border of the property and Mr. Slettery's request that it be removed to the City Administrator and Public Works.

Council Member Lee will contact the City Administrator about City Council potentially meeting at Hidden Spring Park prior to the next City Council meeting.

The committee felt installing a privacy fence or a berm between the park and Mr. Slettery's property was setting a bad precedence for other parks and did not feel the expense could be justified. The committee did discuss No Trespassing or Private Property signs as an option.

Chairperson Seeley requested adding to the next meeting agenda the possibility of having some type of event at Hidden Spring Park on August 7, 2007 for National Night Out.

#### IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

##### **May 2, 2007 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Seeley requested the following sentence, on page 3 of 5, be changed from 'a ridiculous amount' to 'exceptionally high'.

*The price for the tables on the bid sheet was approximately \$10,000 which the committee felt was a ridiculous amount for tables.*

**Motion was made by Chairperson Seeley, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Amundsen to approve the May 2, 2007 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes with the above change. Ayes – 3, Nays – 0, Abstain – 2 (Harris, Selander). Motion carried.**

#### V. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

##### **Rescheduling of July 4, 2007 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting**

The Parks & Recreation Committee rescheduled the Wednesday, July 4, 2007 meeting for Tuesday, June 26, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

##### **Certificates of Appreciation for Previous Committee Members**

Ms. Stephan provided certificates of recognition for outgoing committee members.

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

Committee Member Harris updated the committee on the research/planning she has been working on for the renovations to Tracie McBride Memorial Park. The plan included the following:

1. A trail surrounding the park.
2. Leaving the basket ball court as is, but resurfacing the asphalt pad and incorporating painted

- hopscotch and four square onto the pad.
3. Removing the fence that surrounds the back of the building and replacing with a much smaller fence. The building need to be painted.
  4. Expand the swing area to the north and south.
  5. For smaller children, the committee would like to see the bouncy toys put back in, they are a minimal expense, but well used. Area residents with smaller children would also like to see some type of sand box feature added.
  6. Residents have also requested adult benches be added to the park.
  7. Older children have requested a climbing wall and a merry-go-round.
  8. At a future time, the committee would like to incorporate a tennis court. It appears there is enough room.

Council Member Lee felt there was a lot of equipment that is reusable, but some still needs to be removed as it is unsafe. The committee is concerned that there is not enough time or manpower to work on this park. Committee Member Mosher and Committee Member Selander will work with Committee Member Harris.

### **Hidden Spring Park Improvements**

Chairperson Seeley requested clarification on the following letter from Mr. Mark Statz regarding possible cost reductions.

The Hidden Spring Park project was awarded to Veit Construction Co. based on their base bid, plus Alternate 3 (Shoreline Restoration). The total contract amount is \$218,281. We understand that the City Council may wish to reduce this expenditure by reducing the scope of the base bid.

We have reviewed the project which was bid to find items which could be eliminated or scaled back to cut costs. A list of those items (along with estimated savings) in order of our preference follows:

1. Electrical Work (outlet and overhead lights in pavilion)	\$10,000
2. Tree Trimming, Clearing/Grubbing (could be done by Public Works)	\$13,000
3. Rain Garden/Swale Plantings (reduce, but not eliminate)	\$12,000
4. Limestone Outcroppings (in rain garden and along swale)	\$ 7,500
5. Drinking Fountain	\$ 5,000
6. Trash/Recycle Bins	\$ 1,500
7. Grills	\$ 1,000

Since all of these items were part of the base bid, we would need to negotiate a change order to eliminate any of them. The prices shown are only an estimate of what could be saved by removing them from the project.

Mr. Statz replied to Chairperson Seeley's questions:

First, a preface: It would be my preference to keep all the items in the project. I think the items we bid are all integral to the park's success. I'd hate to see the City spend hundreds of thousands

of dollars on the land and improvements and stop \$15,000 short of a great park and settle for a good park.

**Item 2 - Tree Trimming, Clearing/Grubbing** – *This would eliminate all tree work from the contract. Ultimate savings, would depend on how much of the work your Public Works Department could handle. Some of the tree removals are pretty large and should probably be handled by professionals.*

**Item 3 - Rain Garden Plantings** - *My thought here was that we could reduce the number of plantings, but not eliminate all the plantings. The rain garden is part of our obligation to RCWD and we can't just eliminate all the plantings. The total value of all the plantings in the rain garden and swale is around \$27,000. I figured we could eliminate about half the plantings without raising any flags with RCWD (half of \$27,000 is \$13,500). If those plantings were eliminated, we'd have to supplement with special seeding, which I figured would be about an additional \$1,500, thus the \$12,000 savings.*

**Item 4 – Limestone Outcroppings** - *This would remove all the limestone outcroppings in the Rain Garden and Swale (from rain garden to where the two swales connect). The bid tab shows a cost of \$8,150 for these. I have estimated we could get them to agree to \$7,500, as there would probably be some minor modifications which may cost a bit. This would not eliminate the limestone in the Artesian well or on the swale from the well pond to the connection point.*

**Item 5 – Drinking Fountain** – *This would eliminate the drinking fountain and water service to the drinking fountain.*

The committee was supplied with the Hidden Spring Park Project Manual from Bonestroo, but requests the specifications in layman's terms. They would also like a time line of what is being done and when. Both Chairperson Seeley and Vice-Chairperson Amundsen were invited to the pre-construction meeting and will attend, if they are able. Council Member Lee will get specifications and a time line provided to the committee.

The committee was disappointed that with all the research they had done with the Rice Creek Watershed District and Anoka County Conservation Department, supplying Mr. Statz with all the documentation on rain gardens and lake shore restoration, that none of this information was used. Neither of the representatives the committee had worked with were contacted. The committee felt strongly about using the recommendations from the Anoka County Conservation Department.

The committee also feels strongly that some of the planting selections are not appropriate for a rain garden and would like to see a list of plantings before the plants are ordered. They also do not believe the option of removing half of the plantings from the rain garden to save money is feasible, as it will defeat the purpose and make the rain garden less effective.

The committee discussed all of the options to potentially reduce costs, but felt there was nothing that could be cut that would make a significant difference, except for engineering fees. While the committee understands the need for engineering, they do not understand how the engineering

fees became so high to oversee the construction of the park. The committee questions whether this is a necessary expense or if moving forward, staff can oversee the construction, reducing engineering costs.

The committee would like to leave Alternative #2, Picnic Tables in the bid. These are tables made with recycled materials that will be heavy and bolted down as to not be vandalized. The committee did not feel \$7,600 for tables and \$1,000 for benches was out of line for ones that will be permanent.

**Motion was made by Chairperson Seeley, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Amundsen to recommend that City Council accept the bid for Hidden Spring Park as is, including Alternative #2, Picnic Tables and potentially reducing the amount of engineering services required. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **VI. UPDATES**

### **Ollie & Company, Skate Board Competition**

The event is being held Saturday, June 16, 2007, with an alternate rain date of the following Saturday, June 23, 2007. Information is posted on Ollie & Company's web site, the City's web site and at the skate park. It will also be on the City sign the week of the event.

### **Business Appreciation Picnic, Tuesday, June 19, 2007**

The committee was invited to the Business Appreciation Picnic being held Tuesday, June 19, 2007.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by Committee Member Harris, seconded by Committee Member Mosher, to adjourn the June 6, 2007 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting at 8:50 p.m. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

Transcribed by Kim Stephan