



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 7, 2005 - 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 September 7, 2005, at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

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

Approved

Absent: Committee Member Kathy Peil

Council: Absent – City Council Work Session being held at the same time.

Staff: Kim Stephan

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

Chairperson Peterson called the September 7, 2005 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting to order at 6:44 p.m.

II. SET AGENDA

Chairperson Peterson requested adding the Resignation of Committee Member Wayne LeBlanc as #1A under Committee Business and a discussion of the Snowmobile Ordinance be added as #5 under Committee Business.

Motion was made by Committee Member Peterson, seconded by Committee Member Seeley to set the September 7, 2005 Parks & Recreation Committee Agenda with the above additions. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

III. APPEARANCES

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Consideration of August 3, 2005 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Committee Member Seeley, seconded by Committee Member Amundsen to approve the August, 2005 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes as is. Ayes – 2, Nays – 0, Abstain 1 - Peterson. Motion Carried.

V. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Oath of Office – Ms. Linda Merkel

Committee Member Merkel was given the Oath of Office by Chairperson Peterson and welcomed to the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Resignation of Committee Member Wayne LeBlanc

Chairperson Peterson read Vice-Chairperson LeBlanc's resignation letter to the committee and stated that Vice-Chairperson LeBlanc did a tremendous amount of work on the committee for the City, was a huge asset and will be missed.

2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Budget

The Parks & Recreation Committee reviewed the Parks & Recreation Funds and Budget Proposal dated August 15, 2005 which was prepared by Mr. John Meyer, Finance Director. Due to the timing of the Federal Transportation Enhancement Fund Application submittal, which Mr. Meyer also prepared, Chairperson Peterson worked with Mr. Meyer using the committee's previous budget and trail plan to prepare the Parks & Recreation Funds and Budget Proposal. The Federal Transportation Enhancement Fund Application includes links or connections to all of Parks & Recreation's proposed trails. The Parks & Recreation Committee's budget needed to be included with the grant application so the committee was not able to review it prior to submittal with the grant application.

This budget shows a \$68,578 deficit if all projects are completed. The committee has requested an annual funding of \$25,000 from the general fund to supplement these projects. The grant applied for will require matching funds of \$146,000 as the city contribution. This will be 25% of the entire cost. The budget was being presented to City Council at a Budget Work Session at the same time as the Parks & Recreation Committee was meeting. The committee would like to recommend to City Council approving the Parks & Recreation Committee's portion of the 2006 Budget.

Motion was made by Chairperson Peterson, seconded by Committee Member Seeley to accept the 2006 Parks & Recreation Committee Budget as prepared by Mr. John Meyer on August 16, 2005 and submitted to City Council at the September 7, 2005 Budget Work Session. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Centennial Youth Hockey Association - Use of Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park Hockey Rink for the 2004-2005 Season

Ms. Laurie Powers, 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 2005-2006 hockey season. CYHA would like to use the rink for outdoor ice as they have in the past and are requesting extended dedicated hours. CYHA is also requesting the rink for dry land training starting in October, after tryouts and teams are placed, and continuing until outdoor ice is available or weather permits. CHYA used the facilities for dry land practice during the 2004-2005 season.

1. The committee discussed the use of the facilities for dry land practice and agreed to the usage with the following conditions:
2. A schedule of usage, as well as a contact list of coaches responsible during the time it is being used will be provided by the association.
3. There will be no use of the facilities after 9 p.m. daily.
4. The nets will be padlocked when not in use. The key to the lights and padlock will be supplied in a lock box by Public Works.
5. The Centennial Youth Hockey Association will sign a waiver releasing the City of Centerville from any liability and will take responsibility for any damage occurring while the association is using the facilities.

The following recommendation was made by the Parks & Recreation Committee at the September 7, 2005 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting.

Motion was made by Committee Member Seeley, seconded by Committee Member Amundsen to recommend to City Council approving the Centennial Youth Hockey Association's use of dry land time with the use of the park lights at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park with the above conditions. All in Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

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 Committee Member 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 2005-2006 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.

St. Paul Water Utility Property on Centerville Lake

City Administrator Larson wrote the following memo to the Parks & Recreation Committee regarding the property at 1601 LaMotte Drive.

At the last meeting, the City Council discussed the St. Paul Water property near Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park. You are aware that discussion has gone back and forth about the purchase of the property and the Water Board seems to think its appraisal is better than ours. The City has looked for grant funds to buy the parcel, but has not been successful in that regard.

The Council passed a motion to prepare a purchase agreement to buy the St. Paul Water parcel for park use at the City's appraised value. The Purchase Agreement will be prepared by the City attorney and presented to the Council at the next meeting to authorize that it be signed and sent to the St. Paul Water Board. The purchase agreement would not have any contingencies. It is expected that the cost will be paid from park fees charged to developments. It is the Council's belief that the Park Board would concur with the decision to buy the property. If that is not the case, please provide a response before the next City Council meeting on September 14, 2005.

Per the Unapproved City Council Meeting Minutes from August 24, 2005:

Mr. Meyer, Finance Director, suggested Council consider authorizing the City Attorney to present a purchase agreement for the City's appraised amount of \$285,000 to the Water Utility.

The Parks & Recreation Committee agreed with this decision to attempt to move forward with the purchase of 1601 LaMotte Drive.

Snowmobile Ordinance

Chairperson Peterson requested a discussion of the snowmobile ordinance be added to the agenda. The Planning & Zoning Commission held a Public Input Meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2005 regarding the possibility of banning snowmobiles within the City of Centerville. One resident was in favor of total banning because of property damage done by snowmobiles. Approximately a dozen residents were present to talk against banning snowmobiles stating many residents had moved to Centerville because of the rural location and access to snowmobile trails. Chairperson Peterson stated there were 23 police calls in the previous 2 years per Police Chief Makela, but enforcement of the snowmobile ordinance is difficult because the Centennial Lakes Police Department does not have a snowmobile or the manpower to chase down snowmobiles that violate the ordinance. The main problems are snowmobiles are driving on private property causing damage, speeding beyond the 10 mile per hour limit and driving on church and park property which is in violation of the ordinance. Chairperson Peterson stated that what transpired at the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting was to set up a subcommittee with residents as members to review the snowmobile ordinance and try to come up with possible solutions to the problems and then reporting back to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Tom Wilharber was present at the Planning & Zoning Meeting and as a trustee of St. Genevieve Church stated the church was considering disallowing snowmobiles riding through the church property to access Centerville Lake. This access has been an approved access in the past. The subcommittee was to discuss different options to get snowmobiles through town to trails and the lakes, as well as how to best get information to the public as to where they could and could not ride a snowmobile in the City of Centerville. Chairperson Peterson brought this information to the Parks & Recreation Committee as it was discussed at Planning & Zoning the possibility of a south snowmobile trail along the temporary dirt road from Centerville Road passing through Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park to the St. Paul Water Utility property on the lake which the City is attempting to purchase. This would give snowmobilers access to the lake. It was suggested this could be blocked off with fencing allowing snowmobiles minimal access to the property while still having a passage to the lake. On the north side of town snowmobilers do have access to Peltier Lake by following the creek to the lake. The DNR allows snowmobiles to ride waterways. A few residents complained that by snowmobiling on the creek it brought the riders close to their homes as their property abuts the creek, but the only way the City could control this would be to change the ordinance to say snowmobiles must keep a certain distance from homes, such as 30', but this would also affect the snowmobiles on the lake. Chairperson Peterson would like the committee to think about this issue as if the Snowmobile Subcommittee and the Planning & Zoning Commission recommend a trail through the parks it will need the Parks & Recreation Committee's input.

VII. UPDATES

Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park Play Structure

This item was discussed under the 2006 Budget. If the budget proposal is approved by City Council the committee will start work on planning a play structure for Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park for the spring of 2006.

Frozen Fete des Lacs – Parks & Recreation Possibly Taking Over Friday Night Event of Skating, Horse Drawn Hayride & Bonfire

The Parks & Recreation committee is willing to take over this event and discussed the pros and cons of having the event at the Anoka County Regional Park or Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park and whether to try and tie in with the Car Races on Ice or the Lion's Annual Ice Fishing Contest. Ms. Stephan explained EDC tied in with the Car Races on Ice in 2005 expecting a larger turnout of people when actually the Lion's Ice Fishing Contest drew 1,500 people to the lake in 2005 and there was minimal attendance at the Frozen Fete des Lacs events from those involved in the Car Races on Ice. The EDC had decided in 2006 to tie in with the Lion's Ice Fishing Contest as it was more of a family event. Mr. Greg Kieselhorst, Centerville Lions, has contacted the City inquiring as to the dates of Frozen Fete des Lacs 2006. Ms. Stephan will find out what the tentative dates are for both the Car Races on Ice and the Lion's Annual Fishing Contest and put this item on the next Parks & Recreation Committee Agenda for further discussion.

Additional Lights at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park

The additional lights have been installed for the pleasure rink at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park. Committee Member Seeley inquired as to what is being done with the sign that has been damaged for Wheels Skate Park. Chairperson Peterson stated he has contacted Gator Signs to repair the sign and has ordered plexi-glass to cover the sign once it has been refinished.

Federal Transportation Enhancement Fund Application

This item was discussed under the 2006 Budget.

Church of St. Genevieve Trail

This item was discussed under the 2006 Budget.

Pheasant Marsh, Phase Three – Trail

This was put on the Parks & Recreation Committee Agenda to discuss the trail plan the committee had recommended to City Council in October of 2003. At this time the City Council stopped all further development with Ground Development and Pheasant Marsh pending litigation so the recommendation was tabled. Pheasant Marsh, 3rd Addition is now being discussed and the committee would like City Council to be reminded again of what the committee's recommendations were. Ms. Stephan will supply the City Administrator with the recommendation.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Committee Member Seeley, seconded by Chairperson Peterson to adjourn the September 7, 2005 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting at 8:00 p.m. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Transcribed by Kim Stephan