



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 1, 2004 - 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 1, 2004, at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

Present: Chairperson Tedd Peterson
Vice-Chairperson Wayne LeBlanc (6:50)
Committee Member Andre Ziegler
Committee Member Julie Lindsay
Committee Member Suzanne Seeley
Committee Member Kathy Peil

Approved

Absent: Committee Member Richard Anderson

Council: Absent

Staff: Kim Stephan

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

Chairperson Peterson called the September 1, 2004 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

II SET AGENDA

Motion was made by Committee Member Peil, seconded by Committee Member Lindsay to set the September 1, 2004 Parks & Recreation Agenda as is. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

IV. APPEARANCES

Mr. Drew Johnson and Mr. Dana Johnson made an appearance to discuss an Eagle Scout project proposed by Mr. Drew Johnson, Troop 232. The community service project being suggested would involve building wood duck houses to be placed around Centerville area ponds. This project would involve the community by implementing an *'Adopt A Wood Duck House'* program to possibly help raise funds, but more importantly to have the residents who adopt the houses maintain them after the houses are in place. The wood duck houses would be 10 x 18 x 20 single compartment houses placed 8 feet off the ground either connected to a tree or a treated cedar post.

Committee Member Lindsay asked how the houses would be connected to trees and suggested a strap system be used as to not damage the trees. Vice-Chairperson LeBlanc suggested contacting the DNR to determine how they attach wood duck houses to trees. Chairperson Peterson also suggested putting metal around the bottom or some type of band to prevent raccoons or other animals from crawling up the trees. Mr. Dana Johnson stated the wood duck houses are designed with an opening small enough so animals cannot get in, but ducks can get in and out. Mr. Drew Johnson would also like to create a web site for this project and have a link from the city's web site.

Committee Member Seeley fully supported the idea and asked Mr. Drew Johnson to check in with the committee as to his progress. The committee asked how the funding would happen and what would be required from the city. The committee suggested Mr. Drew Johnson break down the costs and formulate a plan which the committee can then base a recommendation to City Council from. The 'Adopt a Wood Duck House' information could go on the city's web site and in the newsletter. Chairperson Peterson's concern was the long term maintenance of these houses as once a year they need to be cleaned out and wood chips replaced. Committee Member Seeley suggested the committee adopt some of these houses for the city's parks and have the committee take responsibility. Vice-Chairperson LeBlanc suggested involving Lino Lakes Parks & Recreation as well as Centerville. Mr. Drew Johnson will be put on the October Agenda and present the committee with a proposal at that time.

Ms. Joani Giese, SRF Engineering

Ms. Joani Giese and Mr. Ken Grieshaber from SRF Engineering gave a presentation at the request of the committee to discuss what their firm has to offer in the way of parks & trail planning. Ms. Giese & Mr. Grieshaber are part of the Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning Group of SRF. They are also the consulting firm for the Anoka County CSAH 14 project.

SRF has worked with cities on trail and design implementation, greenways and scenic byways, as well as neighborhood parks. The process involves city & community input to formulate a plan and prioritize issues. A feasibility study can be done which will make the city aware of all possible issues when looking at a trail corridor. Once the issues are itemized it can be used as a funding tool and for grant purposes. SRF also has grant writers on staff. Ms. Giese has been working with rainwater/rain garden designs as well as storm water issues.

SRF supplied the committee with a map of existing parks & trails, proposed trails and easements, both in the City of Centerville and the portions of the Anoka County Trail System adjacent to Centerville. The committee explained the grant application submitted in 2004, what the intentions were at that time and what the committee will change for the grant application submitted in 2005. The committee feels the most important aspect of the proposed trail system is to get connected to the Hardwood Creek Trail with a loop system around Centerville Lake ultimately crossing the freeway and connecting to Lino Lakes and Hugo. SRF would be able to assist with the grant writing process as well as do a feasibility study to be included with the next grant application.

Committee Member Ziegler stated Centerville is small city with a small budget, would Centerville be able to afford the services of SRF and would SRF be willing to work on such a small project. Ms. Giese suggested a simple analysis of the issues involved and the possibility of working with the design standards and the grant process. SRF would give an estimate of charges before actually starting the project. Chairperson Peterson questioned whether the City would have a legal issue with Bonestroo, the City's engineering firm if the committee were to use the services of SRF. Chairperson Peterson will discuss the legalities of working with SRF with the City Administrator. Committee Member Seeley felt SRF could be extremely valuable at the next grant rewrite. Ms. Giese estimated the cost at approximately \$800. The committee agreed the money spent on a feasibility study would be money well spent.

V. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Committee Member Peil, seconded by Committee Member Ziegler to approve the August 4, 2004 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes as is. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Abstain – 1 (Peterson). Motion carried.

VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

In reviewing the Eagle Scout project suggested by Mr. Drew Johnson the committee discussed whether funding by the Parks & Recreation Committee would be appropriate. The committee was in favor of Mr. Johnson's project and would like to support it. Committee Member Ziegler questioned whether finding the funding for the project was part of the project itself. Vice-Chairperson LeBlanc stated scout troops have funding for Eagle Scout projects. The committee will review the project at the next scheduled meeting.

Centennial Youth Hockey Association

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

Ms. Jodi McGregor, 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 2004-2005 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 dryland training starting in October, after tryouts and teams are placed, and continuing until outdoor ice is available or weather permits. The dryland usage is a first time request to the City of Centerville. CYHA currently uses two other parks in the surrounding communities for this purpose as it aids in training and preparation for the ice season.

Ms. McGregor stated: *We usually use the rink in the evenings, from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm, during the week. If this is approved, we would need to know what is appropriate for your lighting situation. The other parks we use have either automatic light systems or we manually turn them on and off when we are at the rink. We also use a "lock box" system for obtaining access to the warming house with the key always being returned to the lock box. This system has worked well with the other communities and I would be happy to forward names and phone numbers if you would like to speak with others regarding the process and procedure.*

The committee discussed the use of the facilities for dry land practice and agreed to the usage with the following conditions:

1. 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.
2. There will be no use of the facilities after 9 p.m. daily.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Motion was made by Chairperson Peterson, seconded by Committee Member Peil to recommend to City Council approving the Centennial Youth Hockey Association's use of dryland 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 Chairperson Peterson, seconded by Committee Member Peil to recommend to City Council approving the Centennial Youth Hockey Association's use of the hockey rink for the 2004-2005 season with a dedicated half sheet of ice from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. and a dedicated full sheet of ice from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. All in Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

2005 Budget Planning

Ms. Stephan supplied City Council with the Parks & Recreation Committee's Updated 2005 Budget Recommendations. The changes from the last budget submitted were costs for the paving of Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park parking lot and the construction of the skate park pad as reflected by new figures provided by Mr. Tom Peterson, City Engineer. An addition was also made to include funding for additional skate park equipment in 2005.

Committee Member Peil wanted to ensure that money was allocated for future skate park equipment even if we do get charitable gambling funds as requested from the Spring Lake Park Lions and Deadbroke Saddle Club. It was suggested \$5,000 to \$8,000 be added for this purpose and equipment be ordered in the spring of 2005. This amount may be offset with contributions from charitable gambling.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Grants

The grant information was discussed with the SRF presentation. Committee Member Ziegler asked whether the Park Dedication Fees associated with Pheasant Marsh, 3rd Addition would be seen any time soon. This developer is in litigation with the city and the monies cannot be counted on at this point. Committee Member Seeley spoke to a representative from the DNR Grant Committee requesting feedback as to why the submitted grant application was denied. The representative said the City of Centerville's overall proposal was done very well, but the overall reason for denial was simply a lack of funds. In discussing the Anoka County and MNDOT tentative plans for County Road 14, it appears approximately 1/3 of the trail system proposed by the Parks & Recreation Committee in the 2004 grant application will be taken care of by the CSAH 14 project. This will modify the approach taken for the 2005 grant application. Mr. Ken Grieshaber, SRF asked what type of trail plans the City of Lino Lakes has and whether a joint venture had been discussed. Chairperson Peterson said Lino Lakes has been proactive in working with the City of Centerville in the instances where there was the possibility of joint projects such as the trail on the west side of Hunters Crossing which leads into the Anoka County Regional Park. When the developer was installing this trail Lino Lakes worked with the contractor to add an additional trail into a Lino Lakes development. The question is how much actual planning does Lino Lakes have in place for trails. Vice-Chairperson LeBlanc stated the City of Centerville's priority would be getting the trail from County Road 14 to Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park through the church property, connected to Meadow Lane, and then finalize the plan to submit the 2005 grant application

Trails

The following information is from Parks & Recreation Vice-Chairperson LeBlanc, who met with Mr. Nick Eoloff from Anoka County Parks on September 1, 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the county's trail plans with the reconstruction of County Road 14 and how that fits in with the Parks & Recreation Committee's Trail Plan.

Per Mr. Eoloff, the intersection of Centerville Road and County 14 is proposed to be controlled with a stop light. From the intersection of County Road 14 and Centerville Road going east, there will be a sidewalk on the north of County Road 14 to 20th Avenue. On the south of County Road 14 going east, there will be a trail to the freeway. West of the Centerville Road and County 14 intersection, Mr. Eoloff suggests a 10 feet wide trail on the Centerville Lake side of the road going to Wargo Nature Center. The fishing pier on Peltier Lake is proposed to be moved north to the dam and boat launch area near the Rice Creek Outlet. This is also near the Peltier Lake Bridge Outlet.

At the boat launch/fishing pier the trail will be on the south (west) side of County 14 and the boat launch/fishing pier will be on the north (east) side of County Road 14. The county plans include a possible underpass for the trail at the boat launch area so trail users will not have to cross County Road 14.

Mr. Eoloff suggests residents north of the Centerville Elementary School in the Lakeland Hills development use the trail through the school to get to the controlled intersection at Centerville Road and County 14. Mr. Eoloff will look at striping or something similar for residents on Peltier Lake Drive to get to the trail from Peltier Lake Drive.

A decision needs to be made on the area west of Centerville Road. Mr. Eoloff suggests a 10 foot wide trail on the south (and west) and no sidewalk on the north (and east) side of County Road 14. The engineers could put a sidewalk there, but then the trail would have to be 8 feet wide and there just isn't enough room for both the sidewalk and the trail. Vice-Chairperson LeBlanc suggested to the Parks & Recreation Committee that there is more value in having a good trail along the south (and west) side of County Road 14 without a sidewalk on the north (and east), than to have a mediocre trail with a sidewalk of minimal value. Vice-Chairperson LeBlanc also felt the committee should recommend a 10 foot wide trail east of 20th Avenue. Mr. Eoloff would like a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Committee on this option.

Motion was made by Vice-Chairperson LeBlanc, seconded by Committee Member Seeley to recommend to City Council that the City of Centerville request a 10 foot wide trail be installed on County Road 14 from Centerville Road on the south (and west) side to at least Wargo Nature Center. A sidewalk on the north (and east) side of County 14 is not recommended as it would cause the trail to be narrower and reduce the usefulness of the trail. It is highly desirable to have a 10 foot wide trail east of 20th Ave to the freeway that would eventually connect with the 10 foot wide regional trail which goes through the Chain of Lakes Regional Park. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Member Seeley mentioned a potentially dangerous sink hole on the trail going north through the school property. Chairperson Peterson, as Public Works Staff said he would see it was taken care of.

The committee brought concerns about the trail in front of Apple Tree Square to City Council. A letter was sent to the owner of the property by city staff regarding this issue. There are no specific updates at this time.

Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park Warming House Renovation

Committee Member Peil has started the painting at the warming house, but needs volunteers to help. A person doing Community Service did not work out.

Tracie McBride Memorial Park

No current updates.

Wheels Skate Park

Per Chairperson Peterson the contractor will be putting another lift on the skate park pad to try and alleviate the low spots which are holding water.

St. Genevieve Renovation / Trail Project

No current updates.

St. Paul Water Utility Property on Centerville Lake

There is not an update at this time. The purchase agreement is being currently being reviewed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Committee Member Peil, seconded by Committee Member Seeley to adjourn the September 1, 2004 Parks & Recreation Committee meeting at 8:35 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Transcribed by Kim Stephan