



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
March 5, 2003 MEETING MINUTES**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City of Centerville held the regularly scheduled meeting on March 5, 2003, at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

Present: Chairperson Karla DeVine
Committee Member Wayne LeBlanc
Committee Member Kathy Peil
Committee Member Brian Walter
Committee Member Suzanne Seeley

Absent: Committee Member Tedd Peterson

Council: Council Member Tom Lee (7:30)

Staff: Kim Stephan

Approved

I. ROLL CALL

Chairperson DeVine called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. SET AGENDA

Motion was made by Committee Member Seeley, seconded by Committee Member Peil to set the March 5, 2003 Agenda without any additions. All in Favor: Motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

IV. APPEARANCES

Mr. Richard Carlson, Hunters Crossing 2nd Addition, made an appearance to discuss the options the Parks & Recreation Committee had proposed at the February, 5 2003 committee meeting. Mr. Carlson first stated he was surprised by the recommendation of City Council to raise the Park Dedication Fees for this development by \$500.00 per lot for those lots developed in 2004, and by \$1,000.00 for those lots developed in 2006. City Council recommended this as an exchange for Mr. Carlson being able to develop this property earlier than originally scheduled. Based on these amounts, this development will pay the City of Centerville \$270,000 in Park Dedication Fees. The committee informed Mr. Carlson that this was a decision by council that was not based on a recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Committee.

The committee had discussed the possibility of a tennis court being included in this development with Chairperson Devine sending Mr. Carlson the following letter, dated February 26, 2003:

Thank you for coming to the Park and Recreation Meeting we had in January to discuss future plans for Hunters Crossing, Phase II. Also for allowing us time to review the proposed plans. After discussion at our February 5th meeting, the Park and Recreation Committee would like to inquire about the possibility of incorporating a tennis court into your plans. We would like to see a full size court and the court needs to run North and South to alleviate sun in the eyes while playing during dusk and dawn. The cost of the tennis court would be deducted from the total park dedication fees owed. Also the Park and Recreation Committee would like to see a trail from Centerville Road west (running on the north side of the street) to Beaver Pond Way, and North (along the west side of the street) to meet in with the existing county trail. I have enclosed the minutes from our last park and recreation meeting for your information.

Please feel free to come to our next Park and Rec. meeting scheduled for March 5, 2003 at 6:30 P.M. at City Hall.

Mr. Carlson was not in favor of a tennis court in Hunters Crossing 2nd Addition, feeling it would not fit well within this development and his past experiences with tennis courts have not been favorable. He said less than .05% of the population play tennis and a tennis court is not only a huge maintenance concern, but also a management and control issue. He felt it made more sense to put it in an existing park, perhaps where there is existing lighting such as Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park. Mr. Carlson also felt that because tennis is more of an adult sport and most people would drive in and park, parking would also become an issue. Mr. Carlson stated if the Parks & Recreation Committee recommends the tennis court, he will object.

Mr. Carlson proposed giving the city approximately 3 ½ acres of pond property, with an estimated ½ to 1 acre of dry ground. This land will be given to the city and does not affect the Park Dedication Fee amount. Instead of the proposed sidewalk going on the north side of Dupre Road and the west side of Beaver Pond Way, Mr. Carlson will install a trail surrounding the pond on the above mentioned property, with access to the trail from lot 19 on Centerville Road and Dupre Road, and also from the east/west trail currently located between Hunters First Addition and Second. All sidewalks will be eliminated from this development. Mr. Carlson will also install a trail along the west side of the development on the St. Paul Water Utility easement, connecting to the existing trail and install stubs from the trail to Beaver Pond Way if that is what the committee recommends. Mr. Carlson will also work with the City of Lino Lakes to obtain a possible easement for the trail to continue to Birch Street.

The committee discussed with Mr. Carlson whether it would be a problem to run trail stubs between homes from the trail on the St. Paul Water Utility easement to Beaver Pond Way giving access to the trail from the development. Mr. Carlson said he has had problems in past running trails between two homes, but only if homeowners were not aware ahead of time that a trail was to be run next to their property. Discussion was held what could be done with the approximately 1 acre of high ground surrounding the pond. The committee liked the idea of benches, a picnic area or a gazebo type shelter. Mr. Carlson reported there will be 6 connecting ponds within this development and the depths will fluctuate. Committee Member LeBlanc questioned whether the committee was interested in acquiring the last lot on Dupre Road, next to Centerville Road as park property and how did Mr. Carlson feel about that idea. Mr. Carlson said the lot was still of considerable value to him and he would prefer the committee recommended taking Park Dedication Fees opposed to land. The committee was not in favor of this idea either as the lot is on Centerville Road which would be too busy for any type of park property.

V. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Committee Member Peil, seconded by Committee Member Walter to approve the February 5, 2003 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes. All in Favor: Motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Committee Opening / Letter of Interest

Mr. Richard Anderson, 7192 Brian Drive, submitted a letter of interest for the vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Committee and attended the March 5, 2003 meeting. Mr. Anderson will attend a few more meetings to determine if this committee is something he feels he can contribute to.

2. Hunters Crossing 2nd Addition

The committee discussed the proposal presented by Mr. Carlson. Chairperson DeVine recommended taking the land as proposed, run the trail around the pond connecting it to existing trails and eliminate all sidewalks from this development. Committee Member Peil agreed, saying she did not think it was necessary to take any other land for parks within this development besides the approximate 3 ½ acres Mr. Carlson was offering. Committee Member Seeley questioned whether the committee wanted to abandon the idea of the tennis court and whether there was any other special purpose use the committee could think of to use land in Hunters Crossing 2nd Addition, such as open space. Chairperson DeVine will attend the next City Council meeting to answer any questions.

Motion was made by Committee Member Peil, seconded by Chairperson DeVine to recommend to City Council to accept Mr. Richard Carlson's proposal as presented at the March 5, 2003 Parks & Recreation Committee meeting. This would include 3 ½ acres of wetland with approximately 1 acre of dry ground, changing the location of the trail to surround the large pond besides Wiharbor's property to the north side and to accept the land as a donation to the city taking park dedication fees in lieu of land. All sidewalks will be eliminated in this development and the trail will be extended from the northeast corner along the west side of the development using the St. Paul Water Utility easement, with a stub from the trail to Beaver Pond Way between lots 1 and 2, block 1 and a stub between the trail and Beaver Pond Way between lots 15 and 16, block 1. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Summer Programs

The committee had made a motion at the February 5, 2003 Parks & Recreation meeting to recommend City Council hire a program coordinator. The City Administrator requested the committee supply the council with specifics before presenting the motion to council. Committee Member LeBlanc said he has the job description the committee had previously written for this position and would e-mail it to all the committee members for approval. Ms. Stephan will submit the description with the motion at the next council meeting.

3. Community Garden

Committee Member Seeley would like to determine if there is interest in a community garden. This idea was tried a few years ago on a plot behind City Hall and there was only one resident who expressed interest. Another option discussed was the possibility of a community garden at Chauncey Barrett. Committee Member Seeley said she would do some research on this idea and present her findings at the next scheduled meeting.

4. Royal Meadows Park

The committee continued to discuss the vandalism issues at Royal Meadows Park with some members being interested in pursuing the idea of surveillance cameras. Council Member Lee reported the city has two (2) video cameras that could possibly be used for this purpose with minimal cost. Chairperson DeVine stated she did not think it was the function of the Parks & Recreation Committee to set up surveillance at parks, but perhaps it was something the neighborhood could do with home video cameras if they spotted suspicious activity. The general consensus of the committee was not to pursue the issue of surveillance. Committee Member Seeley said she felt as if the committee was working in a vacuum without input from the local police and would like to invite a representative from the Centennial Lakes Police Department to appear at the next meeting. Ms. Stephan will discuss the issue with Chief Heckman and request an officer appear at the next meeting. Committee Member Peterson requested Ms. Stephan inform the committee that the idea of a protective cage around the light in Royal Meadows Park will not work. Rivard Electric has repaired the light each time it has been broken and reported the light has been shot out with a BB gun. To surround this light with a cage tight enough to keep the BBs out would eliminate too much light. Committee Member Seeley thinks the light pole and light may be too low, and a different type of light would be more effective. The light pole has also been damaged by vandals. The idea of inviting the area residents back to meet with the police was suggested, but it was decided to wait and determine what ideas the police may have before inviting the residents. Ms. Stephan will talk with the Centennial Lakes Community Service Officer in regards to the possibility of getting residents involved with a Neighborhood Crime Watch group and invite the CSO to attend the next meeting.

VII. UPDATES

1. Park Maintenance Priority Schedule

Mr. Paul Palzer submitted a tentative 2003 Parks Maintenance/Project Schedule to the City Council and to the Parks & Recreation Committee for review. The estimates on Tracie McBride Memorial Park and Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park were not broken down and some clarification is needed. Ms. Stephan will discuss this with Mr. Palzer and supply the information for the next committee meeting. Committee Member Seeley reports there are alternatives to wood chips that are not biodegradable and she would like to present these options. These parks will be put on the next committee agenda.

2. Hunters Crossing / Pheasant Marsh Trail Crossing Sign

Ms. Stephan reported she had been contacted by Jane Preamble with Anoka County and the trail crossing sign the city had requested will be installed within the next few weeks. The sign will be yellow and black, marked with trail crossing and placed 500 feet from the trail off Centerville Road in both the north and south bound lanes.

3. Grants Update

Committee Member Peil met with City Administrator Moore-Sykes to discuss the possibility of applying for grants and was told it was too late to submit any grants for 2003. The process needs to be started in the fall of the year prior to applying. Committee Member DeVine stated there is no money in the budget for matching grants and the state is proposing cuts so it didn't make sense to apply for grants. Committee Member Peil said the grants should be applied for every year regardless as and this gives the city a better chance of getting a grant when money is available. The committee will start looking at previous grants around budget time so modifications and updates can be made in preparation of applying in 2004.

4. Earth Day Celebration

Chairperson DeVine suggested the committee be involved with Earth Day on April 19, 2003. In previous years the committee picked up parks and gave wild flower seeds, pop, cookies and balloons away. She would like the committee to do something similar this year. This will be put on the next agenda to determine the exact activities.

Motion was made by Chairperson DeVine, seconded by Committee Member Peil to recommend to council expending funds not to exceed \$150.00 in association with Earth Day events planned at local parks. All in Favor: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Committee Member LeBlanc, seconded by Committee Member Seeley, to adjourn the March 5, 2003 Parks and Recreation Meeting at 8:25 p.m. All in Favor: Motion carried unanimously.