



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, April 2, 2003 - 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 April 2, 2003, at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

**Present:** Chairperson Karla DeVine  
Committee Member Wayne LeBlanc  
Committee Member Kathy Peil  
Committee Member Tedd Peterson  
Committee Member Suzanne Seeley

**Absent:** Committee Member Brian Walter

**Council:** Council Member Tom Lee

**Staff:** Kim Stephan

Approved

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**I. ROLL CALL**

Chairperson DeVine called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

**II. SET AGENDA**

Ms. Stephan requested an update on the Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park warming house renovation be added to the agenda per request of City Administrator Moore-Sykes. Committee Member Peterson requested adding a letter from Mr. Kelly Pap, Centennial Soccer Club, under New Business as #7.

**Motion was made by Committee Member LeBlanc, seconded by Committee Member Peil to set the April 2, 2003 Parks & Recreation Committee Agenda with the above two (2) additions. All in Favor: Motion carried unanimously.**

**III. PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

None.

**IV. APPEARANCES**

**Centennial Lakes Police Department**

An appearance was made by Officer Dale Bernardy, Centennial Lakes Police, to discuss the problems of vandalism at Royal Meadows Park. Committee Member Seeley explained the problem and that the committee is struggling with how to resolve the issues and keep costs down.

The Parks & Recreation Committee held a Public Input Hearing at the February 5, 2003 regularly scheduled meeting to gather information from the area residents as to possible solutions. The area resident's focus was on the younger children in the neighborhood and they felt strongly about leaving the play structure as is.

Committee Member LeBlanc said that one idea the committee has been discussing is possible camera surveillance of the park and questioned whether it would do any good if the vandals were caught and identified on tape. Officer Bernardy stated that if there were a camera at Royal Meadows Park the individuals causing the problems would probably just move to another park and he questioned who would monitor the camera, changing and viewing the tapes, is this something the city staff had time to support. He also said night surveillance is very expensive and it is difficult to say whether or not that would work because the tape is often of such poor quality, especially trying to cover such a large area. Committee Member Peterson reported on the most recent episode of vandalism at Tracie McBride Park where a fire was lit in a crawl tube melting the plastic. A new crawl tube has been ordered, but it is an older piece which is no longer stocked. The price to replace it will be \$215.00 plus shipping and handling. There are currently cones covering the area and it is as safe as Public Works was able to make it.

Council Member Lee inquired about formalized neighborhood watch groups in the area and Officer Bernardy said that is exactly what they are trying to do. Community Service Officer Noren is contacting two (2) volunteer firemen in the neighborhood to see if there is interest in leading a neighborhood watch group. Officer Bernardy also said the residents need to call whenever they see anything at all suspicious. There may be that there is nothing the officer can do at the time, except make a presence, but the individuals responsible for the vandalism will be aware they are being watched. Chairperson DeVine said that the police have been there many times, but when they arrive the individuals are gone or they are no longer involved in the suspicious activity and the frustration level is high.

Officer Bernardy said the Centennial Lakes Police Department is very well aware of the problem and of the individuals suspected of causing the problems, but the burden is in providing proof and they have been unable, at this point, to get an investigation formally started as no one is willing or able to provide evidence. He also said bike patrols by officers in the summer months help with the problem. Committee Member Seeley still feels better lighting should be considered, either higher or directional or both. Committee Member Peterson said he doesn't believe there is anything that can be done with the existing light, but he will check with a few electricians to determine what options are available for different types of light fixtures, surrounds to protect the glass and making the light higher. Chairperson DeVine and Committee Member LeBlanc had previously done research in this area and Committee Member LeBlanc will supply the committee with the information at the next meeting.

**Council Member Mary Capra / Earth Day**

An appearance was made by Council Member Capra to discuss Earth Day to determine what areas the committee members were planning to work clean up in on Saturday morning, April 19, 2003. Council Member Capra serves on the St. Genevieve's Volunteer Committee and the Boy Scouts and church volunteers would like to clean up Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park based from the church basement where coffee, lemon-aid and cookies will be provided. Trash bags will be supplied by City Hall and Waste Management is available to pick up the bags if the City Clerk is

notified of the location of the bags. The St. Genevieve's Volunteer Committee also has a program for Senior Citizens and they are planning a Senior Dance in June and would like to incorporate this activity into the community. More information will be forthcoming.

## V. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

**Motion was made by Committee Member LeBlanc, seconded by Committee Member Peil to approve the February 5, 2003 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0, Abstain – 1 (Peterson) Motion carried.**

## VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### **Hunters Crossing 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition Recommendation**

Chairperson DeVine reminded the committee that this item was pulled from the last Council Agenda, after the Parks & Recreation Committee had made a recommendation, by the City Administrator for clarification. The committee looked over the information supplied in their packets from Ordinance #8 concerning sidewalks and collector roads and tried to determine whether a sidewalk was actually required. The committee felt Ordinance #8 was not very clear in regards to this. Committee Member Peterson said his concern is that the sidewalk comes from Main Street and Dupre Road by the cemetery, the whole length of Dupre Road through Pheasant Marsh and now that the city is two (2) blocks away from the park, the developer is requesting and the committee agreeing that no sidewalks be required in Hunters Crossing 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition. Committee Member Peterson feels the Parks & Recreation Committee needs to remain consistent and continue the sidewalk along Dupre Road. Council Member Lee said the city has consistently required that developments with collector streets have sidewalks. Chairperson DeVine questioned the definition of a collector street, as this is also vague within Ordinance #8. It was also questioned why Hunters Crossing 1<sup>st</sup> Addition does not have sidewalks. Apparently the ordinance was not enforced at the time, but Committee Member Peterson reported the last four (4) developments that have been done in Centerville required sidewalks be installed.

**Motion was made by Committee Member Peil, seconded by Chairperson DeVine to recommend to council to accept Park Dedication Fees in lieu of Land Dedication in the Hunters Crossing 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition development. All in Favor: Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Committee Member Peil, seconded by Committee Member Peterson to recommend to council to accept Mr. Richard Carlson's proposal for installing trails in the Hunters Crossing 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition development with one section of trail running north/south along the St. Paul Water Utility easement connecting to the existing trail running east/west on the north property line of the proposed development. A section of the trail is to have access from Dupre Road running north and south on the east side of the pond, also connecting to the existing trail on the north property line trail of the proposed development. A stub will connect the trail running along the St. Paul Water Utility easement to the southwest cul-de-sac on Beaver Pond Way. All in Favor: Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Committee Member Seeley, seconded by Committee Member Peil to recommend to council to accept Mr. Richard Carlson's donation of 4 ½ acres of land on the northeast side of Hunters Crossing 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition. All in Favor: Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Committee Member Peterson, seconded by Committee Member LeBlanc to recommend to council that a sidewalk be installed on the north side of Dupre Road between Beaver Pond Way and Centerville Road, per Ordinance #8, by the developer of Hunters Crossing 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition. Ayes – 4, Nays – 1 (Peil). Motion carried.**

### **National Volunteer Recognition Week**

Committee Member Lee requested the committee members attend the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on May 3, 2003, if possible. Please RSVP to City Hall.

### **Earth Day**

Chairperson DeVine talked to EDC Member Betsy Scheller in regards to using prizes purchased for SNO BIZ during the Earth Day Celebration, but all the EDC prizes have winter themes. City Council approved \$150.00 for supplies associated with the Earth Day Celebration. Chairperson DeVine will order cookies, pop and balloons to give away to participants in the clean up activities. The maintenance and planting of the flower beds in each of the parks was discussed. Committee Member Peterson has discussed this with a few residents in close proximity to the parks who have volunteered to plant and weed the beds. It was suggested we advertise on cable and the web site that residents can 'Adopt a Flower Bed' to encourage area residents to take ownership of the flowerbeds in each park. The Parks and Recreation Committee will meet at Tracie McBride Park at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 19, 2003 to start the clean up of all city parks. Ms. Stephan will put this information on the City Hall sign, cable and the web site encouraging residents to participate in the clean up with the Parks & Recreation Committee.

### **Summer Programs**

The committee discussed the Wargo Nature Center Program that the city has had for the last two summers to determine if this is something that they would like to do again this season. Last year there was very little participation from the community, some sessions were cancelled because no one signed up. This was advertised on flyers that were sent home with each child from Centerville Elementary, flyers at local businesses, on the City Hall sign and on the cable channel. Council Member Lee has been talking to Barry Bernstein from the Lino Lakes Parks & Recreation Department regarding the possibility of using Centerville parks in conjunction with their programs, bringing some of the summer programs closer to Centerville residents. Committee Member LeBlanc felt the committee should reassess summer programs for another year since the city cannot afford to hire a Program Coordinator at this time. Since there appears to be no interest from community in the Wargo Summer Program the committee decided not to participate in the program this year.

## **Community Gardens**

Committee Member Seeley met with City Administrator Moore-Sykes regarding the possibility of using the city owned land behind City hall for a Community Garden and possible liability issues. The City Administrator was unable to get that information from the League of Minnesota Cities before the meeting. Committee Member Seeley felt the plot that was previously tilled would not need to be tilled again, the issue was how to supply water to the area. Public Works staff retrieved a cattle trough from the creek which may have worked to hold water for the gardens and at less than 24" deep it would not have required a fence by city ordinance, but it would still be a concern as to how to protect children from the possibility of falling in. The committee determined this was probably not a realistic option. Committee Member Seeley also contacted a representative from Chauncey Barrett to see if any of the residents had an interest in gardening and was told they were asked two (2) years ago and there was no interest at that time so they did not feel it was necessary to ask the residents again. Without more information regarding liability there is really nothing the committee can do at this point and the May meeting will be too late to start this program for this year's growing.

## **Centennial Soccer Association**

Mr. Kelly Pap had called Ms. Stephan and made arrangements to make an appearance at the meeting to discuss the Centennial Soccer Club possibly using the soccer fields located at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park. Due to a family emergency, Mr. Pap was unable to attend, but supplied Committee Member Peterson with the following letter:

***To: Centerville Parks & Recreation  
From: Kelly Pap – Representing Centennial Soccer Club***

***Due to a family emergency I am unable to attend the Parks & Recreation board meeting tonight. Tedd Peterson asked that I write up a request of what I am looking for. The soccer club is running short on fields to play and practice. At this particular time, I just want to know what it would take to set up some soccer fields at Laurie LaMotte Park for the club to use as practice fields.***

***The sizes of the fields I need are: 45 x 55 & 50 x 90. I would like to have two (2) of each if possible. I believe there is one 50 x 90 field already set up with goals.***

***If we are able to use the fields for practicing I would like to know how we could make arrangements to have the teams reserve the fields for practice so we don't run into two (2) teams showing up at the same time. The summer soccer season runs from mid-May until the end of July. Teams like to start practicing outdoors as soon as the field conditions and weather are decent. Anything you can do for us will be greatly appreciated. Again, I apologize for not being able to attend. I can be reached M-F at 651-746-3242.***

While the committee would like to see the soccer fields used for this purpose, there is not a way for the city to monitor or enforce who is using the fields at any given time. With the hockey association there is usually a rink attendant on duty and the Centennial Little League schedules their teams. The Soccer Club would have to manage the scheduling of the fields within their organization. The club would also have to install another set of goals as there is currently only

one set available at Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park. The Centennial Soccer Club would be responsible for the striping of the fields and any lawn care above what the city's lawn service supplies. The committee would like to recommend to council the Centennial Soccer Club be given dedicated use of the soccer fields with the above considerations. Mr. Pap did not specify days and times and because Mr. Pap is out of town with a family emergency he cannot be reached at this time. If the committee waits until the next scheduled Parks & Recreation meeting it may be too late for the Soccer Club to get the field ready and begin practice. The committee would like the council to approve this usage based on the above conditions and the committee receiving a schedule of days and times. Committee Member Peterson will contact the association to determine this information.

#### **IV. UPDATES**

##### **Park Maintenance Priority Schedule / Tracie McBride Memorial Park**

Committee Member Seeley brought in sample of a non-biodegradable material made from recycled tires that can be used in place of fibar chips under the play structures at the parks. The committee was impressed with the material and requested Committee Member Seeley get more information such as price, supplier, is it ADA accessible and the depth for fall protection. Council Member Lee has also had some experience working with this material and said it is treated and non-flammable. He will also get more information. Committee Member Peterson said from a maintenance point of view it could be very beneficial. The committee would like Ms. Stephan to invite Mr. Paul Palzer, the Public Works Director to attend the next scheduled Parks & Recreation Committee meeting to discuss the options for Tracie McBride Park. This item will be tabled until that time.

##### **Dead Broke Saddle Club Donation for Bike Racks**

Ms. Stephan reported the Dead Broke Saddle Club awarded a grant of \$500.00 towards the \$2000.00 the Parks & Recreation Committee had requested for bike racks. Committee Member Peterson will supply the committee with information on what can be ordered at the next scheduled meeting.

##### **Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park Warming House Renovation**

Ms. Stephan informed the committee that the City Administrator and the City Council would like an update from Parks & Recreation and from the Centerville Lions as to the status of the Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park warming house renovation project. Chairperson DeVine said she did not have any new information, but would check into it and report at the next meeting. Ms. Stephan said the Public Works Department felt if something was not done soon with the renovation a new roof would have to be considered as it is in really bad shape.

**Motion was made by Committee Member Peil, seconded by Chairperson DeVine, to adjourn the April 2, 2003 Parks and Recreation Meeting at 9:07 p.m. All in Favor: Motion carried unanimously.**

Transcribed by Kim Stephan