



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE JULY 8, 2002 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 July 8, 2002, at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

Present: Chairperson Karla DeVine
Committee Member Wayne LeBlanc
Committee Member Tom Lee
Committee Member Tedd Peterson
Committee Member Suzanne Seeley

Approved

Absent: Committee Member Brian Walter
Committee Member Kathy Peil

Council: Council Member Linda Broussard-Vickers

Staff: Kim Stephan

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

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

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS

III. APPEARANCES

IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Committee Member LeBlanc requested a correction to page 2 of the June 5, 2002 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes, changing 'Council Member' Peterson and 'Council Member' Lee to Committee Member in both instances.

Motion was made by Committee Member LeBlanc, seconded by Committee Member Peterson, to approve the June 5, 2002 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes with the above amendment. All in Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Soccer Field Irrigation

There has been nothing submitted for the soccer field irrigation proposal at this time. In checking with Paul Palzer, Public Works Director and Tom Peterson, City Engineer, they have not been contacted by the Soccer Club.

Enclosures for Satellites

Public Works has installed trees around the satellite at Acorn Creek Park. These trees were removed from Eagle Pass. No negative comments have been reported. Public Works is unable to install trees around the satellite at Tracy McBride Park due to utilities in the area of the satellite. The Parks and Recreation Committee Members will individually look at the options for a different placement of the satellite within this park and discuss the possibilities of relocation at the next meeting. The type of enclosure will be tabled until that time.

Wargo Summer Park Program

The Wargo Summer Program has not been well attended at this point and very few children are signed up for the upcoming events. This was advertised with school flyers, it is on cable and has been on the sign in front of City Hall. Flyers are available on the counter at City Hall, Hair Update, Tom Thumb and Corner Express.

Wheels Skate Park

The Wheels Skate Park opened as scheduled on June 21, 2002. There have been four (4) Skate Park Attendants hired and they are currently scheduled Monday through Friday 4:00 to 8 p.m. There is coverage on most Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. Committee Member Peterson supplied pictures to the committee of the vandalism which has occurred at the park. The attendants have been told not to move, alter or add equipment. There is still a problem with garbage being thrown all over the rink, instead of in the garbage cans. There was graffiti on a sign and the warming house door, which Public Works reported to the police and removed. No claims were filed with the insurance company, as each incident, in itself, was minor. Public Works have repaired the items at this time. No injuries have been reported. Parks and Recreation and Public Works will continue to monitor the situation.

Bonestroo Trail Map - Update from EDC Committee

The Bonestroo Trail Map Brochure was on the EDC Agenda June 11, 2002. EDC agreed it was a great idea to include the trail map in the next new resident packet. Although there are approximately 150 folders currently in stock, it is time to think about reordering. There should be some local pictures taken to replace the pictures that are currently on the map samples. Chairperson DeVine will attend the EDC meeting to discuss the trail map with the group and determine what they need from the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Acorn Creek Park Trail Repair

The City Engineer and Rice Creek Watershed have sent letters to the developer of Clear Water Creek, Dick Travis, stating the problem with the Acorn Creek Trail must be resolved immediately. There has been no response at this time. The matter is scheduled for the July 10, 2002 City Council Meeting. Update at the next scheduled committee meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Royal Meadows Park

The Parks and Recreation Committee Members are concerned about the amount of vandalism occurring at Royal Meadows Park and what, if anything can be done about this problem. It was discussed whether removing the park equipment and selling the park property was an option. Mr. Hoeft, City Attorney, reported to the city council a few weeks ago that it was possible to sell city park land, but it depends on how the land was acquired. Council Member Broussard-Vickers requested the City Clerk research how the property was acquired. Committee Member Seeley expressed concern that selling the park property would be defeating the purpose of the Parks and Recreation Committee. There are families and children who do use and appreciate Royal Meadows Park and Committee Member Seeley felt it would be unfortunate to give in to the bad element.

City of Centerville's Web Site

Ms. Stephan reported she is in the process of transferring information from the City's current web site, updating information as necessary and drafting new sections for the Web for Cities site. The new site is currently live and can be viewed at any time, but as it is still under construction the information has not been released to the public. Ms. Stephan requested the committee take a look at what has been entered to this point and comment as to information and format. Depending on available staff time to work on this project, we are looking to be online sometime this fall.

Future Project List

The committee discussed ways of developing more programs within the city. Committee Member Lee would like to see a small T-Ball Program started in Centerville, as there is currently a waiting list. The cost would be relatively inexpensive, but the program would need a coordinator. Centerville already has the fields and this would not compete with any of the programs already in place in Lino Lakes. The smaller field behind the school could be used or perhaps T-Ball could start in July or August after Little League has finished for the season. The committee agreed it was important to include a Program/Park Program Coordinator in the budget. It will be difficult to come up with programs until it is known if there will be a coordinator. Chairperson DeVine would like to see the parking lot at Laurie Lamotte Park paved. Committee Member Peterson said the parking lot has been graded, there is a base and storm drains present, and the lot was ready to be paved at one point. Currently the parking lot is losing the top grade. Committee Member Peterson will talk to the City Engineer to get a cost estimate for proceeding with this project and determine when the City of Lino Lakes has Laurie LaMotte Drive scheduled for improvements. The parking lot, concession stand, warming house improvements and a play structure at Laurie LaMotte are the biggest expenditures at this time.

The Centerville Lake Watchman Residence Property at 1601 LaMotte Road was discussed. The Board of Water Commissioners has approached to City of Centerville to determine if there is interest in purchasing this property. The Parks and Recreation Committee view this as a wonderful opportunity to acquire lakeshore property for the City of Centerville.

Council Member Broussard-Vickers agreed, but reminded the committee about budget issues, the city needs street improvements and water downtown, how can we buy lakeshore property? This item is on the next council agenda. City Administrator Moore-Sykes has been in contact with the Water Commissioners Office and they will let the city know when a price has been determined.

2003 Budget

Ellen Paulseth, Finance Director, put together a 2003 Budget Sheet for the Parks and Recreation Committee to begin looking at what is needed for the 2003 Budget. Ms. Paulseth gave the committee current financials, researching each item requested, she is also available to attend a committee meeting if requested and answer any questions. Council Member Broussard-Vickers was able to answer questions concerning the financials and the budget process. She suggested preparing the Parks and Recreation proposed budget similar to the 2002 budget, with one major capital improvement project and the rest falling under small projects. Chairperson DeVine will look through previous budgets and determine whether all proposed projects have been completed. The committee would like more information from Ms. Paulseth as to what type of account the Park Dedication Fees go to and a transaction history of this account. What monies are currently in this account, what happens to the balance if unused at the end of the year, and do funds remain in the Park Dedication Fund or roll over to the General Fund? The committee also would like to know the anticipated Park Dedication Fees for 2003 and questioned why \$10,000 was shown on the financials for Pheasant Marsh I, Park Dedication Fees, but at \$1,800 per lot, 22 lots would be \$39,600. Ms. Stephan will give these requests to Ms. Paulseth.

Score Funds / Recycled Products

The City Clerk reports there is approximately \$5, 000 in SCORE Funds which can be used to purchase recycled products. Committee Members Peterson and Seeley have been looking through catalogs and pricing possible equipment purchases. Some ideas were recycling cans, bicycle racks and bleachers for the ball fields. It was questioned whether an aluminum shelter, priced from \$5,000 - \$10,000 would qualify for SCORE Funds. Committee Member Seeley suggested replacing wood timbers in the parks with recycled products. The prices for bleachers are \$1400 - \$1660 and at least two (2) sets would be needed. Committee Member Peterson feels putting the money into recycling cans is not a practical use as the cans that are currently in the parks are used for garbage even though they are clearly marked 'garbage' and 'recycling. The committee questioned what exactly qualifies as a recycled product, what is the time frame on this money, does it have to be used by the end of the year, what will be available next year, and is there a specific catalog or web site that is recommended by Anoka County? Ms. Stephan will give these requests to the Recycling Coordinator.

Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik & Associate's \$250 Donation

Chairperson DeVine will write a thank you note to Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik & Associates for their \$250 donation to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

The Shores \$11,000 Trail Escrow

The Shores \$11,000 Trail Escrow has not yet been received, but Council Member Broussard-

Vickers asked that this be put on the Parks and Recreation Agenda for discussion.

The committee did not previously make a decision or a recommendation to council as to what to do with this money. It was decided to request the monies be put into escrow instead of having the trail built by the developer of the Shores until there is more known for certain concerning the future expansion of County Road 14. The possibly was discussed of extending the Pheasant Marsh Trail to 20th Avenue along the sewer easement that runs behind the homes off of Center Street/Sumac Court. Committee Member LeBlanc will contact Tom Peterson, City Engineer to determine the cost of a trail per foot. The committee also discussed Mr. Wilharber's concern about the Hunters Crossing Trail running into Centerville Road with busy traffic and no warning for either pedestrians/bikers or the vehicles on Centerville Road. Committee Member Peterson reported Public Works is checking into options, but because it is a county road and the Pheasant Marsh trail is not in yet, the options are limited.

Committee Member LeBlanc suggested a trail from Meadow Lane to Laurie LaMotte Park through the church property on Centerville Road and Heritage. The city council has discussed with representatives from St. Genevieve's Church the possibility of a land swap as the church proceeds with its plans to expand or rebuild. Committee Member LeBlanc also suggested when this potential deal is negotiated, perhaps the city would be able to get a small parcel of land for a trail to Meadow Lane. Chairperson DeVine asked Committee Member LeBlanc if he would like to talk to the church about a possible trade of some property between the city and the church to be used as a trail to Meadow Lane. Council Member Broussard-Vickers requested committee members do not talk to anyone at the church about any type of land trade at this time. There are too many unresolved issues and the situation would just be further complicated.

Concession Stand & Shelter/Charitable Gambling Funds

Chairperson Devine reported what the Lions would like to see happen with the charitable gambling funds and a possible concession stand in Laurie LaMotte Park.

The Lions are currently working on setting up a nonprofit organization fund where the Spring Lake Park Lions can donate money, rather than donating it to the City of Centerville. Within this newly formed organization, the Centerville Lions will have access to the charitable gambling funds donated by the Spring Lake Park Lions. Currently there is approximately \$26,000 in the charitable gambling fund with the City of Centerville. Chairperson DeVine requested the Parks and Recreation Committee recommend to the city council that these funds be put into the Park Dedication Fund to be used to work in conjunction with the Centerville Lions to build a concession building. This would commit these funds and keep any other groups from requesting this money. Council Member Broussard-Vickers said council had previously requested the Parks & Recreation Committee work together with the Centerville Lions to determine exactly what they would like to see these funds used for and to present a plan and a recommendation to the council. She did not feel the council would commit these funds to a concession building/shelter without a plan. There have not been any Lions in attendance at a committee meeting to discuss this project. Chairperson DeVine said the Lions have a concession building plan which was presented to Parks and Recreation Committee sometime in the fall of 2001.

Chairperson DeVine said at this point the Centerville Lions are not interested in renovating the current warming house as they feel a concession building needs to be near the ball fields. The Lions Branch Club concession sales were slow this year working from the current warming

house, but at least quadrupled when a table was moved near the ball fields.

The location of a new building would be better suited for selling concessions. Chairperson DeVine also reported the Centerville Lions need a place they can meet and use at their discretion, as there is currently no place for them to meet in Centerville. If this building is to be built by the Lions, in conjunction with Parks & Recreation, the Lions would like to have first rights to use it. Council Member Broussard-Vickers said that is not possible. If a new concession building were to be built it would not belong to the Lions, but to the city. It would be a city building on public land and the Lions would have no guarantee that they had first access to the building. The Lions would have the same access to the building as the rest of the public would.

Discussion was then held as to why the City of Centerville no longer wants to accept the charitable gambling funds. Council Member Broussard-Vickers said because 'free' money is typically attached with exactly the type of controversy that we are dealing with right now. Once the money is handed to the city it is the city's money to do with whatever they want, a group cannot donate money to the city with any stipulations as to what it will be used for.

What was previously set up was intent and that was with another group, you now have a new group and that is our problem, because that money may not be available for the concession building. It also puts the city in the position of having to police the money and how it is spent, so it is better for the city if we were not the recipient. Council Member Broussard-Vickers also reminded the committee that any decision the council makes today cannot bind a future council, so it doesn't matter what is promised to a group or how the council may say the money is be used in the future. She also stated if Parks and Recreation was to go to council right now and ask for the money to be transferred so that it could be used at a future time for a new concession building, her feeling was that it would be voted down. Council Member Broussard-Vickers suggested getting together with the Centerville Lions in a workshop session to put the plans, specs, dollar amounts and the reasoning behind building a new concession stand together and then present it to council.

There was some discussion as to what else these funds could be used for, such as could the Peltier Lake Association request it to purchase a \$38, 000 weed cutter for Peltier Lake, or could the funds be used to blacktop the parking lot at Laurie LaMotte or renovate the current warming house. It was mentioned again that the Dead Broke Saddle Club and the Spring Lake Park Lions can be approached for these projects also. Ms. Stephan will determine what needs to be done to request money from these organizations. Committee Member Peterson expressed concern that a new building would only be used for concessions at little league games that are approximately 42 days of the year, and from a maintenance point of view putting another building in the middle of the field does not make any sense. It does not have water, sewer or road access. The current warming house does.

Council Member Broussard-Vickers questioned whether the charitable gambling funds were still coming to the city from the Spring Lake Park Lions as it was previously stated that these funds would continue to come to the City of Centerville until the new fund was in place. Ms. Stephan reported no money has come into the city from the Spring Lake Park Lions since the council determined they no longer wanted to accept these monies several months ago. Chairperson DeVine said money should be coming to the city from the Spring Lake Park Lions soon and Committee Member Peil was working on the details.

Chairperson DeVine said the Lions would be meeting in three (3) days and she would report to the Lions what had been discussed during the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. She would then set up a date for a work session between the Lions and Parks and Recreation. Council Member Broussard-Vickers reminded the committee if there were 3 or more Parks and Recreation Committee Members the meeting would need to be posted.

Motion was made by Chairperson DeVine, seconded by Committee Member Peterson, to adjourn the July 8, 2002 Parks and Recreation Meeting at 9:52 p.m. All in Favor: Motion carried unanimously.

Transcribed by Kim Stephan

