

**City of Isanti
Park & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting Minutes of
January 22, 2008
Isanti City Hall**

A. Call To Order

Community Development Director Vita called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Members Present: Board Chair George Wimmer, Clell Bone, Yvonne Kennedy, Bridgette Parker and Aaron Zdon

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Carla Vita, Community Development Director; Clark Joslin, City Attorney; and Leila Paye, Planning Intern

C. Agenda Modifications

Add: M4) Cambridge and Isanti Trail

Motion by Bone, seconded by Wimmer to accept the agenda as presented with the one addition. Motion carried. This was not motioned at the meeting

D. Organization of Advisory Bodies as per Ordinance 181

- A. Oath of Office for all Park & Recreation Members
Oath given.
- B. Chair of Park & Recreation Board
Motion by Bone, seconded by Parker to nominate Wimmer, motion carried unanimously.
- C. Vice-Chair of Park & Recreation Board
Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Parker to nominate Zdon, motion carried unanimously.
- D. Secretary of Park & Recreation Board
Motion by Bone, seconded by Kennedy to nominate Staff, motion carried unanimously.
- E. County Parks & Recreation
Motion by Zdon, seconded by Kennedy to nominate Bone, motion carried unanimously.
- F. Active Living By Design.
Motion by Bone, seconded by Kennedy to nominate Parker, motion carried unanimously.
- G. BMX Board
Motion by Bone, seconded by Kennedy to nominate Zdon, motion carried unanimously.

H. Open Meeting Law & Conflict of Interest Information

City Attorney Joslin presented Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest information to the Board. City Attorney reminded all Board members to turn their forms into City Clerk Irene Bauer by February 1st, 2008.

E. Approve Minutes from November 2007 Regular Parks & Recreation Meeting.

Motion by Bone, second by Kennedy to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Approve Minutes from November 2007 Closed Session

Motion by Bone, second by Kennedy to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

G. BMX Association

Vita introduced memo. Vita stated that Staff is seeking approval from the board on the following items: (1) funding request of \$1,000 for the BMX Association and (2) Approving revised policy for the 2008 Community Event at Rum River BMX to submit to Council for final approval.

Vita question if Board would like to start with funding request.

Bone stated that funding request is straightforward.

Vita introduced Kevin Riedemann, Vice President/Track Coordinator of the BMX to discuss topic.

Wimmer questioned how this is different from the stuff done last year.

Riedemann stated that the banner on top of the big hill is not soil tacked, because the grade and slopes make it difficult to hold. The BMX Association last year tried putting down recycled rocks and packing it, but it kept washing out. Younger riders are using the track and it is difficult for them to get up and down the hill. The BMX Association tried numerous things last year to correct the issue, but it failed.

Riedemann stated that the Association is requesting matching funds to get work done. The BMX Association has dirt work donated by another organization that will be completed this Spring, the Association plans to put tar down to prevent erosion; which will create a better atmosphere for the kids to get up and down the hill.

Wimmer questioned who would be paying for the other half of the funding for the project.

Riedemann stated that it would be coming from the BMX Association operational fund and from other businesses in the future.

Wimmer suggested that in the future the BMX Association state other community involvement that helps fund future projects.

Wimmer questioned the need for a special events permit.

Riedemann stated that he applied for a special events permit, because the National event occurring in June will have a lot of people attending and will spill out of the facility. The rest of the events held by the BMX Association will be maintained on the premises. Riedemann stated the intention for applying for special events permit is to make City aware of what is going on and gain participation from City Representatives.

Wimmer stated that a special events permit is not needed for normal events.

Motion by Bone, seconded by Parker to recommend approval of the funding request of \$1,000 and to recommend approval of the revised policy to City Council. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Discussion: Outdoor Hockey Rink

Mr. Harper was not present at the beginning and the item was moved until after the draft review of the Geo-Caching policy.

Vita presented the staff memo.

Wimmer stated that discussion should be focused on the understanding between the City and the Youth Hockey Association, the defining of responsibilities, and the future relationship between the two groups. Wimmer also stated that a lot of the issues are arising from the zamboni that was to be paid for 50/50, but the City paid the full amount for the machine. Wimmer stated other issues involved are incidences between the employee at the warming house who received ill treatment from a coach, lights not being on, and confusion of when the rink should be used.

Wimmer stated that he would like to see better communication between the two groups. Wimmer also mentioned that Zdon, who is currently serving on the Youth Hockey Association Board and Mr. Riedemann could be used to help foster good communication and relationship between the two groups

Wimmer called Brent Harper, Representative from the Youth Hockey Association to speak.

Harper stated that after the incident occurred at the Outdoor Hockey Rink between the Coach and Warming House Attendant. The Coach was reprimanded and asked to write an apology letter. Harper does not know the status of the apology letter. Harper also stated the Coach has been asked to resign from the organization since the incident occurred.

Harper stated that the lights policy has changed from last year.

Wimmer stated that a lock has been placed on the lights this year, so that it could not be turned on.

Harper stated that he checked the ice on a warm day after the City got the zamboni. Harper was impressed with the condition of the ice, but noticed that there was water under the ice. Harper stated that Cambridge paints their ice to form a foundation, which helps to create a bond that alleviates ice issues.

Wimmer questioned if there was going to be a financial contribution for the zamboni from the Youth Hockey Association.

Harper stated that he is aware there is an agreement between the City and the Youth Hockey Association, when the request came in the association did not have enough money for their financial contribution due to funding issues. Harper stated the association would hopefully be able to meet their portion of the cost for the Zamboni at the second half of this year.

Wimmer stated that City Council is trying to figure out how to establish the best relationship with the Youth Hockey Association going forward. Wimmer stated that the City has more access to the rink but is paying more in cost.

Harper questioned how many hours the City is spending on maintaining the ice.

Wimmer stated two hours a day with the Zamboni.

Harper stated that he would talk with the Board to see what they can do to iron out this situation.

Vita stated that Staff needed to know how the Board and Association are planning to handle this situation before the budget process in May. Vita also mentioned that locks on the lights were taken off last year, because they did not want people to get hurt. Vita also stated that the ice rink policy has changed and Warming House Attendants call the Youth Association and other organizations when rink is closed due to bad weather.

Wimmer stated that the ice arena is a benefit to City and would like to maintain a good relationship with Youth Hockey Association and that rink maintenance is a huge issue that the two groups need to find away to collaborate and address issues.

I. Review Draft Geo-Caching Policy

Vita introduced the draft of policy. Vita stated that Krause had given the draft to Chief Sager for review. Chief Sager requested that a picture of geo-caching be submitted as part of the application. Krause modified the policy and is looking for advice from the Board.

Bone stated that he was glad that clarification was made on where Geo Caches can be buried and that the application included locations will be checked out.

Motion by Bone, seconded by Zdon to approve modified policy and recommend it be submitted to City Council for final approval. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Discussion of Park Reservation Policy

Vita introduced memo and stated that Staff would like to have the Board give direction on some type of policy.

Wimmer questioned if there a reservation policy established for the shelter in Bluebird Park.

Vita stated yes.

Wimmer stated that we do not have a policy for Matson Park and Tennis Courts. Wimmer questioned a reservation that occurred in the past and how City responded.

Vita stated that there was a request that came to the board to reserve a facility, but that was for a large chunk of time and is different from this situation. Vita also stated that is important to include in a policy that groups must have insurance.

Wimmer stated that Staff wants a policy establish so they can respond to this type of situation.

Bone stated there is no policy right now.

Wimmer stated that Staff should bring the Bluebird Shelter policy. Wimmer also mentioned that there should be a clause that states no charge for City of Isanti residents and a charge for non-residents.

Vita stated that Bluebird Shelter policy would be brought to the next meeting.

K. Bandshell/Performance Area Update

Vita stated that Krause put together information on the Bandshell and only two construction companies responded.

Wimmer questioned when staff would be ready to bid on this issue and is there a reason why Staff is waiting on another bid.

Vita stated that historically Staff waits until three bids are received.

Wimmer stated that he does not want to wait beyond February to carry out the project.

Zdon questioned if we are waiting on any other bids and stated he would like to see the big picture.

Vita questioned if Board would like to see cost for the structure and concrete. Vita stated that she will have Krause check to make sure that nothing else is missing.

Wimmer stated that he would like to see total cost.

L. Comprehensive Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan

Vita introduced the draft put together by Krause.
No discussion.

M. Other Items:

1. Riverside Park Light

Vita stated a temporary light is being used currently at Riverside Park. Due to complaints about the light being dim a permanent light structure will be placed at the park for the safety of the children.

Wimmer stated that he was not aware of this issue until it was mentioned at a meeting. Wimmer stated that it would be beneficial in the future to let Board know of this type of issue when it occurs.

2. Youth Soccer and Hockey Association

Vita presented topic. Wimmer stated to the Board that Council discussed the paving that is going to occur on Jackson and 3rd Street, which will be eliminating the parking on the Westside of the Road in 2009. The developer will be assessed for the project. Wimmer stated that Staff will be scheduling meetings to discuss this issue and will keep the Board informed.

3. Sesquicentennial Grant

Vita stated that Isanti was not chosen for the Sesquicentennial Grant. Krause will PDF the formal letter once it is received to the Park and Recreation Board.

4. Cambridge- Isanti Trail

Bill Carlson invited Board Members and City staff to attend a meeting with MNDOT and RLK Engineering Firm on February 4th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at Cambridge City Hall for a discussion on Federal Funding Allocation.

Carlson updated the Board about allocations they have received for the Cambridge – Isanti bike trail. Carlson stated that Cambridge has allocated \$50,000; the County \$20,000; the Township \$11,000; and the township has a Park dedication for \$35,000 in their budget, and is hoping that Isanti would be able to donate for the trail. Carlson informed the Board that the Township is talking about building a park or rest area alongside the trail. Carlson also recommended that Board contact Legislatures to get more funding for the trail.

Wimmer questioned if Senator Olseen had been contacted for lobbying on this project.

Carlson stated that since the City did not get the Sesquicentennial grant, if the City is interested Carlson would still like to go ahead with the sign project and would be willing to contribute \$1,000 for two signs, and the City could contribute \$500 for the third sign.

Wimmer stated that he would like to go ahead with the project if it is free money.

Wimmer stated that we should check with RLK Engineering firm to make them aware of the trail extension going north.

Bone motioned, seconded by Zdon to adjourn at 5:47 p.m.. Motion passed unanimously.

Dated at Isanti Minnesota, this 22nd day of January 2008.

Respectively Submitted,

Leila Paye, Planning Intern