

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 22, 2013**

**1. Meeting Opening.**

**A. Call to Order.**

Zdon called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Roll Call.**

**Members Present:** Jamie Bergwick, Jennifer Garvey, Mayor Wimmer (arrived at 5:02 p.m.) and Aaron Zdon.

**Members Absent:** Clell Bone (gave prior notice).

**Staff Present:** Lisa Wilson, Community Development Director.

**D. Agenda Modifications.**

Wilson stated that she had none.

Zdon questioned if Mayor Wimmer had any modifications.

Wimmer stated that he just had an announcement to make at the end of the meeting.

Motion by Garvey, second by Bergwick to approve the October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

**2. Approval of Minutes from September 24, 2013 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting.**

Zdon questioned if there were changes to the minutes.

Motion by Bergwick, second by Garvey to approve the September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

**3. Public Hearings.**

**A. None.**

**4. Other Business.**

**A. Outdoor Hockey Rink – Maintenance Discussion.**

Wilson stated that she would turn the item over to Mayor Wimmer and Mr. Lindell. Wilson stated that they had a conversation regarding this item.

Steve Lindell, 802 Winsome Way NE, was in attendance to discuss the item.

Wimmer stated that Mr. Lindell had contacted him to discuss the outdoor ice rink. Wimmer stated that it was to be a 50/50 joint venture between the City and the Hockey Association to construct the rink. Wimmer stated that the City had varying relationships with the Association on how the rink is maintained and who maintains it. Wimmer stated that for a number of years, the City had maintained the rink. Wimmer stated that the Association had pointed out issues with the way the City maintained the ice. Wimmer stated that the City had purchased an old Zamboni from East Bethel to assist at one time.

Wimmer stated that we ran it for one year. Wimmer stated that the Association took over maintaining in 2009 because they did not like how it was being maintained and the City did not really have anything to maintain it to those standards. Wimmer stated that we do plow the trails and sidewalks in town, but most things the City does not maintain in winter. Wimmer stated that the question had arisen from Mr. Lindell as to the cost to have the City plow the snow off of the ice or make ice. Wimmer stated that there were also questions about if they could maintain but we would assist. Wimmer stated that on the fee schedule the hourly rate per employee for City time is \$50. Wimmer stated that if there is a snow event, then there could be two or three days of city clean-up, but we would not be able to get to it during these times.

Mr. Lindell stated that the Association President was present as well. Lindell stated that was the gist of the discussion. Lindell stated that he currently is new on the board. Lindell stated that the younger kids use the outdoor rink for practices. Lindell stated that in the four years his son was there, it was in horrendous shape. Lindell stated that it was not useable and he ended up building his own rink in his backyard. Lindell stated that his ice can only have one team. Lindell stated that the public uses the rink if it is skateable. Lindell stated that the group did have volunteers, but even though people have the best of intentions, things just do not get completed. Lindell stated that it turns into poor ice and no one gets to use it. Lindell questioned the options. Lindell stated that they have a Zamboni. Lindell stated that it is not the best Zamboni, but it works. Lindell stated that he wanted to open up the lines of communication and see what was available. Lindell stated that there are only so many hours they can afford. Lindell stated that the City has a budget and he has to pay taxes, so he is concerned about that as well.

Bergwick questioned what the options are and what we are thinking.

Wimmer stated that with the current agreement the association gets the premium hours for doing this. Wimmer stated that the City has paid most of the costs for construction.

Bergwick questioned if this is just sweeping the snow off or are we talking something more.

Wimmer stated that the City has a pleasure rink too. Wimmer stated that the complaints that we got over several seasons is that the City did not create hockey ice. Wimmer stated that it was a pain in the butt for the City to do and we were not meeting the standards anyway. Wimmer questioned if when the association was doing it, it was not the best ice either.

Lindell stated that it was not. Lindell stated that the association in 2006 is very different than what is there now. Lindell stated that there is an art to making ice. Lindell stated that he does it every year in his back yard. Lindell stated that you have to maintain it. Lindell stated that to volunteer for it, you may get to it or you may not. Lindell stated that it is more important to plow the roads than anything else. Lindell stated that they need an entity with equipment that can get there and get it plowed off, that is step one. Lindell stated that step two is maintaining it. Lindell stated that in Cambridge, they have a Zamboni and they run it daily out there. Lindell stated that is the only way to keep the ice good is to maintain it daily with the Zamboni. Lindell stated that a volunteer will do it three times and realize how much work it is. Lindell stated that this is a community benefit as well.

Zdon questioned if they have a Zamboni. Zdon questioned where the Association's Zamboni is kept.

Lindell stated that it is in a storage facility by the arena.

Bergwick questioned if it is possible to use their Zamboni to maintain the ice.

Wimmer stated that it is keeping it clean of snow and keeping it maintained. Wimmer stated that it will take time. Wimmer stated that it could take two or three hours for the guys to flood the rink. Wimmer stated that if the Board wants to pursue this, they would need to make a recommendation to the Council and the City needs to decide if they have the capacity to do this. Wimmer stated that Cambridge has more

staff to complete these projects. Wimmer stated that this enables them to do these types of things. Wimmer stated that we are trying to create a parks department. Wimmer stated that we need to determine capacity and how much there is and how much time is needed. Wimmer stated that we need to sit down to discuss.

Lindell stated that is an, it depends answer. Lindell stated that in the winter, he may have to remove snow on his driveway once a week or sometimes it is every day.

Wimmer stated that there is going to have to be someone to decide if the ice is good or bad. Wimmer stated that if the City were to do this there would need to be the removal of some of the exclusivity. Wimmer stated that there would need to be some give and take.

Lindell stated that he is speaking as him, not a board member. Lindell stated that they could say here is the Zamboni, you guys take over and run it for any and all activities. Lindell stated that the City does need to plow the snow. Lindell stated that they could maybe buy the ice back from the City. Lindell stated that the current agreement states 6 to 9. Lindell stated that they may not need it for that whole time period and may not need it every day.

Wimmer stated that we need a sit down to discuss the details.

Bergwick stated that they could use the Zamboni before their practices.

Lindell stated that they need to train someone every year in the association. Lindell stated that then you have to worry whether the person will show up. Lindell stated that each year the City is to flood the ice initially and train the association people on how to do the job. Lindell stated that every year, the City has to spend money to make the base and train someone different. Lindell stated that the turnover on their end is huge compared to the City.

Wimmer stated some days.

Zdon questioned if they want them to bring a proposal to the next park meeting.

Wimmer stated that this needs to move forward to Council. Wimmer stated that if the Board wants this to be explored they need to make a recommendation to the Council and the Council will direct staff to work with the group to hammer something out. Wimmer stated that the Council would have to approve at the second meeting in November any agreement with the association.

Lindell stated that you will not be making ice until December.

Zdon questioned if there was a motion.

Wimmer stated that it would be a recommendation to the Council to explore working out an agreement with the Hockey Association.

Motion by Bergwick, second by Garvey to recommend to the City Council that City staff explore working out an agreement with the Hockey Association. Motion was unanimously approved.

Wimmer stated that you will be getting a call after the next Council meeting letting them know of the outcome.

Zdon stated that they should have an idea of what they want us to do and what they anticipate they will be doing.

Wimmer stated that Mr. Lindell should get something to Mrs. Wilson ahead of the Council meeting, so that a background can be given at the meeting. Wimmer stated that he will get a rough idea from the Public Works Director as to how long it will take to maintain the ice.

Zdon stated that they could talk to the Wake Board guys as they have a huge piece of ice that sits there all winter.

Lindell questioned how deep it was.

Zdon stated six feet.

Wimmer stated that it is a lot of ice.

Lindell stated that it is an option.

B. Isanti Middle School Tennis Court Reservation.

Wilson had presented the information that the Board had requested at the last meeting. Wilson stated that staff is looking for direction.

Garvey questioned the fees.

Wilson stated that they pay \$350 per season for a total of \$700 a school year.

Garvey stated that they are getting a very good deal. Garvey stated that it is nice to see it broken down more specifically.

Wimmer stated that it was to get them used to a fee for using a facility. Wimmer stated that the City never did that before.

Garvey stated that it put some ownership into the facilities and it was not just a free-for-all reservation system.

Zdon questioned if the Board had comments or direction.

Garvey stated that is what they need to do because they had not approved the last time.

Bergwick questioned if the fees cover the costs for maintenance and operation of the facility.

Wimmer stated not even remotely. Wimmer stated that they use for the two seasons. Wimmer stated that the Council sets the fee schedule each year. Wimmer stated that if the Park Board wants a 10% inflator in there for park items, they can make that recommendation. Wimmer stated that we want to have youth activities be successful, but there are fees that need to be charged. Wimmer stated that in the next budget he is having all of the fees received from the use of facilities to be shown in the park fund. Wimmer stated that we will have more leeway over how to use these funds in the future.

Garvey questioned if the fee has always been \$350.

Wilson stated that she believed the original fee for the first year was \$250.

Wimmer agreed. Wimmer stated that it was for the first year. Wimmer stated that we went through to see what it would cost to replace some items and the fee was raised.

Garvey questioned the amount of time and the fees.

Wimmer stated that is \$350 for the fall season and \$350 for the spring season.

Garvey questioned if we were setting the fees for this coming Spring.

Wilson stated yes and Fall 2014. Wilson stated that the current agreement is for two years. Wilson stated that the agreement would then be for 2014-2015, if the Board were to give that direction.

Wimmer stated that the school has the opportunity to do a sports levy that they can adjust on their own as long as we get them the cost upfront. Wimmer stated that we need to get them that information now.

Garvey stated that he would like to see more of a gradual increase and the two year time frame. Garvey stated that we have some leeway in-between there. Garvey stated that she would propose \$375 for each season.

Wimmer stated that would be a total of \$750 per year.

Zdon questioned if it is 10% every two years.

Wimmer stated that he could share with the Council that they will look at the park fees every two years and implement a gradual increase.

Motion by Garvey, second by Wimmer to recommend that the fee be set at \$375 for a two year agreement with the School District. Motion was unanimously approved.

#### C. Legacy Park Benches and Picnic Tables.

Wilson outlined the information provided within the staff memo.

Board members discussed the materials, design, and costs associated with each of the examples provided.

Wimmer stated that they needed something that they could lock-down and is very durable.

Garvey stated that any of these could be attached to a concrete base. Garvey stated that the plastic ones come in different colors and are easier to maintain. Garvey stated that just the slates can be replaced if necessary. Garvey stated that she has them in her own facility at work.

Zdon stated that he liked the Malibu and the Traditional.

Wimmer stated that the price ranges are very different.

Garvey questioned if we wanted to mix.

Wimmer stated that the group will need to have picnic tables in two of the spots as well.

Garvey stated that 3, 4, and 5 locations; she would like the curved style versus the traditional. Garvey stated that the Malibu at the most visibly seen location.

Wimmer stated that he likes the Malibu because it looks more comfortable. Wimmer stated that in the interior you may want to relax more.

Bergwick questioned if there would be a discount to order more of these.

Garvey stated not likely.

Zdon stated that he prefers the Malibu. Zdon questioned if this is something we can get in a kit and have staff make them or do we not want to deal with that.

Bergwick questioned if the traditional would be easier to replace just one slat if it were damaged.

Garvey stated that it probably just sits on-top of the bench and can be removed individually.

Motion by Wimmer, second by Bergwick that direction for the benches would be in the Malibu style as shown on the picture provided in the packet. Motion was unanimously approved.

## **5. Discussion Items.**

### **A. Updates.**

#### **1. Removal of Park Amenities for the Winter.**

Wilson stated that the restroom facilities should be removed by the end of the week with exception that one unit will be left for the skating rink in Bluebird Park. Wilson stated that she has spoken with Public Works to have the tables taken in for the winter. Wilson stated that they did not have a place indoors, but they could be stored behind the salt shed.

Garvey questioned why they would need to be stored inside.

Wimmer stated that it was to protect them from the nonsense that seems to happen all winter long in the parks.

Zdon questioned if they had been stored indoors before.

Wimmer stated that they haven't. Wimmer stated that they have remained outside.

Bergwick questioned why we are doing it this year.

Wimmer stated that it would be to protect them from the nonsense all winter. Wimmer stated that they are not really used. Wimmer stated that this will prevent the City from having to replace pieces.

Garvey stated she is not objecting to them being moved. Garvey stated that she just does not understand why they need to be stored inside if the kids are not getting to that area anyway.

Wimmer stated that they could do it behind the facility.

Zdon stated that they can just go there with a tarp over them.

#### **2. Loss Control Recommendations Updates**

##### **(a) Charcoal Disposal Receptacles**

##### **(b) Doggie Waste Stations/Baggies**

Wilson stated that these at this time are not really necessary and are costly for the City.

Garvey questioned if there were signs at the parks noting this.

Wilson stated that the signs state that dogs should be leashed, but does not believe that there is a sign for the waste removal.

Wimmer stated that people who are going to do it will and others won't. Wimmer stated that it does say leashed. Wimmer stated that when we swap out signs, we can see that it is added to future signs.

Garvey agreed with that idea.

Zdon stated that these can be re-visited once we have more park funds available.

Wimmer stated that the City is losing Mrs. Wilson. Wimmer stated that she will be taking a tremendous opportunity with a community in the State of Texas. Wimmer stated that it is dramatically more than what they City can compete with. Wimmer stated that Mrs. Willson has been operating the parks for almost 7 years.

Wilson stated that was correct.

Zdon questioned when Mrs. Wilson would be deserting the City.

Wilson stated that her last day would be November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Zdon stated that she would have one more meeting with them.

Wimmer stated yes. Wimmer stated that he wanted the Board members to know.

**6. Adjournment**

Motion by Bergwick, second by Garvey to adjourn the October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board. Motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa M. Wilson, AICP  
Planning and Parks Director