

**City of Isanti
Park & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2010
Isanti City Hall**

A. Call To Order

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Park Board members rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call

Members Present: Board Chairman Wimmer, Clell Bone, Yvonne Kennedy, Keith Koehler, Bridgette Parker, and Aaron Zdon

Members Absent: Chloe Sunde, Student Representative (gave prior notice)

Staff Present: Lisa Wilson, City Planner, AICP

D. Agenda Modifications

Wimmer questioned if there were any modifications to the agenda.

Wilson stated there were none.

Wimmer requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion by Bone, second by Parker to adopt the November 23rd, 2010 Park and Recreation Board Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

E. Approve Minutes from the October 26, 2010 Park Board Meetings

Wimmer questioned if there were any changes to the minutes.

Motion by Bone, second by Zdon to approve the meeting minutes from October 26th. Motion was unanimously approved.

F. Tennis Court Equipment Recommendations - Whisper Ridge

Wilson stated that City staff had forwarded the information received regarding tennis court products to the school district and had received comments immediately. Wilson stated that the items selected were not the most expensive, but were based upon the need that the City would have and the climate that we live in. Wilson stated that City staff is looking for direction from the Park Board on how to proceed with this item.

Wimmer questioned where the funds would come from to pay for the items.

Wilson stated that she would need to work with the Finance Director to find the funds.

Wimmer stated that this is the equipment necessary to make the area at Whisper Ridge into a second court. Wimmer stated that he is trying to think, if a recommendation was made to do this, would it be more likely for this to come back in the spring; as there is no reason to purchase the equipment now. Wimmer questioned if the other Board members had comments.

Zdon stated that the school district must obviously know what they need or would want. Zdon stated that they did not pick the most expensive items. Zdon stated that as long as the equipment would last; as it appeared that there is a four year warranty for the net. Zdon stated that the equipment would not need to be in until April. Zdon stated that the City could use the list as a basis for what it would like to purchase in the spring. Zdon stated that the City would need to find the funding for the items.

Koehler questioned if the school district would be open to helping to purchase some of the equipment.

Wimmer stated that he thought a discussion should be had with the Athletic Director. Wimmer questioned his name.

Wilson stated Mr. Larkin.

Wimmer stated that a discussion should be held with him to discuss a cost sharing for this equipment. Wimmer stated that he seemed very receptive to the idea initially. Wimmer stated that he would like to see a 50% split. Wimmer stated that for them it would be a heck of a deal.

Koehler stated that this is why this whole project came up anyway.

Wimmer agreed.

Zdon questioned if a motion was necessary.

Wimmer stated yes. Wimmer stated that the motion would be for authorizing the Chair of the Park Board and staff to meet with members of the school district to come up with a price split.

Motion by Zdon, second by Koehler to recommend approval of the items recommended and to authorize the Park Board Chair and City staff to work with the school district to negotiate a 50/50 split of the cost for the equipment for purchase in April. Motion was unanimously approved.

Koehler questioned if much in the way of funds were coming in from the reservation policy that was recently enacted by the Council.

Wilson stated that the only reservations that we have received were from the school. Wilson stated that they have paid for the fall and will need to pay again in the spring.

Wimmer questioned if the fees were \$250 a piece.

Wilson stated yes.

Wimmer stated that the City should be able to cover the costs for the equipment from this fund. Wimmer stated that the Council would determine if the money could be spent in that manner.

Koehler stated that it is nice to see the money coming in and where it is going back to within the community.

G. City Flag Discussion

Wilson presented the staff memo and requested direction from the Park Board on this item.

Zdon questioned how long the American flag lasts.

Wimmer stated that they quite a bit longer. Wimmer stated that the City should look at other options. Wimmer stated that we learned on this one, if a flag is only supposed to last for 3 months, is it worth it. Wimmer stated that they were not real cheap. Wimmer questioned the cost.

Wilson stated that the City paid \$468.05 for three flags.

Zdon questioned how much a good American flag costs.

Wimmer stated that the City receives the American flags as a donation from the VFW.

Koehler stated that there are some local screen printing places that should be checked with to see how much they would cost and what kind of products they offer.

Zdon stated that an embroidered one may last longer, if possible. Zdon stated that even though they lasted a year, they were really only looking good for the first 6 months.

Wilson stated that City staff will look at other options.

H. Park Naming Contest Entries

Wilson stated that City staff had provided a flyer with the contest rules and deadlines to the Chamber as well as each of the local schools. Wilson stated that City staff only received one entry at this time. Wilson stated that City staff was looking for direction from the Board on how best to proceed with this item.

Wimmer stated that he will be meeting with the principals on a different issue and he will re-communicate this with them at that time. Wimmer stated that in the past, the flyer has been placed in every kids backpack. Wimmer stated this would appear to have sat around and did not get out to anyone.

Motion by Zdon, second by Parker to postpone reviewing this item until the January 2011 Park Board meeting, in the hopes that more submissions will be provided. Motion was unanimously approved.

I. Safe Routes to School Grant

Wimmer stated that this has become an annual event for the City.

Wilson provided the details of the staff memo.

Zdon questioned if any funds were required from the City.

Wilson stated that she believed there was a local match required, but was unsure as to the amount of that match.

Wimmer stated that the City applies for this each year. Wimmer stated that it is designated for the sidewalks along County Road 5. Wimmer stated that in many of these sections, there is not any available ROW or easement. Wimmer stated that the City would need to purchase that area, which is a big cost. Wimmer stated that the City would need to put their resources there and the grant would be used to construct the sidewalks.

Koehler questioned what was left along County Road 5 for sidewalk placement.

Wimmer stated that it would be in front of Subway and then in front of the apartments. Wimmer stated that in front of Rendez-vous, it kind of ends right there. Wimmer stated that the City at some point would like to place a signal by the grocery store so people can get across. Wimmer stated that the County would not support that because there is no sidewalk on the other side of the street for pedestrians to cross to. Wimmer stated that they would like to see sidewalks along the street the whole way, but the busy portion is the main concern. Wimmer stated that the private property owner in this area has not been as cooperative.

Wimmer stated that North Branch did receive funds. Wimmer questioned if Princeton had received funds.

Koehler stated that he did not believe they had.

Wimmer stated that another community in the area had received some funds.

Motion by Zdon, second by Parker to recommend that the City apply for the Safe Routes to School Grant in 2011, once the information becomes available for the County Road 5 sidewalk project. Motion was unanimously approved.

J. Cancellation of the December 22nd, 2010 Meeting

Wimmer stated that in the past the last meeting is cancelled, as there is not much going on. Wimmer stated that he will be in town.

Zdon questioned if there was anything pressing.

Koehler stated that the only issue that he could see arising is the condition of the ice at the hockey rink.

Zdon questioned if there was discussion with the hockey association.

Wimmer stated the hockey association is just making the ice. Wimmer stated that the City is working on the pleasure rink and an article will be placed in the upcoming Isantian.

Wilson stated that staff had been notified that the hockey association may create the ice from scratch themselves.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Bone to recommend cancelling the December 28th, 2010 Park and Recreation Board meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

K. Updates

Wimmer stated that the pedestrian bridge project, with the ousting of Congressman Oberstar, the last \$144,400 requested will not be coming. Wimmer stated that they are looking at some potential redesigns. Wimmer stated that his gut feeling is the project will not be happening. Wimmer stated that he could not say that for sure. Wimmer stated that we need around \$180,000 to finish the project; and that does not take into account overruns, change orders, etc. Wimmer stated that when the City set forth, there was a certain amount of dollars that the City was going to put forth. Wimmer stated that the state put forth some additional funds, but again, if the money was not there the project would not happen.

Wimmer stated that they are hoping to have some resolution by January or February of next year. Wimmer stated that he thinks it is a good project. Wimmer stated that it was a controversial project. Wimmer stated that it was supposed to be a decent looking bridge, so that it could be a calling card to the City. Wimmer stated that the question has been raised as to whether we could do a stripped down version of it, the answer is yes, but it would not be very attractive. Wimmer questioned if this is what we would want visitors to the community to see, as they first enter our community.

Wimmer stated that the positive side of this would be that it does open the park funds up to do other things in other parks. Wimmer stated that the easements that were secured along the east side of TH 65 would be finalized because the City would still want to see a trail system through the area to the school. Wimmer stated that this part of the project would be continued as it would still be an asset to the community. Wimmer stated that the bridge may be a done deal. Wimmer questioned if there were any comments for the Board.

Wimmer stated that the feeling is that if we cannot get something that is aesthetically pleasing, then the project may not happen. Wimmer stated that the downside is that this money will probably more than likely never be available again. Wimmer stated that he does not want to see something aesthetically unpleasing spanning the highway and becoming an eyesore.

Zdon stated that even using the dollars to do it on the cheap, you might as well do it right the first time. Zdon stated that you would just be wasting millions of dollars. Zdon stated that you should do it right or don't do it.

Bone agreed.

Koehler stated that it is smart to get those easements on the east side anyway.

Wimmer stated that there is another positive. Wimmer stated that MnDOT has lowered down the list of projects that they are looking at doing. Wimmer stated that they are looking at an overpass at TH 65 and CSAH 5. Wimmer stated that District 3 has asked the City, if they can apply on our behalf for the funds. Wimmer stated that it is unsure at this point as to whether or not we would get the funds, but we might be able to get it done. Wimmer stated that not saying that it is going to

happen, but if it did happen then maybe we could look at doing something different along County Road 5.

Zdon questioned the timeline on this project.

Wimmer stated that the applications are due by the end of the year, with approval immediately following.

Zdon stated that maybe we wouldn't even need the pedestrian bridge. Zdon stated that a nice path underneath it with a safety rail that looks good, it would be sweet.

Wimmer stated that it is good news. Wimmer stated that it is hard to believe, even though District 3 thinks there is a chance; that a project that was on a 20 year unfunded list, could be completed next year. Wimmer stated that they will be applying for it and working with the County on the application. Wimmer stated that the reason it was selected is due to the amount of accidents that occur at this intersection.

Wimmer questioned if there were any other updates.

Wilson stated that she did not have anything further.

L. Adjournment

Motion by Zdon, second by Koehler to adjourn the November 23rd, 2010 Park and Recreation Board meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 5:22 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 25th day of January 2011.

Respectively submitted,

Lisa M. Wilson, AICP
City Planner / Parks Coordinator