

**City of Isanti
Park & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
of
November 24, 2009
Isanti City Hall**

A. Call To Order

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

C. Roll Call

Members Present: Board Chairman Wimmer, Yvonne Kennedy, Bridgette Parker, and Aaron Zdon (arrived at 5:04 p.m.)

Members Absent: Clell Bone (gave prior notice)

Staff Present: Lisa Krause, City Planner

D. Agenda Modifications

Krause stated that there were none.

E. Approve Minutes from the October 27th, 2009 Meeting

Motion by Kennedy, second by Parker to approve the Minutes from the October 27th Meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

F. Youth Hockey Association Discussion

Krause stated that City staff had received a request from the Youth Hockey Association to discuss the agreement amendments and future of the rink with the Park Board.

Rich Brown, Cambridge-Isanti Youth Hockey was present to discuss the item. Brown questioned if everyone on the Board was aware of the outcome at City Council.

Wimmer stated that this Board had made the recommendations to the City Council.

Brown stated that without the Zamboni it will be difficult to keep the rink open, but they can do it with a lot of volunteers. Brown stated that the group is going to need to rent the Zamboni from the Arena Corporation like they had done last year. Brown stated that they are also looking at bringing in a warming house for the kids. Brown stated that they are willing to do this and they understand the financial constraints of the City. Brown stated that the group is looking for help removing the snow. Brown stated that it will be difficult for them to remove the snow and try to keep the ice in hockey condition. Brown stated that they do not have the equipment to do this.

Wimmer stated that this process was started around a year ago. Wimmer stated that the individual at the time had indicated that they could do what has been outlined and approved within the agreement. Wimmer questioned what had changed from then to now. Wimmer stated that he has responded via e-mail to questions as well but had not heard a response. Wimmer stated that the request would need to go to City Council for approval as this would take City staff time and money to complete. Wimmer stated that he had mentioned at the City Council meeting that the City does not support other groups with public works labor.

Brown stated that this is a unique situation as this is in the winter and there is snow removal. Brown stated that the Soccer group and BMX are not faced with this type of issue. Brown questioned which agreement is being discussed.

Wimmer stated that the City has only one agreement with the Hockey Association. Wimmer stated that when the adjustments had been made to the previous budget, it was discussed that there would be amendments to the agreement over the summer. Wimmer stated that City staff had tried to get input from the group, but did not receive anything until the agreement was going to Council.

Brown stated that they are a group staffed by volunteers and there is a lot of turnover. Brown stated that he was not made aware that he would be leading this item until September or October. Brown stated that he did not feel that snow removal was covered in the agreement. Brown stated that maintenance could very well be seen as snow removal, but this would help out the organization if the City would assist in that capacity.

Brown stated that it would be a deal killer for them and they would use the Cambridge rink only. Brown stated that they have recruited even more kids and need the ice times. Brown stated to keep costs lower, outdoor rink ice is necessary. Brown stated that the group would struggle to remove snow, flood, and maintain the ice. Brown stated that the quality of the ice would suffer.

Wimmer questioned when he got involved with this. Wimmer stated that the City had been stuck with the costs associated with purchasing the Zamboni and then repairs to the Zamboni, which the Hockey Association had indicated that they would help pay for in the beginning. Wimmer stated that there is some history here. Wimmer stated that his understanding from the e-mails received recently is that the Association feels like it had been left out.

Brown stated that he had been asked to fill-in in May when he had met with City staff and the Mayor. Brown stated that this was to be temporary. Brown stated that he was not involved with the Zamboni purchase. Brown stated that he has been on the Board for 5 years and had not heard that they were going to help pay for the Zamboni. Brown stated that the group did help pay for the boards.

Wimmer stated that it was his understanding that the Hockey Association installed the boards, but did not pay for the boards.

Brown stated that they did install, but they helped to pay. Brown stated that he will look into that.

Wimmer stated that he could verify as well.

Wimmer stated that the other groups all maintain their areas with grass, etc. Wimmer stated that this is a different situation, as it is not maintained by an outside group; but is not maintained completely by the City and open to the public at all times. Wimmer stated that the Youth Hockey Association does have access exclusively during certain hours for the group.

Brown stated that they have the facility 20 hours a week and the other hours it is open to the public. Brown stated that they want kids to have things to do. Brown stated that they will be looking at placing a bid on the Zamboni; however, the Zamboni needs a heated facility. Brown stated that this could be an issue as they would have to pay to store it. Brown stated that there are concerns regarding the costs to repair.

Wimmer stated that the City bought the Zamboni to help save some of the labor costs. Wimmer stated that when the equipment broke down, it was impossible for the City to maintain the hockey ice. Wimmer stated that Public Works Director Meyer would need to be consulted on the amount of time and potential costs to remove the snow.

Brown stated that the request is just for the snow to be removed. Brown stated that snow, which is not removed will solidify and cause issues.

Wimmer stated that if it snows, the guys will be busy shoveling the City and the rink will have to wait. Wimmer stated that the City would be the priority. Wimmer stated that this is why staff had tried to complete this during the summer so all of these questions would have been answered.

Brown stated that it would have to be a working relationship. Brown stated that if there is a snowfall and the City won't get there in time, they can go out. Brown stated that the City does have the equipment to help remove the snow to have good quality skating ice.

Zdon stated that it would be fair to have the City remove the snow, in a sequential manner, as the rink is used by the public. Zdon stated that the City should help with the snow removal for that reason.

Wimmer stated that City staff will have to get the numbers and provide those to City Council for review and decision.

G. Housekeeping Items

Wimmer stated that the December meeting is traditionally cancelled due to the holidays.

Zdon questioned the date. Zdon questioned if there was pressing business.

Wimmer stated that date would be the 22nd.

Motion by Zdon, second by Parker to cancel the December 22nd Park and Recreation Board meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Krause stated that a term was expiring for Mr. Bone.

Zdon questioned if he could reapply.

Wimmer stated that Mr. Bone could reapply to be on the Board. Wimmer stated that the notices have been placed in the paper looking for applicants.

H. Update on Donation of Message Centers

Krause presented the information provided within the staff memo.

Wimmer questioned if Public Works could construct one of these centers. Wimmer stated that he did not want this to become a big issue or a lot of paper work over this type of item.

Krause stated that she would talk to Mr. Meyer about the item.

I. Rum River Meadows Park – Land Costs

Krause stated that she had talked with the owner. Krause stated that the lots had a tax value of \$40,000 and the owner would like to keep near that number.

Wimmer stated that the tax value had actually gone down.

Krause stated that the owner would like to stay as close to that \$40,000 mark as possible. Krause stated that staff had questioned if he had a number in mind, as to what would be his lowest. Krause stated that the owner did not want to provide that information. Krause stated that the owner would review an offer and would be willing to do a contract for deed.

Wimmer questioned if staff had asked him if he would be willing to do an option on the property.

Krause stated that she had not.

Zdon stated that the City should not offer around \$40,000 for the lot; nor should they offer \$29,900.

Wimmer stated that the item should go to the Development Advisory Committee for review and discussion. Wimmer stated that the City could consider an option on the property. Wimmer stated that first right of refusal would also be an option. Wimmer stated that there is an opportunity to expand a popular park.

Zdon stated that an individual is not going to pick a lot next to the park. Zdon stated that the first right of refusal option would be beneficial.

Krause stated that she would pass the item along to DAC.

J. Citizen of the Month Discussion

Wimmer stated that the individual that had presented this item was not present. Wimmer stated that at the last City Council meeting, a young gentleman had proposed a citizen of the month. Wimmer stated that he is not a City resident and he would recommend taking this to his town board. Wimmer stated that this is a difficult one to determine.

Park Board members agreed.

K. Updates

Krause stated that the Bike-Walk Committee had applied for Legacy Trail Grant Funds to help cover the difference in the cost estimates and the actually funding that has been received to date.

Wimmer stated that the two cities are picking up the operating costs to get the project going. Wimmer stated that both cities have said that they have no additional funds to help. Wimmer stated that the construction costs have caused the problem.

Wimmer stated that the project is already behind schedule. Wimmer stated that the group will have to look at the availability of the other funds if it is delayed anymore.

L. Adjournment

Motion by Kennedy, second by Parker to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 26th day of January 2010.

Respectively Submitted,

Lisa Krause, City Planner / Parks Coordinator