

**City of Isanti
Park & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2012
Isanti City Hall**

A. Call To Order

Wilson 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: Clell Bone, Jennifer Garvey, Mayor George Wimmer, Aaron Zdon, and Chloe Sunde, Student Representative.

Members Absent: Kimberly Horst (gave prior notice).

Staff Present: Lisa Wilson, Planning and Parks Director, AICP and Brad DeWolf, City Engineer.

D. Agenda Modifications

Wilson stated that she was aware of an agenda modification.

Zdon stated that he would like to add an item to agenda as E.2. Zdon stated that the item he would request be added is to elect a new chairman for the Park and Recreation Board. Zdon stated that between his job and the park board schedule, he knows that there will be evenings that he is not able to attend. Zdon stated that he was not asked prior to being nominated as Chair. Zdon stated that he is involved with some of the park activities; and feels that there could be a conflict of interest.

Wilson stated that the Agenda could be modified as requested. Wilson requested a motion approving the agenda with modifications as presented.

Motion by Wimmer, second by Garvey to adopt the agenda as modified. Motion was approved 3 – 1 with Bone voting nay.

E. Organization of Advisory Bodies as per Chapter 8 of the Isanti City Code

1. Oath of Office

Wilson stated that Mr. Zdon would need to be sworn in. Wilson requested that Mr. Zdon stand, raise his right hand, and read from the Oath that had been provided.

Zdon read the Oath of Office.

Wilson stated that Mr. Zdon can sign the form and return to her at the end of the meeting.

2. Election of 2012 Park and Recreation Board Chair

Zdon requested nominations for the position of Chair.

Bone stated that Mr. Zdon should just give it a try for 6 months or so.

Zdon stated that he was not interested in being Chair. Zdon requested nominations for the position of Chair.

Bone stated that he would nominate himself.

Zdon questioned if Mr. Wimmer would like to be Chair.

Wimmer stated that he would be more than willing to be Chair, if no one else was interested in the position. Wimmer stated that if Mr. Bone wanted to be Chair that was fine.

Motion by Wimmer, second by Zdon to elect Clell Bone as Chair of the 2012 Park and Recreation Board. Motion was unanimously approved.

F. Approval of Minutes from January 24, 2012 Park and Recreation Board Meeting

Motion by Zdon, second by Wimmer to approve the January 24, 2012 Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

G. Unity Field Maintenance Discussion

Bone introduced the item and stated that he could see the representatives from CICB were present. Bone requested that they approach the podium.

Nate Smith, 307 Cottonwood St SW, stated that they would like to put money into the Unity Park Field in exchange for the paying of fees. Smith stated that the field needs some work; and does need some light work.

Wimmer questioned if they used fields in Cambridge.

Smith stated that they did use some fields, but do not pay for the use of the fields. Smith stated that they use Sandquist; and in exchange complete some janitorial services for the use.

Wimmer questioned the hours that they would be using the field.

Smith stated that it is usually from 6:00 to 8:30, but players do show up earlier, so potentially 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Lance Olson, President of CICB stated that the advantage to playing on the Unity Field is that they can play two games per night because there are lights. Olson stated that this is not available in Cambridge. Olson stated that the field in Unity Park is also configured for the U-13 team, which is an in-between group that uses a different field size. Olson stated that there is a field in Bradford, but it is not in good condition.

Bone stated that the field in Isanti is convenient for the group.

Olson stated that it is a great field. Olson stated that they are willing to put the sweat equity into the field. Olson stated that there are a lot of bleacher boards that are shot.

Bone stated that the City has not kept up with the maintenance and that is the City's fault.

Olson stated that they would like to use it for the in-between kids.

Zdon questioned if they would still need to reserve the field using the form, but the fee would be waived.

Wilson stated that they would need to fill out the form; but Council would need to waive the fee, as they set the fee.

Zdon stated that if they moved forward; and Council waived the fee, they would still need to provide dates and times of the reservations. Zdon stated that there did appear to be a little gap in the cost that the City would need to pick up.

Smith stated that there is about a \$4000 worth of work needed. Smith stated that the lights are another issue. Smith stated that he realizes they are lower posts, but was not sure what would need to be done to have them fixed. Smith did not know the cost. Smith stated that Mr. Olson had turned the lights on the other day.

Zdon questioned if they worked at all.

Smith stated that they work. Smith stated that there were some bulbs that had burned out.

Olson stated that there are seven bulbs that are out within one of the corners. Olson stated that there is not a ton of adjustment to the lighting that would need to be done. Olson stated that they would be willing to pitch in to buy the bulbs, if the City has the equipment to get up there and replace them.

Wimmer stated that the City does not have a lift. Wimmer stated that for a statement of policy for the Board to consider, the City chose to establish the fees as a first step towards having a park and recreation department that at some point in time would have its own budget and be self-sustainable. Wimmer stated that the fees that were established were minimal. Wimmer questioned if we were going to take that path or if we were going to have the land and let the groups run the facility. Wimmer stated that this is another group hockey type of deal, where they are responsible for a certain amount of items and they get to use the facility for a specified number of hours. Wimmer stated that has been an up and down relationship. Wimmer stated that the City ended up paying for most things by itself. Wimmer stated that we can go this route, but he wanted to refresh everyone's mind as to how we got to the fee point.

Zdon stated that it was a good thing to move towards.

Bone stated that the whole community uses the field.

Olson stated that their goal is not to run the facility, but to get it in playable condition for this year. Olson stated that if the City waives the fee this year, they could help with the repairs. Olson stated that the group did not object to paying the fee next season, but the goal is to get the field in working condition for this year.

Zdon stated that they would be doing that on the front side. Zdon stated that these fees would slowly trickle in over time.

Wimmer stated that the fees were very low to begin with, just to baby step our way into this. Wimmer questioned if the City, in the long term, is the goal to maintain facilities for certain levels of play. Wimmer stated that there is more cost to do so, as this is not just a couple of kids heading out to hit around a ball. Wimmer stated that this is probably the end goal that the City is reaching for. Wimmer stated that this would appear to be a good opportunity for the City; and is a win-win for both parties. Wimmer stated that he just does not want the City to lose sight of the end goal that they are working towards. Wimmer stated that we can do this, this time, but this will be one more thing to put in the hopper. Wimmer stated that public works is then going to have to do some work to keep things that way. Wimmer stated that these shots in the arm are nice, but they will get us through a season or two, but eventually, these are things that need to be done each year.

Bone stated that this is the City's problem and we overlooked it. Bone stated that this is a community appeal.

Wimmer questioned, at what level is it the City's responsibility.

Bone stated that it is our responsibility. Bone stated that it should be a playable field.

Smith stated that it is not playable. Smith stated that they used it last year because they needed a field. Smith stated that he had spent some time out there trying to fix the fences.

Wimmer questioned if this was a fair statement. Wimmer stated that to maintain the field year round like that, it is a \$3500 to \$4000 a year expense.

Zdon stated that would be correct. Zdon stated that you need to aglime each year. Zdon stated that there are general items.

Olson stated that \$5000 would be on the high side.

Wimmer stated that when going through budgeting, the City needs to make sure that it has the resources to do it. Wimmer stated that Bone's statement is valid, but we have that for about 20 different things for the City.

Olson stated that they could work in conjunction with the City to get the field playable. Olson stated that they can salvage the field for a minimum amount of money.

Smith stated that they need the field for U-13. Smith stated that there are other fields for older groups.

Motion by Zdon, second by Wimmer to recommend a one-year agreement based upon the proposal provided and to waive the fees; with the stipulation that CICB will resume paying the fees the following year. Motion was unanimously approved.

Zdon questioned if there would need to be an agreement.

Wilson stated that there would.

Wimmer stated that the City would work on an agreement with them and then have it run through DAC.

H. Legacy Park Trail Plan Review

DeWolf presented the staff memo and the trail project sheets. DeWolf provided information regarding the ADA compliance requirements.

Bone questioned if it was in budget.

Garvey stated that there was no budget yet.

Zdon stated that there are some funds available.

DeWolf stated that there are funds within the Park Dedication Fund that would be used to pay for the construction.

Garvey questioned if there was an estimated cost in mind.

DeWolf stated that he would anticipate bids to be good. DeWolf stated that they were thinking within the \$100,000 range.

Garvey stated that the small loop that is pink on the map, that area is flooded each year. Garvey questioned why that was located within that area.

DeWolf stated that it was to provide access to the brook.

Wimmer provided an example of another area that is similar that has a walking path in a low area like this one.

Garvey questioned what they were made of.

Wimmer stated that they are just dirt.

DeWolf stated that 912 is the 100-year flood elevation for this area.

Zdon questioned if that area was at that elevation.

DeWolf stated that it does drop in elevation.

Garvey stated that her only concern was that the area floods. Garvey stated that she did not want to see a brand new trail get washed out the first year that it is constructed.

DeWolf stated that they could take a look at that.

Garvey stated that in talking to home owners in that area, they indicated that there is flooding.

Bone stated that he did not see that it should be a problem.

Garvey stated that her concern is that the water level does go up. Garvey stated that if it did, the water would cover the new trail in this area.

Bone stated that it is never flooded.

Garvey stated that she had been down in that area just the other evening; and that area is lower lying and more than likely does flood. Garvey stated that there are some natural brooks in that area that contributes.

DeWolf stated that he thought this was above what typically floods each year. DeWolf stated that they could keep it above the 10 year flood.

Garvey questioned if the stakes out there were for the park.

DeWolf stated that they have marked property lines in the past for the area. DeWolf stated that he was not sure if they had marked the centerline in the area.

Motion by Zdon, second by Wimmer to recommend approval of the plans and specifications. Motion was unanimously approved.

I. Updates

Wilson outlined the updates as presented in the staff memo on various park related projects.

Zdon questioned if the school district was okay with paying a higher fee.

Wilson stated that she had made contact with the activities director; and he did not have problems with the new fee. Wilson stated that they would be coming in to make the necessary reservations within the next week or two.

Garvey questioned if representatives from 10k Wakes would be at the next City Council meeting.

Wilson stated that they would be present to discuss the proposal and answer questions that the Council may have regarding the use.

Wimmer questioned if Mrs. Garvey was familiar with the agreements that the City has in place.

Garvey stated that she was not.

Wimmer explained the process and some of the tenants of the agreement that have been discussed with the 10k Wakes representatives.

J. Adjournment

Motion by Wimmer, second by Zdon to adjourn the February 28, 2012 Park and Recreation Board meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 5:35 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 27th day of March 2012.

Respectively submitted,

Lisa M. Wilson, AICP
Planning and Parks Director