

**City of Isanti  
Park & Recreation Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 24, 2012  
Isanti City Hall**

**A. Call To Order**

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

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Park Board members faced the flag poles and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Jennifer Garvey, Kimberly Horst, Mayor George Wimmer, Aaron Zdon, and Chloe Sunde, Student Representative.

**Members Absent:** Clell Bone (gave prior notice) and Chloe Sunde (notice provided during the meeting).

**Staff Present:** Lisa Wilson, Planning and Parks Director, AICP.

**D. Agenda Modifications**

Horst questioned if there were any modifications to the Agenda.

Wilson stated that there were none.

Motion by Wimmer, second by Zdon to approve the April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

**E. Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2012 Park and Recreation Board Meeting**

Motion by Wimmer, second by Zdon to approve the March 27, 2012 Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

**F. Annual Park Tour**

**1. Eagle Park**

Zdon questioned if there was discussion about restoring the Farmer's Market.

Wimmer stated that there was no funding available to do so. Wimmer stated that the individuals that had provided sponsorship previously do not want to contribute more funds to do so, as the money that was there was used to pay staff rather than for continued operation of the market.

Garvey questioned if there was supposed to be a sign.

Wimmer provided a brief history of the park.

**2. VFW Park**

Zdon questioned if staff was aware of any issues.

Wilson stated that there had been none that staff was aware of.

Wimmer explained the agreement between the City and the VFW to new members.

Garvey questioned the age of the equipment and who maintained the fence.

Zdon stated that most of the pieces were newer with the exception of the swings.

Wimmer stated that he thought the VFW maintained the fence.

Horst stated that the park is boring and does not appear to be used.

Wimmer stated that it is not used regularly.

### **3. Whisper Ridge Park**

Wimmer stated that one of the big discussions during budgeting would be whether or not the City was going to invest in improvements to the park or remove the tennis/basketball courts and make the park a passive park area.

Zdon questioned if the net was new.

Wilson stated that she did not believe so. Wilson stated that the board had looked at the purchase of new nets last summer, if the improvements would have been made to the court.

Garvey questioned where the railroad property was in conjunction to the park.

Wimmer pointed out the location.

Horst stated that she used to live in the neighborhood and no one knew the park was back there. Horst questioned how we could determine if the park is actually used by the neighborhood.

Garvey questioned if bids had been received to determine the cost of removal.

Wimmer stated that bids have not been received for that scenario. Wimmer stated that the City could conduct a community survey to find out what the neighborhood thought about the park.

Garvey stated that is what they had completed in Minnetonka for some park projects. Garvey stated that there were mailings and internet surveys. Garvey stated that there were some open meeting dates in which residents could come to discuss items related to the parks.

Zdon stated that it would most likely cost thousands to have it removed. Zdon stated that he would hate to have it removed, if the residents did use the facility.

Garvey stated that it would probably be cheaper to remove, than to repair. Garvey stated that once it is removed, what is placed there in its absence could become more expensive to maintain than if they had just resurfaced the area.

Wimmer stated that he would like to have input from the public and a meeting can be difficult. Wimmer stated that he would be in favor of a survey. Wimmer stated that staff should provide some options to the Park Board at their next meeting for discussion; in terms of what could be done to communicate with the neighborhood residents. Wimmer stated that the distance from the park; and what was considered the neighborhood would also need to be determined.

### **4. Isanti Tot Park**

Board members discussed the vandalism that had taken place to the sign.

Garvey questioned if the shelter could be reserved.

Wilson stated that it probably could, as the others are available for reservation. Wilson stated that no one has ever asked; and it is not on the reservation application.

Wimmer stated that the red lettering on the sign is fading.

Horst questioned if it could be repainted.

Garvey stated that it is probably more of a sticker; and it would be easier to just have it re-stickered.

Wimmer stated that the City is going to have to look at replacing the signs every 10 years or so, as fading and continued vandalism will continue to occur.

Garvey questioned if this was the official standard park sign.

Wimmer stated that this has been the format that has been used in the past. Wimmer stated that there is no real standard sign that has been approved for use.

#### **5. Rum River Meadows Park**

Zdon stated that the park was built in 2006.

Wimmer discussed the equipment and noted that it is the only park with an irrigation system. Wimmer stated that the City had purchased three adjacent lots for park expansion area.

Garvey questioned if the Rotary had helped to fund the park.

Wilson stated that they donated the benches.

Wimmer stated that they just provided the benches. Wimmer stated that the City does a community build each time, so as to keep costs down.

Horst stated that the burgundy letters on the sign were in better shape.

#### **6. Riverside Park**

Horst pointed out a walking path.

Wimmer stated that there are people using paths in the area that are not located on City owned property.

Garvey questioned if the piece with the marsh was private property.

Wilson stated that it was still owned by the developer.

Zdon stated that there was nothing in this area when he first moved to the community.

Horst stated that the portable toilet in the park tends to get a little yucky.

Garvey stated that the bench swing should be removed. Garvey stated that you can see it is very unstable.

Wilson stated that she will ask Mr. Meyer to remove the bench swing. Wilson stated that Public Works has had to fix that piece of equipment on a regular basis.

Garvey stated that the tables would appear to be moved. Garvey questioned whether or not the tables should be anchored to a specific location. Garvey stated that the tables have been moved too close to the play equipment.

Wimmer stated that could be discussed.

Garvey questioned if the one piece of equipment was missing a bar that help children get onto the climbing apparatus. Garvey stated if there was a bar, then the tables would not be moved.

Wimmer stated that he thought the equipment in Bluebird was the same, as there is no bar there either.

Zdon stated that a bar could be added so that the kids do not use the picnic table to reach the climbing rails.

## **7. Bluebird Park**

Wimmer stated that every time he is at the park, kids are pulling on the trees.

Wilson stated that there pine trees available as well as some birch trees on City property that Public Works could rent a spade to remove and relocate in Bluebird Park.

Wimmer and Zdon stated that they were not in favor of pine trees in the parks.

Wimmer stated that he would be fine with the larger birch trees and see what happens.

Garvey questioned if there was signage.

Wimmer stated that there are two smaller signs along the road entrance. Wimmer stated that he would like to see a map and directory for the park.

Garvey stated that type of sign would be beneficial here, as this is the community park.

Zdon questioned where the broken equipment was located.

Garvey stated that the plastic bubble on the Clifford piece was shattered.

Wilson stated that she would notify Public Works and have it removed and replaced.

Garvey questioned how often the portable toilet company came in to service the facilities.

Wilson stated that they do come in on a regular basis. Wilson stated that she would check on the time frame.

Garvey stated that with the park being used as much and as often as it is, someone may want to look at increasing the number of service calls. Garvey questioned which areas were considered part of Bluebird Park.

Wimmer stated that he had to leave at 6:00 p.m.

Wilson provided information regarding what was included in Bluebird Park.

Garvey questioned if anything had been planned for the open space area.

Wilson stated that there was a performance center that was planned for the area.

Zdon provided background information.

#### **8. Unity Park**

Wilson updated the Board members on the items that have been repaired by CICB and the City.

#### **9. Mattson Park**

Horst stated that the park used to have older equipment, but over time, those items have been removed and replaced.

Garvey stated that she noticed the wooden sign at the corner. Garvey stated that the lettering was very hard to view in the blue.

Zdon stated that the lettering should be changed to white or yellow.

Wilson stated that she would ask Public Works to change the color.

Wilson explained where the replacement trees would be placed, given that they are crabapple trees.

Board members agreed to the new location.

Zdon stated that the park tends to receive more vandalism as it is the hangout for middle school aged kids.

Horst noted the trees that were lost to storm damage.

Zdon questioned if a volleyball net would be replaced in the park.

Wilson stated that it would not, as the intent was to move it to Bluebird Park.

Zdon stated that the volleyball area in Bluebird was to have a sand surface.

Garvey questioned the lighting.

Wilson stated that she thought they were in working order.

#### **G. Adjournment**

Horst questioned if anyone had anything additional.

No additional comments were noted.

Motion by Garvey, second by Zdon to adjourn the April 24, 2012 Park and Recreation Board meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 6:14 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2012.

Respectively submitted,

---

Lisa M. Wilson, AICP  
Planning and Parks Director