

**City of Isanti  
Park & Recreation Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 26, 2011  
Isanti City Hall**

**A. Call To Order**

Wimmer called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Board Chairman Wimmer, Clell Bone, Bridgette Parker, Aaron Zdon, and Chloe Sunde, student representative

**Members Absent:** Keith Koehler (gave prior notice)

**Staff Present:** Lisa Wilson, City Planner/Parks Coordinator

**D. Agenda Modifications**

Wimmer questioned if there were any modifications to the Agenda.

Wilson stated that there were none.

**E. Approve Minutes from the March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 Meeting**

Wimmer questioned if he had a motion to approve the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes. Motion by Zdon, second by Parker to approve the March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 Park and Recreation Board meeting minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

**F. Annual Park Tour**

**1. Eagle Park**

Zdon questioned if the Farmer's Market would be taken place this year in Eagle Park.

Wimmer stated that he was not sure. Wimmer stated that the money for the Farmer's Market was absorbed by the Chamber.

Bone stated that people would be disappointed as many attended the event.

**2. VFW Park**

Wimmer stated that each year the question is raised as to how much money to put into the park. Wimmer stated that it is the only park on this side of the City. Wimmer stated that it is used to some extent. Wimmer stated that there is very few complaints and vandalism that occurs at this park.

Bone stated that was because the VFW is right next to the park and people are there to observe if something were to happen in the park.

### 3. Whisper Ridge Park

#### a. Tennis Court Improvements

Wilson provided the cost estimates that were provided by Bolton and Menk for the reconstruction of the tennis court.

Wimmer questioned what that cost included.

Wilson provided the information in the letter, as to what the costs included.

Zdon questioned if the whole court would need to be re-surfaced.

Wilson stated that to make the area consistent, it is recommended that the new acrylic be applied to the entire court.

Wimmer stated that it made sense to do so.

Zdon questioned if the school district would be buying the nets and the equipment.

Wilson stated that they would be willing to levy for the courts, but could not actually purchase the equipment.

Wimmer stated that on Mr. Koehler's behalf, there are concerns with the City fronting the cost for something for the school district. Wimmer stated that Mrs. Wilson should follow-up with the school district to see if they are able to increase the levy yet this year to help make up the cost difference.

### 4. Isanti Tot Park

Zdon stated that in the past, the sand burrs had been an issue and there was graffiti on the shelter.

Wimmer stated that he did not hear that the burrs were an issue last year and the graffiti would appear to have been removed. Wimmer stated that there are very few complaints with regards to this park as well. Wimmer stated that it did not appear that any replacement equipment was necessary.

### 5. Rum River Meadows Park

Wimmer stated that there have been discussions in the past regarding the purchasing of an adjacent lot. Wimmer stated that the price of the lot was quite high at the time they City had originally asked.

Zdon stated that he knows there are lots within the area that are available for substantially less.

Wimmer stated that the park is heavily used by the residents and it would be nice to have some area to expand the park into in the future. Wimmer stated that the City could contact the owner again and see if the price is more negotiable.

Wimmer stated that there has been discussion on changing the Park Board to that of a Parks and Culture Board. Wimmer stated that the Board would then focus on community beautification and the community center as well. Wimmer stated that the City could start to look at tapping into some of the Legacy Funds to help.

6. Riverside Park

Wimmer stated that there have not been any vandalism issues.

Bone stated that the park looked to be in good shape.

Zdon stated that the park was in a good location. Zdon questioned if there were discussions about having a trail down to the river from the park.

Wimmer stated that the walking paths were being discussed as part of the new Legacy Park. Wimmer stated that he would like to drive past the area for a brief discussion. Wimmer drove the group to the new Legacy Park area. Wimmer stated that the City would look at placing walking paths as well as a little bridge over the brook. Wimmer stated that signage could be placed, which identifies significant nature areas. Wimmer stated that as the City expands to the north, the hope is to have the park area expand as well. Wimmer stated that the idea is to have the area be usable, yet low impact.

Zdon stated that the area is beautiful and will be a benefit to residents. Zdon questioned the beginning date for the Soccer Tournament.

Wimmer stated that it would be starting this week.

7. Bluebird Park

- a. Performance Center
- b. Wickstrom Home
- c. Sand Volleyball Courts
- d. CSAH 5 Sidewalks
- e. Legacy Park

Bone questioned if the Wickstrom Home should be looked at. Bone stated that the historical society does not want the home.

Sunde questioned what it was used for.

Park Board members were in consensus that the home needed to be removed.

Wimmer described the previous use of the home. Wimmer stated that the item should be placed on the next City Council agenda for discussion.

Zdon stated that he did not see any reason to try to fix it. Zdon stated that Mr. Sames had been through the home and it is falling apart.

Bone stated that he feared it would be started on fire by those breaking in and vandalizing the home each year.

Wilson stated that she would see it is added to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Agenda for discussion and direction.

Zdon stated that the skate park is used a lot. Zdon stated that there a few bolts and screws that may need to be tightened.

Wimmer stated that public works could look at that. Wimmer stated that there are few trees that have been destroyed.

Wilson stated that Mr. Meyer had indicated there is a fair number that would need to be replaced.

Bone questioned the location of the performance center. Bone stated that the original discussion was to have the performance center situated, so that people could use the banks to sit on. Bone stated that this would also decrease the glare from the setting sun getting into their eyes.

Wimmer stated that the most recent discussion was to have the back towards to the slope, so as to use the electric box that is located on the northwest corner of the park. Wimmer stated that this would then leave the larger field area in the middle for other types of events and activities.

Sunde stated that with showing movies in the park the glare from the setting sun would make the screen difficult to view.

Wimmer showed the approximate location of the sand volleyball courts. Wimmer questioned the issue with the posts.

Wilson stated that in order to deter theft, the posts would more than likely be permanently placed in the ground. Wilson stated that the posts would then interfere with the pleasure rink in the winter.

Wimmer stated that discussions should be held with Mr. Meyer on the possibility of removable posts.

Zdon questioned when the Connexus underground line was going to be dug. Zdon stated that he understood they would be doing so in April.

Wimmer questioned if it was April.

Wilson stated that was what was originally proposed. Wilson stated that she had heard nothing further on when the construction would begin.

#### 8. Unity Park

Wimmer stated that the passive area of Unity Park is not used as frequently. Wimmer stated that at one time, the Rodeo Association was going to move the shelter for the City to Bluebird Park. Wimmer stated that has not happened. Wimmer stated that it is a nice open space. Wimmer stated that the ball field on the other end of the park is used more frequently by groups during the summer.

Zdon questioned the sidewalks along County Road 5.

Wimmer stated that the City continues to try to receive grant funding to construct the sidewalks. Wimmer stated that the issues that arise are the limited amount of right-of-way in some of the areas identified. Wimmer stated that the City would need to work some private property owners in some areas to obtain right-of-way, which can be costly.

#### 9. Mattson Park

##### a. Equipment – Smaller children

Wimmer stated that Mattson Park has the most complaints and vandalism problems.

Bone stated that there is vandalism and drug use in the culvert areas. Bone stated that the tennis courts and the basketball court are heavily used.

Wimmer stated that the placement of more equipment for younger kids would not help. Wimmer stated that the incidents are occurring later at night when families are at home.

Zdon stated that there is a lot of play equipment that can be used by younger kids.

Wilson provided an update on the recent vandalism to the portable toilet facility that was in the park.

Wimmer stated that the Council will be discussing having the police reserves enhance patrols in the area.

Wimmer stated that if the performance shelter is something that the park board wants to do, further discussion is needed. Wimmer stated that at one time the City had a gazebo downtown where the community would attend functions. Wimmer stated that the performance center would be keeping with that tradition. Wimmer stated that the City does need to have people that can come in and use the facility. Wimmer stated that he felt it would be a great asset.

Zdon questioned the Whisper Ridge improvements. Zdon questioned if that is something that the City does need to move forward with.

Wimmer stated that the improvements would allow the school exclusive use. Wimmer stated it would also ensure that the park is being used.

Zdon questioned if it would look like Matttson.

Wimmer stated that further discussion can be had at the May Park Board meeting. Wimmer stated that he would like to see another tree planting in 2012.

Zdon questioned if the Board needs to look at purchasing larger trees that are not as easy to break-off. Zdon stated that the City would be purchasing fewer trees though, if this was the case.

Wimmer stated that the members should look at the future projects lists more thoroughly before the next meeting, so that priorities can be assigned to park projects. Wimmer stated that Mrs. Wilson should provide that list to the members for the next meeting.

**G. Adjournment**

Motion by Zdon, second by Bone to adjourn the April 26, 2011 Park and Recreation Board meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011.

Respectively submitted,

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Lisa Wilson, City Planner / Parks Coordinator