

**City of Isanti  
Park & Recreation Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 24, 2011  
Isanti City Hall**

**A. Call To Order**

Wimmer called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 and Sean Sullivan, Economic Development Director

**D. Agenda Modifications**

Wimmer questioned if there were any modifications to the Agenda.

Wilson stated that there were none.

Motion by Bone, second by Parker to adopt the May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Park Board Agenda. Motion was unanimously approved.

**E. Approve Minutes from the April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Meeting**

Wimmer questioned if he had a motion to approve the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Motion by Bone, second by Zdon to approve the April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Park and Recreation Board meeting minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

**F. Whisper Ridge Tennis Court Improvements**

Wilson presented the information provided within the Staff memo. Wilson stated that City staff is looking for direction from the Park Board on this item.

Wimmer questioned what was in capital replacement for the parks.

Smith stated that for park structures there is virtually nothing.

Wimmer stated that he had biked through there and it is not in the best shape. Wimmer questioned if there were issues with the playing surface.

Wilson stated that the City Engineer had referenced the low areas found throughout the court as having "bird baths".

Kristi Smith, 307 Cottonwood St SW, stated that as a resident of the area, she would recommend not moving forward with replacing the basketball court with a tennis court. Smith stated that she has lived in the area for 2 years now and has seen maybe two people playing tennis at the park.

Wimmer stated that the reason for placing the second court there is to transfer the school kids from Mattson Park to Whisper Ridge Park.

Smith stated that the kids that play basketball there will no longer be able to then.

Wimmer stated that he has not seen any kids ever play in that park.

Smith stated that she has seen kids play in that park. Smith stated that her family does use the park. Smith stated that last week when they had biked through the area, there were two kids playing baseball in the area, so that they did not lose their ball in the woods.

Wimmer stated that the reason for doing this was to free up the courts in Mattson, so that the public could use them. Wimmer stated that they had discussed increasing the levy to help pay for the improvements. Wimmer stated that the City is going to need to do something over there eventually. Wimmer stated that the City will either need to improve the area or let it all go.

Smith stated that it is still usable as it is.

Wimmer stated that originally they had discussed adding the equipment only and not re-surfacing the court.

Smith questioned if the basketball goals would stay.

Wimmer stated that the basketball goals were to be removed. Wimmer stated that they would almost have to remove the posts. Wimmer stated that the question is if we have to re-surface the court, this becomes a bigger deal. Wimmer questioned if the coaches have actually taken a look at the court.

Wilson stated that they had made recommendations on the types of equipment that the City would need to place.

Wimmer stated that was correct, but he questioned if they looked at the court itself.

Wilson stated that she was not sure if Mr. Larkin had been to the court. Wilson stated that a comment was by Mr. Larkin that he would be looking at the facility, but he has not verified whether or not that has been completed.

Wimmer stated that Mr. Larkin should be introduced to Mr. Sullivan. Wimmer stated that Mr. Larkin should look at the surface. Wimmer stated that City staff should ask him to look at the court.

Wilson stated she would follow-up with Mr. Larkin.

#### **G. Location of June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Park and Recreation Board Meeting – Legacy Park**

Wimmer stated that he would like to have the Park Board walk through Legacy Park. Wimmer stated that he would like to have Mike Mueller and Brad DeWolf come along, so the Park Board has an idea of where to go with trails. Wimmer stated that on the opposite side of the holding pond is the lot that the City has obtained for future access. Wimmer stated that the City would have to wait for the road to develop, in order to get to this lot. Wimmer stated that there is a temporary access easement from the existing road stub. Wimmer stated that he would like to talk to the bank about using this as a temporary access until the area develops further for parking.

Motion by Zdon, second by Parker to move the location of the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting Park Board meeting to Legacy Park. Motion was unanimously approved.

Wimmer stated that the Park Board members should just meet over where the roadway ends that evening at 5:00 p.m.

## **H. Priority Park Projects**

### **1. Performance Center**

Wimmer stated that the Park Board needs to make a decision on whether or not to move forward with the Performance Center, as that is the biggest ticket item. Wimmer stated that the bridge in Legacy Park would also be costly. Wimmer stated that the location can be further discussed. Wimmer stated that the City would need to get moving on this item. Wimmer stated that the ideal situation for timing would be to have it built by the fall, as the City would not get on any performance schedule until the following year anyway. Wimmer stated that City staff had been contacted by a company that does movies in parks. Wimmer stated that he does not fear that it will not be used a lot; he does fear that it will get vandalized. Wimmer stated that in the process of picking out materials, this should be weighed into that review.

Zdon questioned if the Park Board needed to take action.

Wimmer stated that if the Board wants to go forward, it would need to go out for bids. Wimmer stated that the group needed to come up with some conceptual planning. Wimmer stated that they need a vision of what they want to have. Wimmer stated that the members should look on-line at concepts or ideas.

Zdon questioned if the City was going to look at the one originally chosen.

Wimmer stated that City staff has the old file.

Wilson stated that she had contacted the company that the Park Board had originally selected. Wilson stated that the cost of the kit came in at \$97,105. Wilson stated that is just for the kit; that does not include shipping, tax, or any of the construction, foundation, finishing work that would need to be completed.

Wimmer stated that he did not think that was so bad. Wimmer questioned what was included in that kit. Wimmer questioned if that had the side rooms attached.

Zdon stated that he thought it did.

Wilson stated that there are two side dressing areas.

Wimmer questioned if that had electrical wired in.

Wilson stated that does not come with the kit. Wilson stated that the kit is basically just the structural components.

Zdon stated that the Park Board had requested cost estimates for that work separately last time. Zdon stated that it should have some lights and stuff included.

Wimmer questioned if Mr. Zdon had a ball park figure of the cost to construct the kit.

Zdon stated that when all said and done, maybe around the \$150,000 range. Zdon stated that with the foundation being concrete and the electrical wiring, etc; that would be his guess. Zdon stated that the Board had really liked this concept the last time. Zdon stated that new bids would be required, as the old ones would be no good. Zdon stated that he was in favor of moving forward with the original concept. Zdon stated that the group could look at more plans, if they wanted to, but if they wanted to build by fall something needs to be chosen.

Wimmer stated that he was fine with the original choice. Wimmer questioned if the other Board members were okay with the design.

Bone stated yes.

Parker also agreed.

Motion by Zdon, second by Parker to recommend moving forward with the plans provided by Cedar Forest Products Band Shell #3 and to submit that for bids. Motion was unanimously approved.

## **2. Legacy Park**

Wimmer stated that they will do the walk through and potentially get a rough estimate from Mr. DeWolf for the costs to construct. Wimmer stated that there are low impact trail materials that can be used for the project. Wimmer stated that they would be looking a pervious surface.

### **I. Bike-Walk Trail Signage**

Wimmer stated that there are people trying to take their horses back there. Wimmer stated that consistent signage along the trail for what cannot be used on the trail needs to be determined and placed.

Wilson stated that she had talked to Mr. Carlberg about this item some time ago. Wilson stated that the request was sent on to Mr. Heilman. Wilson stated that she is not sure at this point where the signage request is at.

Wimmer stated that he had been back along the trail. Wimmer stated that it is not paved yet, but the area back there is really nice.

Wilson presented the sign drawing that was provided by the sign company. Wilson stated that she was more under the impression that the sign should say “Welcome to the City of Isanti” on the one side and then on the reverse side, “Thank you for visiting Isanti”.

Wimmer stated that he liked that language better, as he has concerns with stating “Isanti’s bike – walk trail”.

Wilson stated that these would be smaller signs like at Bluebird Park, unless the Board wanted a bigger sign. Wilson stated that the sign would be placed at the City limit line along the trail. Wilson questioned if the Board had any comments on the people that had been placed on the sign.

Wimmer stated that he did not care either way.

Zdon stated that he was fine with them. Zdon stated that maybe a draft should be provided that shows the sign both with and without the people.

Wimmer stated that he did want the verbiage revised.

#### **J. Tree Inventory Discussion**

Wilson stated that the Park Board had requested that this item be placed back on the Park Board Agenda in the spring. Wilson stated that the MN Department of Agriculture does have some monitoring units placed throughout Isanti County, to see if the Emerald Ash Borer has arrived here. Wilson stated that City staff is looking for direction.

Wimmer stated that he has not heard that it is dramatically different at this time.

Zdon stated that the boxes are all over the County, so there is a vast study underway.

Wimmer stated that the City should wait and see what the outcome of that study is first.

Zdon questioned if the signs posted near the boxes indicate when the study will be completed.

Wilson stated that she is unsure if the sign has a deadline. Wilson stated that City staff can try to check with the state to find out that answer.

#### **K. Mayor’s Great Yard Award Discussion**

Wimmer stated that all the funding sources are in for the award. Wimmer questioned if there was one entry.

Wilson stated that she has one entry so far.

Wimmer questioned if there was another three weeks open for nominations for this month.

Wilson stated that was correct.

Wimmer stated that they are due by the third Wednesday of the month.

Sunde stated that she had heard of a problem with regards to the Mayor's Yard Award. Sunde stated that award promotes a great yard, but there is a water ban. Sunde stated that she knew of someone that kept getting citations, as they were watering for the award.

Wimmer stated that it is for a great yard, but it does not mean that you have to have the greenest grass. Wimmer stated that there have been winners that have a lot of landscaping in their yard. Wimmer stated that he would love to see people use more of the natural grasses.

Wimmer stated that on a side note, one of Mrs. Kennedy's neighbor's had nominated her yard, so she should be added. Wimmer stated that the Kennedy's have a sandpoint well, which is not City water. Wimmer stated that they could water morning, noon, and night; if they wanted to. Wimmer stated that if residents are watering in the evening, then they should be okay. Wimmer stated that they must be watering during the day, when the ban is on. Wimmer stated that he has heard that issue before. Wimmer stated that the Board does not look up a property owner's ticket situation when judging the awards.

Wimmer thanked Sunde for bringing up this point.

#### **L. Park and Trail Maintenance/Inspection Policy**

Wilson presented the staff memo. Wilson stated that there are items in the parks that are not being reported to City staff, as in need of repair. Wilson stated that residents are taking the initiative and just fixing things. Wilson stated that discussions have been held with regards to having a maintenance and inspection policy in place, in which staff would visit the parks on a regular basis to review items.

Wimmer stated that like with the ball fields; the organizations tend to just fix things. Wimmer stated that the policy would let organizations know to contact us to fix things.

#### **M. Updates**

##### **1. Wickstrom Building**

Wimmer questioned if the City had received any proposals to move the building.

Wilson stated that she was not aware of any at this point.

##### **2. Safe Routes to School Grant**

Wilson stated that the City Engineer is working on the plans that must be submitted with the application. Wilson stated that City staff has the item scheduled for review and approval by the City Council at their June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Wilson stated that the underground powerline is scheduled to be constructed in Bluebird Park between June 13<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Wimmer questioned if this would interfere with anything.

Zdon stated that BMX has a big event June 22-26. Zdon stated that there could be a couple thousand people in attendance at the event.

Wimmer stated that City staff needs to talk to them about that event.

Zdon questioned if they are boring.

Sullivan stated that they are boring.

Wimmer stated that Zdon should get the exact dates to Mrs. Wilson.

Zdon stated that this is the State qualifier. Zdon stated that all the big events will be packed into one weekend.

Sullivan stated that he had sat in on the meeting and they were very flexible on the timeframe for the construction activities.

Wimmer questioned if there was anything additional.

Wilson stated that she had nothing further.

**N. Adjournment**

Motion by Zdon, second by Parker to adjourn the May 24, 2011 Park and Recreation Board meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June 2011.

Respectively submitted,

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Lisa Wilson, City Planner / Parks Coordinator