

**City of Isanti  
Park & Recreation Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes of  
June 23, 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, Clell Bone, Yvonne Kennedy, and Bridgette Parker

**Members Absent:** Aaron Zdon (had given prior notice)

**Staff Present:** Lisa Krause, City Planner

**D. Agenda Modifications**

None.

Motion by Bone, second by Kennedy to adopt the agenda for June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. Motion was unanimously approved.

**E. Approve Minutes from the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Meetings**

Motion by Bone, second by Parker to approve the Minutes from April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>.

**F. Use of Eagle Park – Farmer's Market / Flea Market**

Jayson Guthmueller, Downtown Committee and Chamber of Commerce, was present to discuss the item.

Guthmueller stated that the groups were looking at some areas for a farmer's market. Guthmueller stated that the group is trying to bring traffic to downtown. Guthmueller stated that the Eagle Park area would be a good location, as there is the green space area where the vendors could set up and the area is surrounded by parking. Guthmueller stated that it is a nice easy walk for everyone and the area is compact.

Guthmueller stated that there are a number of Commissions that the item would need to go through first for approvals. Guthmueller questioned if the use was an Interim Use.

Krause stated that the Farmer's Market is an Interim Use and the Flea Market is not listed as a use within the district. Krause stated the preliminary discussions were held with the Planning Commission on the item and the Planning Commission wanted to see additional information prior to initiating a text change.

Wimmer stated that the intent is to have this on a regular basis. Wimmer stated that Eagle Park may be taken out at some point and time for a park and ride. Wimmer stated that the City Council will be going over the project this summer. Wimmer just wanted to make the petitioner aware that such a project could take place either later this year or next year and the area known as Eagle Park would be no longer.

Guthmueller stated that one of the benefits is there is no permanent infrastructure. Guthmueller stated that the event could be moved. Guthmueller stated that the group could move forward with the Farmer's Market and work towards the flea market in the future. Guthmueller stated that the Chamber was hoping to get that started for sidewalk sales days.

Wimmer questioned the date on that event.

Jan Peterson, Chamber of Commerce, stated that the sidewalk sales are going to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of August.

Wimmer stated the use is an issue with the Planning Commission, but not the Park Board. Wimmer stated that the location would work for the event.

Peterson questioned the Interim Use Permit.

Wimmer stated that the petitioner could talk to staff about that after the Park Meeting.

Motion by Bone, second by Kennedy to recommend approval of use of Eagle Park for a Farmer's Market / Flea Market. Motion was unanimously approved.

Bone stated that County Road 5 is the highest traffic area in the County and that is why these types of uses are located along this roadway.

Guthmueller stated that there would be lots of signage. Guthmueller stated that the event would take place on Saturday mornings and would start an hour earlier and end an hour later.

#### **G. 2010 Budget Discussion**

Krause presented the staff memo and outlined the changes that have taken place in the budget.

Wimmer stated that staff was asked to complete a three tier budget with a 3% increase, 0% increase, and a 3% decrease. Wimmer stated that the City will receive an update on the revenues that the City will receive at the beginning of July. Wimmer stated that one of the big issues is the 18% increase in health benefits. Wimmer stated that the City has went out for estimates and one of the insurance companies that was supposed to be less actually came in higher. Wimmer stated that labor costs are 65% of the budget. Wimmer stated that the City has done better in tax collections, but assessments have not been paid. Wimmer stated that there are LGA cuts as well as union contract negotiations coming up this year.

Bone questioned the amount of \$1600 for the copy machine.

Wimmer stated that this is a cost sharing. Wimmer stated that the costs for packets, notifications, etc. had not been shared accurately with Park and Recreation and this has been updated to reflect this.

Bone stated that \$1640 was a lot. Bone stated that the Board meets once a month and the packets are not big. Bone thought this was a big jump.

Wimmer stated that a statement could be brought back to the Board to justify this, if necessary.

#### **H. Mayor's Great Yard Award**

Wimmer stated that the Board needed to pick 1, 2, and 3.

Parker stated that 1224 Blossom Blvd was a favorite.

Wimmer questioned if there were other recommendations for first place.

Kennedy stated that 1006 Wentlock Court was an option.

Wimmer questioned if this was a first place.

Kennedy stated that it could be second place.

Bone stated that Hillock was rather nice as well.

Parker stated 1007 Hillock Street.

Wimmer stated that any nominated will continue to stay in the hopper, if they are not chosen this round.

Kennedy questioned where the pictures came from.

Wimmer stated that Krause takes the pictures.

Kennedy stated that 1224 Blossom should be first. Kennedy stated that 1006 Wentlock Court and the Hillock one for third.

Wimmer stated that Hillock should be a number one or a number two.

Parker stated that first should be 1007 Hillock Street, second should be Blossom Blvd, and third should be 1006 Wentlock Court.

Wimmer verified the addresses.

Motion by Parker, second by Kennedy to recommend the award nominations as previously stated. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **I. Memorial Giving / Donation Policy**

Krause presented the policy.

Bone thought the policy looked good and included everything.

Wimmer questioned if there was a "right of refusal" included in the policy.

Krause stated that the stipulation was missing from the document.

Wimmer stated that there was a community in Kentucky or Tennessee that did not have a right to refuse and ended up having to accept a memorial to a former grand wizard of the KKK. Wimmer stated that the City does not want to have this happen in the future.

Bone agreed that someone could request something that is inappropriate.

Wimmer stated that otherwise the policy would appear to be well written. Wimmer questioned if there was a motion to approve with that amendment to the policy or if there were any other amendments.

Motion by Parker, second by Bone to recommend approval of the policy with the amendment to include a right of refusal statement. Motion was unanimously approved.

#### **J. Park Use Policy**

Krause stated that staff had been working on a park use policy. Krause stated that Ms. Bauer had also been working on ordinance language for special events. Krause stated that there was a lot of overlap between the two items. Krause stated that a policy will be drafted and brought back to the Park Board.

#### **K. Mattson Park – Social Disc Replacement for Climbing Structure**

Krause outlined the staff memo. Krause stated that one seat is \$132 and the City would need four seats. Krause stated that Clifford was also stolen from the park and the cost to replace is around \$1,180.

Wimmer stated that a number of Clifford's have gone missing.

Parker questioned how they are being broken off.

Wimmer stated that individuals are climbing on and bend the springs back and forth until they break off. Wimmer stated that replacing the items continuously is expensive. Wimmer stated that the other spring animals have not been stolen, as far as he knows. Wimmer thought that another type of creature should be considered.

Bone questioned if the seats were being unscrewed.

Wimmer stated that the seats may not need to be replaced.

Wimmer stated that pricing should be brought back to the next meeting for other types of spring creatures. Wimmer stated that the seats stumps should be covered so no one gets hurt.

Krause stated that Mr. Meyer was going to place something over the stubs but she will verify.

Kennedy stated that the seats should not be replaced and the stubs should be removed. Kennedy stated that if they are going to be stolen all the time there was no sense in replacing them.

**L. Replacement Trees in Bluebird Park**

Krause outlined the staff memo and the recommendation from Mr. Kytonen. Krause stated that staff was recommending that the trees be replaced later this fall or in the spring with the annual tree planting.

Wimmer stated that the trees should be looked at next spring when the tree planting is completed.

Bone stated that there is a certain amount of replacement that is going to happen with trees.

Motion by Bone, second by Kennedy to wait and replace the trees in the Spring when the City does the planting in 2010. Motion was unanimously approved.

**M. Train in Eagle Park**

Krause outlined the staff memo and provided an example.

Wimmer stated that Mark Rojas had called and questioned if the City would like the idea. Wimmer stated that one of the ideas was to place in Eagle Park. Wimmer stated that this is all dependent upon the engineering for a park and ride at this location. Wimmer stated that railroad land was an option; however, Wimmer stated that the railroad would not like the train in their right of way.

Guthmueller stated that the cost of a locomotive will drive whether or not there will be that or a caboose. Guthmueller stated that Isanti does not have a brand or identity and the train could be that identity. Guthmueller stated that the Downtown Committee wanted to bring people to the downtown and experience the history. Guthmueller stated that there are people that have connections to get trains.

Wimmer questioned if the Park Board was "on board" with the concept of the train and whether that would be a good use of the area. Wimmer stated that City staff could help with research on this item to help make it possible.

Park Board members were in consensus that this was a good concept.

Guthmueller stated that the group will not be looking for any funding. Guthmueller stated that the funding would be privately raised. Guthmueller stated that this was a conceptual idea to get the ball rolling.

**N. Vision for Parks**

Krause presented the staff memo.

Wimmer stated that for Unity Park, other than the ballfields, it is a nice open space. Wimmer stated that the City should not change that area. Wimmer stated that the shelter was the shelter as long as it lasts there. Wimmer stated that the shelter does not appear to be used. Wimmer stated there should be a fee for use of the softball fields, as many cities do charge.

Bone questioned what the maintenance costs were at this point.

Wimmer stated that we do not have that number right off hand. Wimmer stated that as the field ages, more will need to be done to have the field be playable. Wimmer stated that the fields is used a lot more.

Bone stated that there are a lot of people that want to use the field.

Wimmer stated that the City may need to look at charging. Wimmer stated that the Redbirds do charge teams to use their field, so they can maintain. Wimmer stated that Staff should review the rate structures of other communities and have that brought back to the Park Board.

Wimmer stated that the lights are from a public access breaker. Wimmer stated that staff should talk to Mr. Meyer to see if this is the same at the hockey rink. Wimmer stated that if so, there may be two items that need to be fixed.

Wimmer stated that if someone wanted to build a shelter as an Eagle project when this one goes down, that would be fine. Wimmer stated that the shelter does not get used much.

Krause stated that Whisper Ridge is rarely used. Krause questioned if the Park Board would want to replace the basketball court and tennis courts.

Wimmer stated that the area is not used often. Wimmer stated that the land was unusable and donated as park land. Wimmer stated that has a little more use due to the trail from the cul-de-sac. Wimmer stated that if you are not one of the houses surrounding the park, you don't know that it is there.

Bone stated that the neighborhood should be brought into a meeting to discuss the future of the park. Bone stated that the neighbors are the ones that utilize the park and they should have a say in the matter.

Wimmer stated that the neighbors could be brought to the next park and recreation meeting to discuss the item. Wimmer stated at this point, he would lean towards not replacing the park.

Krause stated that this is a small neighborhood park and should the shelter be replaced if something did happen to it. Krause also questioned the play structures in the future.

Kennedy stated that the kids are going to grow up. Kennedy stated that future equipment would need to be geared towards older children.

Wimmer stated that staff should assemble a list that has all the amenities of each park and the ages that those amenities are geared towards. Wimmer stated that this would come back to the next meeting so the board can review what is available and what should be made available in the future.

Bone questioned if the VFW Park is used much.

Wimmer stated that the park is on VFW land. Wimmer stated that many comments are made that the park is "scary". Wimmer stated that it is shaded, there are dogs barking constantly at the kids, and this is not an ideal location for a park. Wimmer stated there really is not any other park in the area to serve the neighborhood.

Wimmer questioned if the Park Board could obtain costs for the demolition of the Wickstrom Home.

Krause stated that she had a conversation with Ms. Bauer and apparently, the home has historical value.

Bone stated that the structure is not a home. Bone stated that it was a summer kitchen.

Guthmueller stated this was one of the first homes built in town. Guthmueller stated that the City should look into the history of the structure before it is demolition. Guthmueller stated that the historical society may be interested.

Wimmer stated that the issue should be straightened out soon. Wimmer stated that the structure is a policing problem. Wimmer questioned what its use would be and what would the City need to do to renovate. Wimmer stated that the house has been broken into numerous times.

Wimmer stated that staff needs to talk to the historical society. Wimmer stated that costs should be found for demolition. Wimmer stated that Mr. Polzin should be contacted regarding a controlled burn. Wimmer stated that Ms. Jill Reller should be contacted to find out the history and the past use of the structure.

**O. Adjournment**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July 2009.

Respectively Submitted,

---

Lisa Krause, City Planner / Parks Coordinator