

**City of Isanti
Park & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting Minutes of
June 24, 2008
Isanti City Hall**

A. Call To Order

B. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call

Members Present: Board Chair George Wimmer, Yvonne Kennedy, and Bridgette Parker

Members Absent: Clell Bone and Aaron Zdon

Staff Present: Lisa Krause, City Planner

D. Agenda Modifications

Wimmer questioned if there were modifications to the Agenda.

Krause stated no.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Parker to approve the Agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

E. Approve Minutes from May 27, 2008 Meeting

Motion by Kennedy, second by Parker to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Cambridge – Isanti Bike/Walk Trail

Krause presented the staff memo.

Wimmer stated that the City has looked at constructing the trail along Third Avenue and 299th (when it is developed). Wimmer stated that the City would pay for the construction. Wimmer stated that the City Council is looking for some direction from the Park and Recreation Board on this item.

Carlson stated that Councilmember Duff had requested his attendance at the meeting. Carlson stated that the City will be altering the length of the trail. Carlson questioned whether the City would pay for the construction of the trail along 299th as well.

Wimmer stated that the area around 299th may be used as an industrial rail site. Wimmer stated that if this was the case, the City is looking at removing 299th and 301st would become the main east-west thoroughfare through the area. Wimmer stated that if this was the case, the trail along 299th would need to be relocated.

Carlson questioned when the construction would be completed.

Wimmer stated that he was not sure at this time.

Carlson questioned whether the trail should be brought just to the city limits and then the City would handle the rest.

Wimmer stated that he is not in the position to speak for the Council. Wimmer stated he was speaking for himself only and was not sure of the Council's position. Wimmer stated that he felt the City could construct the trail along 299th and Third Avenue.

Carlson questioned how this would link up to the main trail then.

Wimmer stated that they would bring the trail to 299th. The construction of the trail by the City would be in lieu of cash. Wimmer stated that the Council has discussed the item briefly, but this is not a "for sure" thing. Wimmer stated that the finances need to be in order as well.

Wimmer stated that the City has been trying to pull the Letters of Credit for the development located to the west of Third Avenue, as the developer was supposed to pay his portion of the cost due to the development of the property. Wimmer stated that the area would then have trail on the east side and sidewalk along the west side.

Carlson stated that the City is altering the plans for the trail and such alterations were not what was originally reviewed and approved for the funding.

Wimmer stated that he attended a trail committee meeting regarding the potential location change prior to the submittal of the applications for state and federal funding. Wimmer also questioned the meeting that had been scheduled with the County, Township, and Cities. Wimmer questioned what would be discussed at the meeting.

Carlson stated they would have all parties present to discuss the design and construction process.

Wimmer questioned if all the easements were in place.

Carlson stated that they were still working on obtain two (2) easements.

Wimmer questioned if RLK was doing the engineering and design work.

Carlson stated that RLK would be responsible for that portion of the project.

Wimmer questioned who would maintain the trail.

Carlson stated that each entity had approved Resolutions stating that they would maintain their portion.

Wimmer questioned when this had been completed.

Carlson stated that it may have been completed as early as 2001, as the maintenance agreements were needed for the federal grant application submittal.

Krause stated that she would try to find the document that they were referring to.

Carlson stated that he thought the costs had been divided up 40% - 40% - 20% based upon total maintenance costs preliminary calculated at the time.

Schlagel handed out a form discussing the funding and money contributed for the project. Schlagel walked through the brochure and the numbers with the Park Board.

Schlagel stated that the trail was never intended to be located within the City of Cambridge, but a portion would extend into the City of Isanti. Schlagel stated that despite the location, the City of Cambridge had pledged their assistance to the project. Schlagel stated that Cambridge had committed up to \$50,000; as the City felt the project was important to both communities.

Schlagel discussed the cash matches for the state and federal money received. Schlagel said that he would have a difficult time asking Cambridge to continue their commitment of \$50,000; if the City of Isanti did not contribute to the project.

Schlagel stated that the trail would be in jeopardy if the cash match is not there. Schlagel stated that Isanti Township has contributed \$10,000 and the committee would like to request an additional \$5,000. Schlagel stated that the Township only contributed because the City of Isanti had said that they would have trail going through the township area.

Wimmer stated that the City had stated that it would not put of "x" amount of dollars to match state funds. Wimmer stated that the City has three (3) projects that are in preliminary stages as well and the City will be paying for those.

Wimmer stated that he personally had asked Carlson if the necessary matching funds were available and if state and federal funds could be used to match one another. Wimmer did not think that the concept sounded correct. Wimmer stated that what Carlson had originally assumed is not the case now. Wimmer stated that his concern is that the trail may paralyze industrial development if it is maintained in the current location.

Wimmer stated that the Pedestrian Bridge, Performance Center, and Warming House/Bathrooms are all important projects for the City as well. Wimmer stated that park dedication funds are necessary for each project.

Wimmer stated that he did not like the idea that the City of Isanti is being blamed for the potential sinking of the bike/walk trail. Wimmer stated at the item will go to the Council for final determination next week. Wimmer stated that if we build our section rather than give cash, it would appear that the City would be torpedoing the project.

Schlagel stated yes. Schlagel stated that the City had indicated at the beginning that it would be contributing cash.

Schlagel stated that Cambridge has stayed dedicated to the project even though it is not within their city limits. Schlagel stated that Cambridge felt the project benefitted both cities and should be supported.

Wimmer stated that the Council will need to make that decision. Wimmer stated that if cash is given, then other projects in the hopper may not be completed. Wimmer questioned if the Board had a recommendation.

Wimmer questioned how the new layout will affect the cost estimates and the federal funding dollars.

Carlson stated that he did not know and would need to discuss with the engineers at RLK.

Wimmer stated that if they have the new location along 299th and in the future that would need to be removed; the City would have to foot the whole bill for that as well. Wimmer questioned if the trail would be constructed in 2009.

Carlson stated yes.

Wimmer questioned how the trail along the railroad would affect the proposed rail spurs.

Carlson felt that the trail could remain intact.

Wimmer stated that the County is looking at a rail industrial park in the area and the trail may affect whether or not this can be placed there.

Schlagel stated that commuter rail or the location of spurs would have enough funding for the projects that money could be funneled into the projects that would aid in the relocation of the trail.

Wimmer stated that the City does not want the trail location to negate an industrial park within the area. Wimmer stated that the County EDA had held discussions on whether the trail would be an obstacle.

Schlagel stated that it should not be an issue and he would speak to Cambridge staff to make sure that such discussion does not continue.

Wimmer questioned how funds would be dispersed.

Carlson stated that dispersal could begin now.

Wimmer questioned if there was a budget.

Carlson stated that there is not a specific budget.

Wimmer stated that if the City did give money to the project; the City would want to know the specifics. Wimmer stated the budget, what the money is spent on; how and why would be issues.

Schlagel stated that the numbers are rather recent and there would be accounting to ensure that purchasing policies are being met.

Wimmer stated that he would want to make sure that the money is spent in accordance with our purchasing policy. Wimmer stated that the money would be conditioned on communication and a budget for spending the money that the City had contributed.

Wimmer questioned the make-up and control of the decision-making process.

Schlagel would like to see individual representatives from each entity involved in the process. Schlagel stated that the bike/walk committee would have nothing to do with the decision-making process and the spending of funds.

Wimmer stated that he wanted a true partnership.

Wimmer questioned the amount in the Park Dedication Funds.

Krause stated that the estimate was around \$472,000.

Wimmer stated that the amount should not exceed \$50,000. Wimmer stated that a shared or joint powers agreement would need to be in place so that the City has an idea and control over how the money is spent. Wimmer also stated that a maintenance agreement needs to be worked out as well.

Wimmer stated that \$250,000 to \$300,000 is set aside for the Pedestrian Bridge.

Krause stated that the performance center has been estimated at \$125,000.

Wimmer stated that if \$50,000 is given here, the extra money may be needed for the Pedestrian Bridge project. Wimmer stated that these may be the only projects that the Board will be completing for awhile.

Wimmer has concerns about communication between the entities that are footing the bill. Wimmer looked to the other board members for comment.

Wimmer questioned if the Board was comfortable with \$50,000.

Kennedy felt the City should honor its commitment.

Wimmer stated that if all mechanisms are in place to ensure that we have control over our portion of the money and the City can meet its own policies. Wimmer questioned if the dollar amount should be left off.

Kennedy agreed.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Parker to commit Park Dedication funds to help fund the bike/walk trail with appropriate conditions on the funding. The motion was unanimously approved.

G. Bluebird Park Sign

Krause presented the concepts to the Board.

Krause stated that Ms. Vita would like to include acknowledgements to those students who named the park.

Wimmer questioned why we would use brick on this sign as it was not used in other parks and would be expensive. Wimmer also questioned why we would acknowledge the whole class, as one student provided the name. Wimmer also stated that this is not done in other parks either.

Krause stated that if the Park Board so chose, the signs could be simple and could match the other parks.

Parker stated that the signs should be simple and resemble one another.

Wimmer stated that he would like to see more exact costs, even for a sign similar to the other parks. Wimmer also requested that a full outline of the Park Dedication Funds be brought to the next meeting, so the signs can be reviewed against the budget.

Krause stated that she would have that information at the next meeting.

H. 2009 Preliminary Park Budget

Wimmer stated that \$5,000 has been preliminary budgeted for Recreation Group Requests; however, that amount may decrease upon review by the City Council.

Wimmer stated that the Board should review more in-depth numbers for the Replacement Items. Wimmer would like to see the schedule of what needs to be replaced within the parks and when.

Krause stated that she would work with Ms. Pierce to have those numbers available at the next meeting.

I. Mayor's Great Yard Award

Kennedy questioned if those yards that had one last year could win again this year.

Wimmer stated that "consecutive" meant consecutive months, not consecutive years. Wimmer did not see any reason why a good yard should not be eligible to win each year, if they were nominated.

Board members reviewed the photos provided. Board members nominated the following yards:

First Place:	704 Rum River Drive NW
Second Place:	1214 Blossom Boulevard NW
Third Place:	600 North Brookview Lane SW

Wimmer stated that the awards would be presented to each of the property owners at the July 1st City Council meeting.

J. Updates on Park Tour Items

Wimmer questioned the updates.

Krause stated that most of the items identified on the Park Tour had been taken care of at this point. Krause did state that Mr. Meyer, Public Works Director, was working on re-painting the wood benches and planters that had been located within Bluebird Park. Krause showed a sample of the paint color.

Kennedy questioned why the benches were being painted.

Krause stated that there were concerns surrounding their appearance and given that some of the wood is old and rotting, paint may be the only option.

Board members felt comfortable with the color chosen.

K. Adjournment

Motion by Kennedy, second by Parker to adjourn at 6:06 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Dated at Isanti Minnesota, this 22nd day of July 2008.

Respectively Submitted,

Lisa Krause, City Planner