

**City of Isanti  
Park & Recreation Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 26, 2012  
Isanti City Hall**

**A. Call To Order**

Bone called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Park Board rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Jennifer Garvey (arrived at 5:34 p.m.), Kimberly Horst, Mayor George Wimmer (arrived at 5:40 p.m.), Aaron Zdon and Student Representative Chloe Sunde.

**Members Absent:** None.

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

**D. Agenda Modifications**

Bone questioned if there were any modifications to the Agenda.

Wilson stated that there were none.

**E. Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2012 Park and Recreation Board Meeting**

Bone requested a motion regarding the minutes.

Motion by Zdon, second by Horst to approve the May 22, 2012 Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

**F. Legacy Park – Signage Discussion**

Wilson outlined the information contained within the staff memo. Wilson stated that City staff was looking for direction from the Park Board.

Garvey stated that a smaller sign at the entrance to the easement at this point may be sufficient.

Zdon stated that he agreed, given that the City did not know how long it would take for the area to develop. Zdon stated that signage should be placed at what will be the beginning of the trail, so residents know where to start.

Horst stated that the Isanti Middle School Science Department should be involved in the species identification along the trail. Horst stated that they are a brilliant group of individuals and their talents should be utilized in the community. Horst stated that this would spur community involvement in the project. Horst stated that she had contacts at the middle school and would be more than happy to speak with them regarding the project.

Bone stated that the high school shop class could create the signs.

Zdon agreed. Zdon questioned if City staff had contacts at the high school.

Wilson stated that she has spoken to a few individuals at the high school, but not within the technical education department. Wilson stated that she would find out who she needed to talk to.

Zdon stated that this could be a project for the upcoming school year.

Horst stated that this would be a cost savings to the City and would utilize the knowledge and skills of individuals that we have in the community.

Motion by Garvey, second by Zdon to recommend that Ms. Horst speak with the science department at the middle school and Mrs. Wilson speak with the shop class at the high school, so as to encourage a cooperative project with both schools for the identification of species and creation of signs along the Legacy Park trail. Motion was unanimously approved.

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

Park Board members discussed the various nominations.

Motion by Zdon, second by Horst to recommend to Mayor Wimmer that the June Great Yard Award be given to the following yards: First Place, 1227 Blossom Blvd NW; Second Place, 603 Edgewood St SW; and Third Place, 1114 Ironwood Ave SW. Motion was unanimously approved.

#### **H. Updates**

Bone stated that the Board had discussed either a second cleaning of the existing unit in Bluebird Park or a second toilet be added.

Horst stated that the Council had approved a second unit, as it was more cost effective.

Zdon questioned when the second unit would be delivered.

Wilson stated that she had been to Bluebird earlier that day; and the unit appeared to have been in place next to the existing unit.

Horst stated that the Council also approved the Bike-Walk Trail Rules sign at the last meeting.

Garvey questioned if this sign would match Cambridge's sign.

Wilson stated that it would; however, Cambridge had chosen not to have their City logo on the sign. Wilson stated that their sign will not be located within their corporate boundaries.

Garvey questioned if Isanti had chosen a location.

Wilson stated that City staff is working on finding the right location.

#### **I. Whisper Ridge – Community Meeting/Discussion**

Wilson presented the staff memo and outlined the responses that had been received.

Gail Barnes, 306 Birch Ct SW, was present at the meeting to discuss the item.

Barnes stated that the park is not lit and is not easily accessible or visible. Barnes stated that the police drive through on the cul-de-sac, but do not actually enter the park. Barnes stated that her daughter has come into the park and has witnessed some interesting things.

Bone stated that unless residents have kids, they probably do not use the park.

Barnes stated that there is nothing for smaller children to do at the park. Barnes stated that parents with young children do not come here.

Wimmer stated that the City has discussed a number of options for the park. Wimmer stated that the group has discussed just leaving things as is and eventually removing them. Wimmer stated that the Board has also looked at re-furbishing the tennis and basketball courts. Wimmer stated that there has been some discussion surrounding adding play equipment. Wimmer stated that all of the options cost money. Wimmer stated that he is not sure where any of the funds would come from to cover those costs.

Barnes stated that there are cars that drive and park in the cul-de-sac; and those individuals do use the park. Barnes stated that oftentimes they have basketballs and come in to play on the court.

Garvey questioned if Mrs. Barnes thought the basketball court was more heavily used.

Barnes stated yes.

Sunde questioned if a sand volleyball court could be added to the park. Sunde stated that she did not know what that would cost, but she felt it would be used.

Wimmer stated that the Bluebird Park plan has a sand volleyball facility that would be constructed in the future.

Sunde stated that teenagers all head out to Fish Lake for the purpose of using the sand volleyball areas.

Garvey questioned the boundaries of the park and the placement of the wooden posts.

Wilson stated that the park heads a good distance north and meets up with the residential homes on the south side of the downtown area, stretches to the tracks, and to the west a ways. Wilson stated that the posts were to stop ATVs and vehicles from coming back into the park.

Zdon questioned a skate park. Zdon stated that he would build it for the City, but it would not be built to insurance standards, so that is not an option.

Board members discussed the mixed survey comments that were received.

Wimmer stated that it is up to the Park Board to make a recommendation for what they would like to see happen in the park. Wimmer stated that the Board had tried to work with the school district for the use of the tennis courts. Wimmer stated that it was not a feasible option for the school. Wimmer stated that the park is not eligible for the use of park dedication funds.

Barnes stated that the park would be missed, if it were removed.

Wimmer stated that the park was not placed in the best location. Wimmer stated that at the time of its construction, the City needed park land and oftentimes took what it could get from the developer.

Barnes stated that when she had moved to the area, she saw the park as an added bonus. Barnes stated that the basketball court is used more often than anything else at the park.

Wimmer stated that the City could maintain the basketball court, but shrink the paved section to have more open space. Wimmer stated that maybe volleyball or a pavilion of some sort could be looked at in the future.

Bone questioned the use of park dedication fund dollars.

Wimmer stated that Minnesota State Statute regulates what those funds could be used for. Wimmer stated that they can only be used for something new.

Barnes questioned if lighting could be added.

Wimmer stated that lighting for park activities tends to be expensive. Wimmer questioned what lighting project the Board had just reviewed.

Wilson stated that a cost estimate was provided for the skate park and it was quite costly.

Wimmer stated that the expense coupled with the park closure at 10 p.m., they would barely be used in the summer.

Horst questioned geo-caching.

Wimmer explained the history behind the creation of the City's geo-caching policy. Wimmer stated that a group had come in, but very little interest seems to have been spurred for this type of activity.

Horst questioned if a Frisbee golf course would work.

Garvey stated that activity would require more open space than what is available at Whisper Ridge.

Wimmer stated that it would need something the size of Bluebird Park.

Motion by Horst, second by Zdon to maintain the basketball court and explore options for the removal of the tennis court area.

Wimmer stated that he would like to add a friendly amendment to the motion. Wimmer stated that the Park Board upon review the Comprehensive Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan next year, should review and consider what they want to do with Whisper Ridge Park.

Motion by Horst, second by Zdon to accept the amendment as proposed by Wimmer to the initial motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

#### **J. Adjournment**

Motion by Bone, second by Zdon to adjourn the June 26, 2012 Park and Recreation Board meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 6:00 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 2012.

Respectively submitted,

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Lisa M. Wilson, AICP  
Planning and Parks Director