

**City of Isanti
Park & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting Minutes of
August 26, 2008
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 Chair George Wimmer, Yvonne Kennedy, Bridgette Parker, and Aaron Zdon

Members Absent: Clell Bone

Staff Present: Lisa Krause, City Planner

D. Agenda Modifications

Wimmer questioned if there were modifications to the Agenda.

Krause stated no.

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

E. Approve Minutes from July 22, 2008 Meeting

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

F. Fall Music Festival – Jan Peterson

Jan Peterson explained that the location of the Fall Music Fest has changed from the Downtown to the Rodeo Grounds / Unity Park Area.

Wimmer stated that he had requested that Ms. Peterson come before the Park Board to explain the change in location.

Peterson stated that the Chamber was running out of time and another option was presented.

Wimmer stated that additional money was needed for necessary improvements to both the downtown site and the proposed Bluebird Park site. Wimmer stated that at this time, those funds are not available.

Wimmer thanked Ms. Peterson for coming to the meeting to explain the change in the location.

G. BMX Association – Kevin Riedemann

Kevin Riedemann stated that there were several requests within the letter provided. Riedemann stated that the BMX Association need to tar three (3) corners of the track. Riedemann stated that the group had received a cost estimate for the project, but with inflation had no idea how much more the costs would be. Riedemann stated that the group was looking to the City to invest in the track and was requesting a contribution of \$6,000 towards the project. Riedemann stated that the group would also be petitioning the County for funding as well.

Wimmer stated that he was under the impression that the group would be self-sufficient and additional funds would not be necessary. Wimmer also stated that the City does not have \$6,000 to give to the group. Wimmer stated that the group can apply for the \$1,000. Wimmer stated that the Preliminary Budget will be bare and the Council will be making tough decisions on where to make cuts.

Wimmer stated that the National event recently held did not market Isanti, but focused more on Cambridge.

Riedemann stated that he had communicated the event to many individuals, businesses, and the Chamber that the event was approaching.

Wimmer stated the economic argument does not really work, as the Nationals marketed other communities. Wimmer wants to see Park and Recreation get its fair share of the budget funds.

Riedemann stated that there are other cities that are financially funding tracks within their communities. Riedemann stated that the costs are long term, while the City should not foot the bill, a contribution should be made. Riedemann stated that they are trying to keep costs down for riders. Riedemann stated that if the funding is not available to give, then it isn't there to give.

Wimmer thought that the Soil-Tac would help make the track better, increase ridership, and help the group to become more self-sufficient. Wimmer stated that groups are constantly looking for help, but there is a process in place to request some funding that is fair to each group that comes forward. Wimmer stated that these events should be an economic engine for the community.

Riedemann stated that someone needs to be identified as the lead individual in the economic portion of these events.

Zdon stated that Soil-Tac kick started the track and the group has continued to put money into the track each year to make it better.

Riedemann stated that the group was not trying to mislead the City.

Wimmer stated it is not misled, but there is constantly something new that is needed by one group or another. Wimmer stated that there is a policy in place to make the funding equal amongst those groups that are requesting assistance.

Riedemann stated that he understood policy, but would not be doing his job if he did not ask.

Wimmer asked for a motion on the item.

Zdon questioned if a sum had to be included in the motion or could it be open-ended for the Council to determine.

Wimmer stated that the motion could include whatever they saw fit.

Zdon would like the City Council to look at the budget and see what could be given.

Motion by Zdon, second by Parker, to recommend that the City Council review the funds available and consider the request by the BMX Association. Motion was unanimously approved.

Riedemann is also requesting a letter of support from the City for the application that the group will be submitting for the 2009 Land O'Lakes BMX race.

Wimmer questioned how this was handled last time.

Krause stated that staff had drafted a letter, which was presented and approved by the City Council. Krause stated that the Mayor signed on the City's behalf.

Riedemann also stated that there is a drainage issue on the property. Riedemann indicated that the group has an individual that would be willing to come in and fill the area in question.

Wimmer questioned if there was something additional that had to be completed for this part of the request.

Krause stated that depending upon how much land would be graded and filled; a Conditional Use Permit may be needed. Krause also stated that the City Engineer should be involved in the project to ensure that the area would not adversely affect the surrounding area. Krause stated that she would speak with the City Engineer.

H. Historical Signage

Krause presented the staff memo.

Wimmer stated that the item should be forwarded to the Downtown Committee.

Peterson stated that the Downtown Committee has a plan in place for the look of the downtown and the group wants to maintain consistency.

Wimmer stated that the next Downtown Committee meeting was in September and the item should be reviewed by that group. Wimmer stated that their input on the item was important.

Peterson stated that she had the contact information of the individual that sets the agenda.

Krause stated that she would make sure that the item is forwarded along to that group for comment.

I. Riverside Park Lighting Proposal

Krause presented the staff memo.

Wimmer questioned whether there was a more direct light fixture head that could be used so that light was not wasted on the woods behind the property.

Krause stated that Connexus was trying to maintain the neighborhood feel of the area as well as to recognize that there are homes surrounding the property. Krause stated that the light provided in the park needed to take into consideration those homes.

Zdon stated that the light would ensure that no one could hide in the woods behind the park.

Motion by Zdon, second by Parker to recommend approval of the proposed Riverside Park Lighting Proposal. Motion was unanimously approved.

J. Mayor's Great Yard Award

Park Board reviewed the nominated yards. Park Board nominated the following yards:

First Place: 910 Rum River Drive SW

Second Place: 404 12th Avenue NW

Third Place: 1221 Bergman Lane NW

Park Board concurred with the following nominations.

K. Safe Routes to School Grant

Krause presented the staff memo.

Wimmer stated that the City has applied for the sidewalks along CSAH 5 as these are critical. Wimmer stated that the County will not provide additional improvements along the roadway until the sidewalks are in place.

Kennedy stated that the City should put the application in for 2008.

Motion by Zdon, second by Kennedy to recommend that the City apply for the upcoming 2009 Safe Routes to School Grant solicitation and such grant should focus on the creation of sidewalks along CSAH 5. Motion was approved unanimously.

L. Adjournment

Motion by Kennedy, second by Parker to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Dated at Isanti Minnesota, this 23rd day of September 2008.

Respectively Submitted,

Lisa Krause, City Planner