

**City of Isanti  
Park & Recreation Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 28, 2012  
Isanti City Hall**

**A. Call To Order**

Bone called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Park Board rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Mayor George Wimmer, Clell Bone, Jennifer Garvey, Kimberly Horst, Aaron Zdon, and Chloe Sunde (student representative).

**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 July 24, 2012 Park and Recreation Board Meeting**

Bone requested a motion regarding the minutes.

Motion by Zdon, second by Horst to approve the July 24, 2012 Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

**F. Bike-Walk Trail – Horse Discussion**

Wilson presented the staff memo.

Bone stated that the minutes were there so that is helpful.

Garvey questioned how the City was enforcing the other rules.

Wimmer stated that at this point there really isn't any enforcement. Wimmer stated that he has been trying for years to get a bike patrol or to have things reviewed by the reserves. Wimmer stated that the reserves are volunteers. Wimmer stated that the City has run into the hang-up that if it is not a previously identified duty, then we need to pay the officers more to add this duty. Wimmer stated that the City will be heading into negotiations for next year and he would like to see some kind of component added. Wimmer stated that some of the officers do bike patrol with Rodeo-Jubilee Days. Wimmer stated that with the parks and trails that the City has; a lot of the juvenile activity takes place in areas that are not seen from the street. Wimmer stated that if you take a look at the size of the culverts at Legacy Park, he is expecting non-sense to take place in the culverts out there.

Horst stated that we are almost getting to the point where we do need those bike patrols. Horst stated that to many people this would be viewed as a stupid reason to have those bike patrols. Horst stated that once we have more valid reasons why a bike patrol is needed and we can tie this to that, maybe people will be on-

board. Horst stated that if the City goes “over board” and passes something overbearing, then people will be upset.

Wimmer stated that we cannot have horses on the trail.

Horst stated that if we go crazy on people, they are going to be upset because they do not see the importance.

Wimmer stated that he was looking for clarification.

Horst stated that there are people that don’t believe this is important. Horst stated that if you tie this in with something that others see as really important then the bike patrol would make sense to them.

Wimmer stated that the officers are doing a good job. Wimmer stated that if they were out on bikes or walking; and are approachable then they can hear what is going on too. Wimmer stated that since day one, he was pushed for this. Wimmer stated that unless additional money is on the table to do this, they are hesitant to do this.

Zdon questioned if it was during the normal shift, if that would make a difference.

Wimmer stated that it doesn’t matter. Wimmer stated that they consider it an extra duty. Wimmer stated that he did not mean any offense when making these statements, but if they have to do anything other than riding in a car, it is considered an extra duty.

Garvey stated that it is part of their union package.

Wimmer stated that there are things in public works that are very detailed out as well. Wimmer stated that the horses on the trail are an issue because the trail was not designed to take that kind of weight. Wimmer stated that we get snowmobiles as well. Wimmer stated that the issue then becomes how should the City enforce the trail rules. Wimmer stated that we are dependent upon people to call in a complaint when they see it. Wimmer stated that in discussions with the City of Cambridge, they have contacted the horse clubs to let them know that they cannot be on this trail. Wimmer stated that we still run into issues. Wimmer stated that they leave their presents behind.

Horst stated that even if she called in, she may not know who the individual actually is. Horst questioned how we would even handle that.

Wimmer stated that it comes down to a community aspect of being respectful of what is there. Wimmer stated that he was frustrated with the vandalism in the parks because it seemed we couldn’t have anything nice. Wimmer stated that the City has tried to make people aware of the rules by placing them on the signs. Wimmer stated that we have tried to reach out to the horse clubs and to take more of educational approach. Wimmer stated that it is difficult and we do not want to get into a situation where we are setting up a sting to catch them.

Zdon questioned if there was an ordinance in place.

Wimmer stated that there was.

Zdon questioned if there were fines.

Wimmer stated that there were. Wimmer stated that we would just need to catch them. Wimmer stated that we do not really want to give them a fine, we just don’t want them to ride on there. Wimmer stated that even if someone is calling in, then an officer has to get out there and by then, they could be gone.

Bone stated that he was under the impression that once the sign went up, the issue was taken care of.

Zdon stated that the sign is at Third and Isanti Parkway. Zdon stated that there are still other areas that the horses could enter without seeing the sign.

Horst stated that for some people, the rules don't apply to them.

Bone stated that you cannot enforce morals. Bone stated that people that ride horses are usually pretty respectful, they know where to go.

Wimmer stated that he is hopeful that the sign will have some impact. Wimmer stated that if you pick up the trail someplace else, you aren't going to see the sign. Wimmer stated that eventually we could go to having the little no horses signs at the intersections. Wimmer stated that his concern is the long term health of the trail.

Horst stated that one could go at the road that is in-between.

Zdon stated that signs for both snowmobile and horses may be necessary in other locations.

Bone stated that snowmobiles do not leave any residue.

Zdon stated that they could bite up the pavement. Zdon questioned if any action was needed at this time.

Wimmer stated that the group should see what kind of complaints we have after the sign has been up for a while at the trail head. Wimmer stated that we should try to do some more education, but if that is not working, maybe put up the little signs heading into next spring, if necessary. Wimmer stated that if we have to do something from an enforcement standpoint, then we may need to work with Cambridge. Wimmer stated that they actually have more of the trail that they are responsible for than we do.

Garvey questioned if we know who the horse owners are in the City.

Wimmer stated that there are no horses in the City.

Bone stated that the horses are all around Isanti. Bone stated that they do not ride in the City. Bone has not seen them in the City.

Motion by Zdon, second by Wimmer to table this item to the September meeting to see if any additional complaints are received. Motion was unanimously approved.

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

Horst stated that her favorite house was 210 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW.

Bone questioned if that was for first place.

Horst stated that she was just stating her preference.

Zdon stated that he liked that one too.

Garvey stated that she had that listed as third.

Horst questioned what Mrs. Garvey had for first.

Garvey stated that she had 802 5<sup>th</sup> Ave SW. Garvey stated that 1104 Birch St SW was second and 201 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW as third.

Horst and Garvey had agreed that they liked all three mentioned.

Motion by Zdon, second by Horst to recommend 201 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW as first, 1104 Birch St SW as second, and 802 5<sup>th</sup> Ave SW as third. Motion was unanimously approved.

#### **H. Park Structures – Future Needs and Replacement**

Wilson presented the staff memo.

Wimmer stated that we are looking at the \$320,711.12. Wimmer stated that is the gap. Wimmer stated that is the money we do not have. Wimmer stated that is the big number that the City has that is an unfunded liability. Wimmer stated that none of these things were funded in the past. Wimmer stated that moving forward; the City needs to do so. Wimmer stated that we need to know what is of the highest priority.

Garvey stated that she questioned number 106, the storage building for the boy scouts.

Wimmer stated that there are some that do not have numbers in that column. Wimmer stated that these are assets to the City if the group were to walk away. Wimmer stated that those items would become the City's, but they are things we were not necessarily looking at replacing. Wimmer stated that these are areas or structures that a particular group takes care of and funds the costs for improvements or maintenance.

Garvey questioned Hillock West Subdivision, Riverside Park. Garvey questioned what does that entail. Garvey questioned if that was everything in that park or just the equipment.

Wimmer stated that was the park located by Mr. Zdon. Wimmer stated that would be for the park equipment.

Garvey questioned if that was the same for the Mattson Park, number 119.

Wimmer stated that there are a number of Mattson Park items. Wimmer stated that the bigger items have been split out. Wimmer stated that he believed that number is the old structures in the park and the refurbished equipment. Wimmer stated that as we do new things, we have been splitting them out.

Garvey questioned 385, the Broadway Street item.

Wimmer stated that is not play equipment. Wimmer stated that we placed utilities there. Wimmer questioned if Mrs. Wilson knew what this referred to.

Wilson stated that when the property was purchased, it was intended to have a trail connection for the pedestrian bridge through the property.

Wimmer stated that it is something on the schedule that may need to be removed. Wimmer stated that it is just carry-over from the original plan for the property. Wimmer stated that Whisper Ridge will change over time as well, given that the Board had recommended replacing only half of the park items.

Garvey stated that she could not find any other ones that could be depleted.

Bone stated that these are estimates.

Wimmer stated that they are depreciation estimates, as some may be higher or lower if they are replaced. Wimmer stated that the skate park is a perfect example. Wimmer stated that if you change things completely

that stuff can be expensive. Wimmer stated that the skate park is heavily used and a lot of people are interested in it. Wimmer stated that the public does not quite get that.

Bone stated that there are smart people living in town, they get it.

Wimmer stated that he gets a lot of complaints regarding the skate park.

Garvey questioned if the complaints were that the facility was not being used properly.

Wimmer stated that the complaints are mainly that we are drawing a bad element to town. Wimmer stated that kids doing this stuff; is actually a positive thing. Wimmer stated that everyone has their own view. Wimmer stated that when you are looking at something with a larger price tag on it, people tend to want to get rid of this facility. Wimmer stated this has a positive impact on kids having something to do. Wimmer stated that part of the Council members' job is to educate people. Wimmer stated that park and recreation tends to be an easy thing to go after. Wimmer stated that part of this is going to be, for this Board and it is not a crisis this year, but this is a big chunk of change.

Bone stated that is only if all these items are all wiped out at the same time and that is not going to happen.

Wimmer stated that it is kind of like a bubble. Wimmer stated that the City was building really fast, so the number of parks and the amount of equipment that was put in all at once increased. Wimmer stated that the City is going to be faced with replacing equipment that is all aging at about the same rate and time.

Bone stated that it is not all going to happen at once. Bone stated that if we have to replace it; then replace it. Bone stated that he recognizes the bubble is there.

Wimmer stated that he does not want to leave a problem. Wimmer stated that we are trying to come up with a plan so that when this stuff becomes an issue, whoever is here at that time is not faced with a larger problem. Wimmer stated that purchasing replacement pieces later on; the cost is only going to increase. Wimmer stated that we do not need to worry about some of these things for 5 years or even 10 to 15 years. Wimmer stated that he wants to try to set a road map of what is most important. Wimmer stated that all of it is important. Wimmer stated that the City has strived to have a park in each neighborhood in the City. Wimmer stated that the City needs to know how they are going to pay for it.

Garvey questioned if the group was supposed to give direction on how we want to prioritize these items.

Bone stated that it should be by use. Bone stated that some parks are going to be used more than other parks, so the ones that get more use should be replaced first. Bone stated that we cannot determine that.

Wimmer stated that it is not by use. Wimmer stated what Mr. Bone is saying is that we just replace things as they wear out. Wimmer stated that if the City cannot afford to do that then we need a plan.

Bone questioned why we can't afford it. Bone stated that these are projections for 10 years down the road. Bone stated that we are not going to be here 10 years down the road.

Wimmer stated that he does not want to leave a problem for someone else. Wimmer stated that we started the ball rolling on this and we should have a plan in place so we are not kicking the can into the future. Wimmer stated that we do not need to come up with a plan tonight, but in the next year, the Board needs to go through the Comprehensive Plan and determine priorities.

Horst stated that talking about each item and prioritizing them in order.

Wimmer stated that he wants to have a plan that future boards and future councils can work off of. Wimmer stated that the worst thing is to have a crisis is nothing to work off of, everything is important, and there has been no money has been set aside and no guidelines for determining what should be prioritized.

Garvey stated that they will be setting the guidelines and having a plan in place because there is not one now.

Bone stated that we do have developing land. Bone stated that a percentage goes to park and recreation. Bone stated that is not going anywhere.

Wimmer explained that is only for new equipment. Wimmer stated that the money cannot be used to replace items.

Bone stated that we could change that.

Garvey stated that we cannot, as it is state law.

Wimmer stated that we cannot control that.

Bone stated that for maintenance we could do that.

Wimmer explained the park dedication funds. Wimmer stated that the City has already taken the interest to help take care of other expenses. Wimmer stated that the City has done everything we legally can do at this point. Wimmer stated that he wants the Board to know the numbers.

Horst stated that she is a visual person. Horst stated that the Board needs to visit these areas and look at how they correspond to the list.

Garvey agreed that she would like to visually see things too.

Horst stated that she would like to attach the cost to the picture.

Wimmer stated that starting next spring, the Board could schedule a two hour meeting for a few months to look at these items in depth.

Horst stated that the Board needs to see how the whole picture fits together.

Garvey stated that she would assume that in the spring this would be back on the agenda.

Wimmer stated that the Board will go over the Park and Recreation Plan and Capital Improvements Plan, as they all tie together.

#### **I. Park History Research Project - Discussion**

Wimmer stated that the older generations in town are becoming far and few between. Wimmer stated that he has been traveling in other communities, and in many, there are signs or plaques that provides the history of the area. Wimmer stated that people like Mr. Bone, who know the history of projects in the City are becoming few. Wimmer stated that otherwise, you couldn't find 20 people in town that know why Mattson Park is named Mattson Park. Wimmer stated that he would like to keep that history.

Horst stated that key landowners should be mentioned.

Wimmer stated that when Mattson Park was put together, who was on City Council, was the land donated, why was it named the way it was, how was it developed, etc. Wimmer stated that he wants that shared

history. Wimmer stated that there are some assets in town that can help put this together. Wimmer stated that telling what makes Isanti unique and special; is important.

Horst questioned if we could back even further, say into when the native Indians lived by the river.

Wimmer stated that the trail at Legacy Park was impacted as they found some artifacts when they reviewed the area.

Zdon questioned who will do this.

Wimmer stated that he would like to have a recommendation to Council for us to work on that project. Wimmer stated that he will work on getting the money for the project. Wimmer stated that he wants to make sure that we have this. Wimmer stated that his long term goal would be to have the park board become more of a park and culture board. Wimmer stated that it may tie in the community center over time. Wimmer stated that is why the City has started to charge fees for the fields, so as to try to make park and recreation as more self-sustaining. Wimmer stated that in smaller communities' park and recreation is so easy to beat up on and forget all about, but it is very important. Wimmer stated that if the Board feels this is a good idea then he would like to see a recommendation to the City Council that the project be pursued.

Motion by Horst, second by Zdon to recommend that the project to research park history be pursued and potentially look into having a historian hired to help with the project. Motion was unanimously approved.

Garvey questioned if other communities had been reviewed to see if they have done this. Garvey stated that in the community she works for they have an historical society, but they are volunteers.

Bone stated that we have an Isanti County Historical Society.

Wimmer stated that there is a book that had been written. Wimmer stated that there are wonderful items in that book. Wimmer stated that the community has become diverse, in where they have come from. Wimmer stated that everyone is trying to figure out what kind of community we are going to be. Wimmer stated that if we could promote the shared history, then maybe people will see they are part of a unique community.

Horst stated that the more we accentuate the differences, the more different we become. Horst stated that if we accentuate the similarities, we have a better chance of uniting. Horst stated that he would like to move to K, as she has to leave.

#### **J. September 25<sup>th</sup> Park Board Meeting – Change Location to Legacy Park**

Wimmer stated that he thought that would be a good idea to meet there.

Motion by Zdon, second by Wimmer to move the September meeting to Legacy Park. Motion was unanimously approved.

#### **K. Legacy Park Trail Signage Update**

Horst stated that she has been trying to get in touch with the new principal at the Middle School. Horst stated that he was to meet with her the first week in August. Horst stated that he did not meet with her. Horst stated that she has sent memos to the current and past principal now, but no one has responded. Horst stated that she was going to just contact the teacher and see if they would like to be involved. Horst stated that she is going to suggest that they come to a meeting to review this item. Horst stated that she thinks what she is asking the students to do is going to be really hard.

Zdon stated that they could do it and they can meet with the Board next meeting.

Wimmer stated that we could also have Sam work with the students if need be. Wimmer stated that he is invested in the town and he had provided a quote to help with this project. Wimmer stated that he could help oversee the project with the students. Wimmer questioned if Mrs. Horst wanted him to contact the school.

Horst stated that she would try to contact the school again and let them know that there is someone that could help.

#### **L. Updates**

Wilson provided the updates.

Zdon questioned the issues with Unity Park.

Wimmer stated that there was back and forth between the groups with regards to payment of fees and the number of dates that were reserved. Wimmer stated that the goal is to get everyone together in the room to discuss how to make this work for the upcoming season. Wimmer stated that the City ends up getting blamed for problems.

Bone stated that they should be invited to the October meeting.

Wimmer stated that this would be a lengthy discussion. Wimmer stated that we sent them notification this summer that this discussion would be happening. Wimmer stated that people get a lot less honest and open when they are being recorded for the record. Wimmer stated that the smaller meeting will allow everyone to speak and then they can all sign off on the plan before they even leave the room.

Garvey stated that this was totally separate from the Park Board meeting.

Wimmer state that City staff would be meeting with them and would report that information back to the Park Board.

Bone questioned when the meeting was, as he will attend.

Wilson stated that they have a tentative meeting scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Wilson stated that is providing she hears from CICB.

Garvey questioned if we have a stipulation in there that if they do not respond, then they waive their right to help in the decision-making process.

Wilson stated that it is probably getting to this point.

Wimmer stated that this tends to be one of the issues each year. Wimmer stated that the City has to beg and plead to get information; and when things are said and done, they get upset.

Garvey stated that this is problem in other communities as well.

Bone stated that he will be at the meeting. Bone questioned if Mrs. Wilson would let them know.

Wilson stated that she would.

#### **M. Adjournment**

Motion by Garvey, second by Zdon to adjourn the August 28, 2012 Park and Recreation Board meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.



Meeting ended at 5:46 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 2012.

Respectively submitted,

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Lisa M. Wilson, AICP  
Planning and Parks Director