

**City of Isanti
Park & Recreation Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
of
September 22, 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, Yvonne Kennedy, Bridgette Parker, and Aaron Zdon

Members Absent: Clell Bone (gave prior notice)

Staff Present: Lisa Krause, City Planner

D. Agenda Modifications

Krause stated that there were none.

Motion by Parker, second by Kennedy to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

E. Approve Minutes from the August 25th, 2009 Meeting

Motion by Kennedy, second by Parker to approve the Minutes from the August 25th Meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

F. Rate Structure Policy – Field Usage

Krause presented the staff memo. Krause stated that staff questioned if the fee should apply to practices and games. Krause stated that many of the teams hold practices there and host games. Krause stated that staff also questioned how to deal with the resident vs. non-resident concept, given that on a team, some members will be residents and others will not.

Wimmer stated that the whole purpose of the fee is to fund the maintenance of the field. Wimmer stated that when he had played, they were required to pay for practice times as well as games.

Parker questioned if the practice fees were different than game fees.

Wimmer stated that he did not think there was a different fee. Wimmer stated that they paid up front for the season. Wimmer questioned the actual fee that was presented.

Krause stated that the Park Board had directed to use the Elk River example. Krause stated that the fee could be adjusted.

Wimmer stated that he would prefer the \$10 for resident and \$20 for non-resident. Wimmer stated that this would still be the cheapest around. Wimmer stated that there is only one field in question.

Krause questioned how the resident status was to be determined.

Wimmer stated that they should prove residency.

Krause questioned if that meant the whole team or just the representative requesting the field's use.

Wimmer stated that just the representative should prove residency. Wimmer stated that it would be easy for one team member to have a resident. Wimmer stated that both practice and games should be charged the same fee. Wimmer stated that his concern would be that teams would use the field for practice, as there would be no cost, but would not use for games. Wimmer stated that we would have teams practicing and using the field, but they would not be helping to pay for the maintenance of the field.

Zdon stated that what was being requested is affordable.

Kennedy stated that \$15 and \$25 would even be affordable.

Motion by Parker, second by Kennedy to recommend approval of the field use rate with clarification that a fee is charged for practices and games at a rate of \$15 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. Motion was unanimously approved.

G. Park Reservation – Message Centers

Wimmer questioned Mr. Zdon on how much it would cost to put something together. Wimmer stated that the costs associated with the ones provided in the packet were too expensive.

Krause stated that staff was using the pictures as an example. Krause stated that currently staff is placing paper on cardboard backing and taping it up with packing tape. Krause stated that the poster board is then placed on a large binder clip at the shelter location. Krause stated that this can be quite time consuming.

Zdon stated that the ones within the examples have whistles and bells. Zdon stated that they do not have to be lit. Zdon questioned if the board can be mounted on the shelter.

Wimmer questioned if Zdon could take a look at the shelters and the proposed message boards.

Zdon stated that he would look into the project and bring a response back to the next meeting. Zdon questioned if the box needed to lock.

Wimmer stated that we are currently just taping stuff up. Wimmer stated that it does not need to lock.

Krause stated that she would like to see something where the Public Works staff could just slip a piece of paper in for the week. Krause stated that the paper would also be protected from the elements.

Zdon stated that the message board could be constructed from hand and would be cheaper.

H. Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan

Krause presented the document. Krause stated that staff is looking for comments on the draft document. Krause stated that staff would like to have this plan in place soon.

Wimmer stated that the Rotary group was mentioned and this should be removed, as the City has numerous donations from other groups. Wimmer stated that it would not be fair to mention one and not the others. Wimmer stated that the references to particular groups could get quite long. Wimmer also stated that the references to the Soccer Association, BMX Association, and Redbirds should be provided within their own sections. Wimmer stated that even though the City owns the land, these entities maintain and have an agreement with the City to run the operation.

Wimmer questioned the planned play structure by Rum River BMX. Wimmer questioned if it should be removed.

Zdon stated that the BMX Association has discussed, and while it would be great, the association has some equipment there anyway. Zdon stated that it would be used, but it is within close proximity to the other park equipment.

Wimmer questioned the two ball fields that were proposed for Bluebird Park. Wimmer stated that one was to be a little league field. Wimmer stated that Cambridge has completed a large number of ball fields. Wimmer questioned if the City wants to replicate this here. Wimmer questioned if this area should be open space.

Zdon questioned if a small field was a big deal to have.

Wimmer questioned if the City would want to see both, only the large one, or only the small one. Wimmer stated that we are looking at intergovernmental services and do we want to duplicate in each community. Wimmer stated that he was sure the fields would be used, but open space areas are nice as well. Wimmer stated that if the Board is not ready to make a decision that is fine, but this is something to think about for the future.

Kennedy stated that the smaller one should be eliminated. Kennedy stated that the larger one would be used more frequently. Kennedy thought the location for the smaller one should be left open.

Krause stated that disc golf has been identified within the area as well.

Zdon stated that another ball field would be nice.

Wimmer stated that the Board was in agreement to remove the smaller field and the disc golf.

Wimmer stated that disc golf could be portable as well.

Kennedy stated that those looking to do disc golf in the park could bring their own equipment and play within the open space.

Wimmer stated that the parking area at Unity Park should be maintained as gravel. Wimmer stated that the "meeting of City standards" requirement should be removed. Wimmer questioned if the Park Board would want to see an Eagle Scout project that would replace the shelter in Unity Park in the future. Wimmer stated that he would be open to such a project, but a new shelter should be placed in another park, given that the current one is not used.

Wimmer stated that Eagle Park should be removed. Wimmer stated that the Park Board should make a recommendation to the City Council to "delist" Eagle Park.

Zdon questioned if the group had already done so.

Wimmer stated that the Board has discussed it on the park tour but has never made an official recommendation to the City Council to have the classification of park removed from Eagle Park.

Wimmer stated that the volleyball net at Mattson is not really used. Wimmer stated that staff is correct and the net should be removed or a playable court installed. Wimmer stated that one is slated for Bluebird Park. Wimmer stated that the residents around the area have stated that it is used on rare occasion.

Parker stated that it should be removed.

Zdon stated that the area is shaded and the net should be removed. Zdon stated that most people want to play volleyball in the sun. Zdon stated that if sand is added, then with all the trees there will be debris in the sand that may render the court unusable.

Kennedy stated that the netting should be kept for a new location in the future. Kennedy stated that other types of activities could take place within the remaining green space, such as Frisbee or Boce Ball.

Wimmer stated that staff was spending money for Rum River Meadows Park, as there are vacant lots adjacent to the park. Wimmer stated that it is a very heavily used park. Wimmer stated that staff could check on pricing for the lots.

Zdon stated that this would be the time to buy.

Wimmer stated that right now the park seems bigger due to the empty lots, but once the lots are built on the park will be closed in. Wimmer questioned what the Board thought of the idea.

Zdon stated that he would consider additional land to the west. Zdon stated that this would be a good green space area.

Wimmer stated that staff should check on the price of lots.

Wimmer stated that for Whisper Ridge, the courts should be removed. Wimmer stated that the options are to redevelop when necessary or take the courts out and allow for a more passive park area.

Wimmer stated that the Tot Lot location is hidden. Wimmer stated that the residents are the only ones that use the park and know that it is there. Wimmer stated that this could be used as a lesson in the future that parks should be accessible and visible from the street.

Wimmer questioned whether bench swings should be replaced within the parks. Wimmer stated that these are the most abused piece of equipment at the park. Wimmer stated that the Board should think long and hard about placing those in the parks in the future. Wimmer stated that he never sees adults sitting on the swings watching the kids.

Krause stated that she would make the changes to the document and would be bring it back to the Park Board.

I. Updates

Krause presented the updates. Krause stated that the Frisbees were completed and if the Board members were interested they could stop by after the meeting to view the finished product.

Krause stated that the basketball court in Mattson Park was striped at the end of August.

Krause provided an update on the Legacy Amendment funds.

Wimmer stated that Cities like us would not receive anything.

Krause stated that the group was requesting funds to help organize a Greater MN group.

Wimmer stated that the political clout and money lies within the Metro Area; and if there is a pot of money out there, the group will push for it. Wimmer stated that the City does not have the funds to participate.

J. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 27th day of October 2009.

Respectively Submitted,

Lisa Krause, City Planner / Parks Coordinator