

**Park Board Meeting - March 5, 2001
Minutes**

The March 5, 2001 City of Lino Lakes Park Board meeting was called to order at 6:30pm, by Chair Lindy.

Roll call was taken, members present were Pam Taschuk, Paul Montain, George Lindy, Chris Welsand, Bill Kusterman, Michael O'Connor, and Pat Huelman. No members were absent.

Also present was Rick DeGardner, Public Services Director.

APPROVAL OF February 5, 2001 MINUTES:

Pat Huelman made a motion, seconded by Pam Taschuk, to approve the February 5, 2001 minutes. The minutes were approved with Paul Montain and George Lindy abstaining.

SETTING THE AGENDA:

Rick added Highland Meadows 3rd Addition Preliminary Plat to the agenda.

The Agenda was passed as amended.

OPEN MIKE:

No one was present for open mike.

HIGHLAND MEADOWS 3RD ADDITION PRELIMINARY PLAT:

Rick advised he received a call from Mr. Troy Livguard today regarding a discussion of the preliminary plat for Highland Meadows 3rd Addition. Rick referred to a copy of the preliminary plat and asked for comments from the Park Board.

Rick noted that four acres of parkland were acquired in the First Addition. The intent was to acquire more land for an eight-acre park area. The City was not able to acquire the additional four acres. Therefore, the park area will only be four acres.

Pat inquired about the issue with Lot #4.

Mr. Steve Schmidt, developer for the project, came forward and stated next to Lot #4 is the Judd property. He stated he would be dedicating Outlot B as parkland. The area still has to be graded. The Judd's have indicated they do not want park area right up to their house. The project may include acquiring that lot for a 20' sliver of land to buffer the Judd's. He noted that the Planning staff has indicated the prior park dedication was adequate. He stated there are substantial ponds in the First Addition. Trails have been developed. The City Engineer has requested that Outlot A also be dedicated and a trail constructed to possibly connect with the northern portion of the area.

Paul inquired about the number of lots on the number of acres of land.

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Mr. Schmidt replied the plan calls for 65 lots on 27½ acres. There are eight existing homes.

Rick inquired about additional parkland being taken to realign Arlo Lane.

Mr. Schmidt advised no additional parkland will be taken. The alignment will be pushed to the north.

Paul inquired about the schedule for the project.

Mr. Schmidt advised he hopes to have the plan approved by May 2001. The project would then be built out within one year.

Paul asked if the traffic will go out to Marilyn Drive to Lake Drive.

Mr. Schmidt advised the traffic will go out 79th Street down to Arlo Lane over to Wood Duck. The plan will take seven access points off of Main Street.

Paul asked if the main access off of Main Street will go through Bluebill Ponds.

Mr. Schmidt verified that the main access will go through Bluebill Ponds.

Paul expressed concern regarding the additional traffic and pedestrian safety with the addition of 65 homes. He inquired about the amount of the cash dedication.

Rick advised he is not familiar with the cash dedication numbers. He stated he would like the City to look at acquiring Outlot B and Lot 1, Block #4 because the park area has been reduced to four acres. The trail access to Main Street on the north end is another important issue. The City Engineer will need to address traffic issues.

Pat stated there may be enough additional traffic to justify a trail being developed to access the park. He expressed concern regarding pedestrians crossing Arlo Lane.

Rick asked Mr. Schmidt if street signage issues have been addressed yet.

Mr. Schmidt replied the signage issues have not yet been addressed. The whole plan has been designed to eliminate the accesses on Main Street.

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Rick stated he will pass along the Park Board's concerns to the City Engineer relating to crossing Arlo Lane.

Mr. Schmidt stated there will be an easement across the lot to get to Outlot A. The City intends to black top the easement. There will also be a four way stop at Marilyn. There are trails in the First Addition through the ponds.

Chair Lindy stated it would be nice to review the project ahead of time to address all concerns. Rick advised all City Boards will review the plan during the preliminary plat process.

Pat stated anything that can be done to enhance the park area and size is a good idea.

Paul stated his concerns relate to trail connections, park size, and Outlot B, which are outside the developer's responsibility.

REVIEW PARK AND TRAIL DEDICATION STUDY:

Rick referred to an updated draft copy of the Park and Trail Study conducted by Northwest Associated Consultants Inc. He noted there were some changes since the preliminary draft was sent out to Park Board members earlier this month.

Rick asked for comments from Park Board members noting that the City Council will be discussing this topic within the next few months. He briefly reviewed the recommendations outlined in the report.

Paul stated he does not agree with the recommendation regarding commercial/industrial park dedication fees. He stated the City needs to be very cautious about dropping those fees. The City needs to be increasing park dedication fees.

Pat asked about the City's feeling regarding cash contributions being made at the time of the final plat. Rick advised that option does make sense because it takes into account the profit being made from the land. It would be beneficial to the City and the law does support that type of dedication.

Pat asked if there has been any experience regarding the per unit charge. He expressed concern relating to developers questioning or negotiating that type of park dedication fee.

Rick stated that is the whole purpose of the study. The City needs good data to support the park dedication fee. Developers could conduct their own park dedication study if they do not agree with the City's findings. He noted there has not been a lot of case law relating to this issue.

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Paul noted the developer will not pay for the park dedication fee. It will be passed along to the homeowner.

Rick advised the intent is that future property owners do not pay for existing parks. The development of existing parks needs to come from other funding sources.

Pat stated the City should discuss what the park values are to commercial/industrial development.

Paul stated that with no park dedication from that type of development, the parks will not benefit from commercial/industrial development. There is a correlation between the value of parks and commercial/industrial development.

It was the consensus of the Park Board that there needs to be a fair and equitable park dedication fee for commercial/industrial development within the City.

Pat asked what other communities do relating to commercial/industrial park dedication fees. Rick advised other communities have a certain percentage that is comparable to the residential fee.

REVIEW OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CLEARWATER CREEK PARK:

Rick referred to a draft copy of the narrative section of the Outdoor Recreation Grant Application for Development of Clearwater Creek Park.

Rick asked for comments and suggestions from Park Board members noting he will be finalizing the entire grant application submittal over the next few weeks. The application deadline is March 31, 2001.

Bill asked if the City was able to leverage off of anyone else's application. Rick advised he is not aware of the City leveraging off of another community's application. He noted that the support from the community has been very positive. There were approximately 50 residents at the public hearing and a petition was submitted with over 100 signatures.

Pat suggested the term "conservation development" be used in the application and note that the development will be used as a model for future development. Rick stated he will clarify the type of development as conservation development.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

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Rick referred to the Program Highlights Flyer from February 2001. He noted the Floor Hockey Mini Camp concluded this month. FOG and Pre-Kids-er-cise also concluded this month.

Rick continued stating that 31 children attended the President's Day field trip - "Cinema Café and Hayride." The next set of field trips is scheduled for the week of April 9 - 13.

The warminghouses were officially scheduled to close on February 25. However, the weather caused them to close on Saturday, February 24. There will be a summary report presented at the next meeting.

The City is currently accepting applications for a variety of summer positions including playground leaders, Options leaders, soccer instructors, preschool leaders and day camp leaders.

Rick added that the Spring Activities Guide was completed and is being sent out this week.

Bill asked if the hockey rinks are still being maintained. Rick replied they are not being maintained. Typically, it is very difficult to maintain the ice after February 15.

Chair Lindy stated the ice quality was exceptional this year.

PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Rick reviewed a memo from Mike Hoffman, Parks Supervisor, which summarizes the maintenance highlights for February 2001. He stated the Maintenance Department has been very busy assisting the Streets Department keeping the roads and cul-de-sacs clean. Other maintenance activity included trail widening, rink maintenance, reorganizing the maintenance shop, cleaning and maintenance of the warming houses, and ordering fertilizer and chemicals for upcoming season.

Pam stated the people who cleared the trails this year did a great job.

Paul asked if the Park staff normally helps the Streets Department. Rick stated there is a lot of cooperation and cross use between the Parks, Utilities and Public Works Department. Funding for cross activity is still budgeted out of each particular department.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Park Goals for 2001 - Chair Lindy advised the Park Board 2001 Goals were presented to the City Council at a previous work

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session. Council Member Reinert requested that dollars be budgeted from the General Fund for park maintenance. There is finally the realization that there is a need for additional funds for the parks.

Rick added that there is also interest from the City Council regarding a possible bond referendum. The City Council has requested information that was previously obtained relating to a bond referendum.

Chair Lindy stated the Council is looking at professionally polling the community to see what the chances are of passing a referendum. The timing issue of a referendum also needs to be addressed.

Pat added that the demand for park facilities compared to availability also needs to be looked at.

Chair Lindy suggested the possibility of a special election as opposed to the regular November ballot.

Pam suggested the Park Board review the information relating to a referendum at the next meeting. Rick advised he will compile the information and present it to the Park Board.

SCHEDULE NEXT PARK BOARD MEETING:

The next Park Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 2, 2001, 6:30pm, at Lino Lakes City Hall.

ADJOURN:

Paul Montain made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pam Taschuk. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Points
Recording Secretary