

**Park Board Meeting - April 2, 2001  
Minutes**

The April 2, 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, and Chris Welsand, Pat Huelman, and Bill Kusterman. Members absent were Michael O'Connor.

Also present were Rick DeGardner, Public Services Director, Sandie Wood, Office Manager.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 5, 2001 MINUTES:**

Paul Montain made a motion, seconded by Chris Welsand, to approve the March 5, 2001 minutes. The minutes were approved.

**SETTING THE AGENDA:**

The agenda was passed as presented.

**OPEN MIKE:**

No one was present for open mike.

**DISCUSS DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

Rick advised a few weeks ago all members of the various advisory boards received a copy of the revised draft comprehensive plan.

The City Council has requested the advisory boards review the latest draft and provide input at their next regular board meeting.

Chair Lindy referred to page 39, item 6 regarding the administration goal to promote open space. He stated the Park Board presented this idea to the Council earlier this year relating to programs being funded from the General Fund. He stated the Park Board should keep this in mind. Historically, the Park Board did sit down every year and look at the CIP.

Rick stated he does look at the CIP every year for equipment. There have not been any funds to make it come to fruition.

Chair Lindy noted the City Council has agreed to look at it this year.

Pam asked if the 2000 census date would be implemented into the draft plan. Rick advised he would have to check with the Planning Department regarding that issue.

Paul stated he has several questions relating to when the plan was originally written up to now. He stated there are some pieces missing and he needs to review it in detail. He stated his main concern is the greenway corridors and maintaining the

**Park Board Meeting - April 2, 2001  
Minutes**

rural atmosphere. He indicated he would speak to the City Planner.

Rick referred to the attached memo that indicates the plan is a work in progress. The plan is not complete and no maps were attached. He stated he understands that the Council will look at the various Boards' comments and then schedule a public hearing.

Chair Lindy noted the plan does address the land acquisition for the athletic complex.

**REVIEW 200-2001 WARMING HOUSE REPORT:**

Rick stated another winter season has come and gone. This winter was more of a traditional Minnesota winter. Most of the shelters were ready for skaters by winter break and closed in late February due to an unseasonable warm temperature and rainstorm.

In calculating attendance figures this year, Rick indicated he chose not to add organized team practices in the final numbers. By doing this, it was possible to obtain some true figures on how much the rinks are being used by the general skating public.

There were several organized practices conducted by the Centennial and Forest Lake Youth Hockey Associations. The primary rinks used for organized practices are City Hall, Sunrise north rink and Birch Park. As in the past, it was attempted to schedule organized activities on the rinks during the later hours.

Rick referred to a copy of the Warming House Report and noted that this time, there are not any proposed changes for next season.

Bill clarified that the rink numbers are up and do not include numbers from organized sports.

Chair Lindy asked if City Hall Park is programmed for hockey. Rick advised City Hall Park is programmed on a limited basis for youth hockey.

Bill inquired about the savings if the City only opened some parks on the weekends. Rick stated the savings would be minimal. The City has not yet considered if some of the rinks should only be open on weekends. If Necessary the City may just look at unsupervised rinks. This issue will be reviewed further in October or November 2001.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Rick referred to the Program Highlights Flyer from March 2001. He noted a week of field trips is scheduled for April 9 - 13.

**Park Board Meeting - April 2, 2001**  
**Minutes**

Currently, the City has at least 20 participants signed up for each trip except the Underwater Adventures and Hayride trip.

Winter sessions of the Toss, Kick and Catch, Soccer Mini Camp, Floor Hockey Mini Camp and Dance programs have ended. Registration is currently going on for the spring sessions of the Floor Hockey Mini Camp and Soccer Mini Camps programs.

The Recreation Department is now offering a youth tackle football program. The local youth tackle football organization approached the department last fall and after several meetings decided to turn this program over to the Recreation Department.

Registration for many of the spring outdoor activities, such as golf, T-ball, tennis and softball have been slow due to the late spring weather. It is anticipated that registration numbers will pick up with the warmer weather and match past registration numbers.

The City is currently hiring for a variety of seasonal staff positions including Playground Leaders, Options Leaders, Maintenance and Athletic Program Instructors.

Rick noted the Spring Activities Guide, which includes spring and summer programs, was delivered to homes the last week in February. The Summer Activities Guide is scheduled to be in homes the last week of May.

Pam asked where the youth tackle football program will be located. Rick stated the football program will primarily be held at the Centennial Middle School and Centennial High School. The Recreation Department is working with Blaine and Spring Lake Park on this program.

Pat inquired about the equipment for the football program. Rick advised the City will be supplying two jerseys for each participant. The participants are responsible for the rest of the equipment. The Recreation Department is considering having an equipment sale or trade show to help out with equipment needs.

**PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Rick reviewed a memo from Mike Hoffman, Parks Supervisor, which summarized the maintenance highlights for March 2001. Rick noted March activities include snowplowing of streets, trails and parking lots. Maintenance staff attended a number of educational and safety training seminars. Staff began painting picnic tables, picked up hockey goals and cleaned warming houses.

**Park Board Meeting - April 2, 2001  
Minutes**

Rick added that staff also began the removal of hazards trees (Wood of Baldwin Lake Park) and prepping wood duck houses for nesting season.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Review Referendum Information** - Rick stated that at the last Park Board meeting, Pam suggested the Park Board review the information pertaining to a referendum. Rick stated he compiled the following items to review:

- Resolution 97 - 30, Council Support to Pursue Referendum
- Referendum process overview
- November 19, 1997 Park Board meeting minutes
- January 5, 1998 Park Board meeting minutes
- Spring, 1998 article in city newsletter
- Program statement/cost analysis, page 1 (dated 1/8/98)
- Estimated annual tax impact (November, 1997 and February, 2000)
- Check list for a successful referendum

Chair Lindy stated the decision regarding a referendum rests on the City Council. A decision will be made in May.

Pam asked if the Council would give a time frame if they decide to go ahead with the referendum. Rick stated he hopes the Council would give a time frame. The Council is aware of the Park Board's position on a referendum. The issue will be discussed further at a Council work session in May.

Chair Lindy stated he assumes the Council will leave it up to the Park Board as far as progressing the referendum process. The Council did mention a feasibility study. He asked if the Park Board should pursue that. Rick stated the Park Board first needs to find out if the Council wants to pursue a referendum. Once that is determined, there are options to explore relating to how the process should proceed.

Chair Lindy stated the Park Board is looking for approval to proceed and a timeline. If the Council does approve a referendum, the Park Board needs to be prepared to move forward at the June Park Board meeting. Rick stated a referendum is a huge undertaking. The process would include having 8-10 area volunteers to form a committee to make the referendum work and make people aware of it.

Pat stated the Park Board needs to contact people who have a big interest in the complex as well as residents.

**Park Board Meeting - April 2, 2001  
Minutes**

Bill inquired about the design cost estimate and asked if the City needs a better one. Rick advised the City does have an accurate costs estimate for the athletic complex. The question will be what else should be included in the referendum.

Pat stated the City will need a consultant to provide that information.

Chris asked about the difference in the estimated annual tax impact for November 1997 and February 2000. Rick advised the difference comes from the increase in total market value of commercial, industrial, and residential.

Chris suggested the estimated annual tax impact for the future be include in the information that is given to residents. She asked how many key people will be need for the committees. Rick advised 8-10 area volunteers will be needed.

Pam added that the volunteers need to represent a broad spectrum of the population.

Rick advised an update will be given at the June meeting.

Pat asked what kind of input the Council will expect from the Park Board.

Chair Lindy stated he believes the Council will rely on the Park Board completely. The Council is sure they want to pursue the referendum if it is feasible that it will pass.

Rick stated he has provided the Council with information regarding a referendum. He stated he is not sure there is anything else the Park Board can do at this point. The City Council needs to look at the "big picture" and determine if this is the right time to pursue a referendum.

Chair Lindy stated he does not believe the Council would have purchased the property if they did not have the goal of completing the project. The Council is aware of the referendum process. They want to be reasonably sure it will pass.

Pat stated the Council is aware of the need for the complex. The timing of a referendum is the issue.

Bill stated it needs to be made clear to the residents that a complex will never get built if a referendum does not pass.

**Park Board Meeting - April 2, 2001  
Minutes**

Pat added the Park Board needs to stress its commitment to the project also. He stated he is willing to put in extra time to get it done.

**Park Dedication Fee** - Paul inquired about the proposed new Park Dedication Fee. Rick advised the City Council will be discussing the Park Dedication fee at the work session on Wednesday.

**SCHEDULE NEXT PARK BOARD MEETING:**

The next Park Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 7, 2001, 6:30pm, at Lino Lakes City Hall.

**ADJOURN:**

Pam Taschuk made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Paul Montain. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Points  
Recording Secretary