

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

The July 2, 2001 City of Lino Lakes Park Board meeting was called to order at 6:35pm, by Acting Chair Huelman.

Roll call was taken, members present were Paul Montain, Chris Welsand, Pat Huelman, and Bill Kusterman. Members absent were Michael O'Connor, George Lindy, and Pam Taschuk.

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

**APPROVAL OF June 4, 2001 MINUTES:**

Paul Montain made a motion, seconded by Chris Welsand, to approve the June 4, 2001 minutes. The minutes were approved.

**SETTING THE AGENDA:**

The Agenda was passed as presented.

**OPEN MIKE:**

Ms. Terry O'Connell, Environmental Board, came forward and stated the Environmental Board is trying to get to know all the various City Boards. She stated Park Board Members are welcome to attend the Environmental Board meetings and she is present to answer questions. She noted the Environmental Board meetings are held the last Wednesday of every month.

Rick referred to a letter that was included in the packets from Ms. Annette Haugen, 6575 LaCasse Drive. The letter expressed her concern regarding the lack of development of Clearwater Creek Park. It also outlined her reasons for wanting the park and noted that she hopes the City will find the funding sources if the grant is not awarded to develop the park.

Paul asked if Rick has responded to the letter. Rick stated he has not contacted Ms. Haugen.

Chris asked if she was aware of the neighborhood meetings that were held regarding this issue. Rick stated she moved into her home after the master planning process.

Acting Chair Huelman stated the development of the park certainly is a concern that the Park Board has had before. Residents need to know that just because there is land set aside for a park does not mean the City has the funding to develop the park.

Rick noted he would contact Ms. Haugen. The Clearwater Creek newsletter also explained the City process for park development.

Acting Chair Huelman stated the good news is that the grant money may be awarded and the City has made the commitment to set aside dollars to match the grant.

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**DISCUSS POSSIBLE SKATE PARK AT CITY HALL PARK:**

Rick advised staff has had several discussions with Mr. Dan Kieger, a resident of Lino Lakes and Board Member of FLAAA. Mr. Kieger is interested in pursuing a skate park facility at City Hall Park. Rick indicated he gave Mr. Kieger a brief history on the City's pursuit of a skate park facility for residents. Mr. Kieger is confident that he can raise adequate funds to provide a pad for a skate park facility. If Mr. Kieger is successful in providing a pad, the Park Board may want to consider re-designating funds to purchase equipment for the skate park.

As discussed at previous Park Board meetings, City Hall Park is one of the few park locations that can accommodate a skate park. Since there is such a high demand for this type of facility for the youth of Lino Lakes, Rick suggested this project move forward as quickly as possible.

Chris asked about the geographic location of a skate park. Rick stated the school was better centrally located. However, City Hall Park is the most suitable neighborhood park even if it is not the best location.

Mr. Kieger came forward and stated the kids will come to the park when they know it is there. The area kids are going into Minneapolis now every weekend to skate. A fund raising plan has been put together to raise the funds for the pad. He outlined some of the types of fund raising that will occur noting the charitable gambling organizations have also been contacted. He indicated he has a bid in the amount of \$4,000 to construct the pad. He stated a plaque would be placed at the park for those who contributed to the project. He indicated he and the kids are very excited about the project and would like a commitment from the Park Board to help with the project.

Bill asked if they know what type of equipment is needed. Mr. Krieger stated he and the kids have looked through the book and Rick has indicated \$30,000 is available to purchase the equipment.

Rick stated \$30,000 was the total project cost. He suggested \$20,000 be designated for equipment. The Park Board could consider donating some dollars for the pad. He added this is a great opportunity to provide a skate park in the City. The question is if the Park Board will designate the dollars for the equipment and consider helping with the cost of the pad.

Paul stated he thought that originally \$10,000 was designated for this project. He added the City of Centerville is going to have a wheels project.

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Mr. Kieger stated he is not familiar with what is going on in Centerville. Communities can have more than one facility to offer some variety.

Paul expressed concern about the quality of the pad. Mr. Kieger reviewed the details of the pad noting he believes the skate park will have a good base.

Paul stated City staff should inspect the pad. Rick noted the pad would have a 4-inch sub base and 2 inch bituminous to make sure it stays solid. Also, there are areas at City Hall Park to place the pad.

Paul asked how many dollars are in the undesignated funds. Rick stated there is approximately \$160,000 in undesignated funds due to additional dollars that came from Trappers Crossing and Spirit Hills. There are funds available for this project. The Park Board would be in the same situation right now if the school district had said yes to the proposal. The equipment is moveable and components can be added. City staff will move the equipment and store it.

Paul inquired about any liability issues. Rick stated the ramps would be no higher than three feet which requires no additional insurance. There will be signage requiring helmets and the park will be self patrolling. If there are too many problems the equipment can be removed.

Bill asked for an estimate as to how many kids will use the park. Mr. Kieger stated there would be approximately 15-20 kids at the park per day.

Chris asked for a time estimate to raise the money for the pad. Mr. Kieger indicated the funds should be obtained by the third Friday in July.

Chris asked about a time frame to get the park up and running. Rick stated the City needs 4-5 week lead time for the equipment. The skate park would be open through the first of October.

Acting Chair Huelman expressed concern relating to the access of City Hall Park in regards to safety and additional traffic. He asked if more neighborhood input should be obtained. Rick stated City Hall Park is large enough to place the pad away from residential housing and adjoining property owners.

Acting Chair Huelman noted the Friends of the Parks might be able to help with some funding.

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Paul Mountain made a motion, seconded by Chris Welsand, to proceed with this item and take approximately \$20,000 out of undesignated funds for the wheels project. Motion carried.

**TRAILS UPDATE:**

**Pheasant Hills - Timberwolf Trail to Regional Park Reserve** - Rick advised City staff met with TKDA to review the proposed trail alignment. The survey crew will be surveying the property within the next week. The City Engineer will then prepare the specs and go out for bid. Preliminary estimates indicate that the total project costs may exceed the \$50,000 designated in the 2001 Park Board Goals.

Also, the City Attorney has drafted easement grants for the park trail for the adjoining property owners. The easement documents need to be accepted by the City Council and recorded with the County prior to construction taking place.

Due to the large scope of the project, the project will probably not be completed until this fall.

Paul inquired about any possible easement problems. Rick stated both affected property owners are comfortable with the trail. The recording of the easement documents is just a formality.

**Highland Meadows West** - Rick advised a portion of trails in the Highland Meadows West Development was recently constructed. A copy of the final plat highlighting the paved area was included in the packets. Residents along the trail corridor were in the process of landscaping and sodding their yards. Since there were significant slopes adjacent to the trail, it made sense to install the trail prior to any final yard work being completed. The total project costs amounted to \$11,250.

Acting Chair Huelman asked if the project cost was taken out of designated funds. Rick advised the cost for the project was taken out of the funds designated for trail improvements. Acting Chair Huelman asked if the trail will extend to the west. Rick indicated the trail will not extend to the west any time in the near future.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Rick referred to the Program Highlights Flyer from June 2001. He noted the Summer Playground Program has 239 children enrolled as of June 21. This is an increase of 20 participants from last year's final total. The Options Program is running smoothly despite some minor building issues. Classes started this month for the Preschool Playtime Program. The Soccer Fundamentals has once again shown its popularity with five out of the six classes being offered are at their maximum capacity of 24 participants.

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The City is currently accepting registrations for the Fall Soccer and Youth Tackle Football.

Rick added this year's Kite Day was a success despite the cold and cloudy weather. The Fall Activities Guide will be mailed out the last week of August.

**PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Rick reviewed a memo from Mike Hoffman, Parks Supervisor, which summarizes the maintenance highlights for June 2001. Rick noted June activities included daily ballfield prep, irrigation systems energized and repaired, interior painting of the City Hall warming house (Girl Scout project), park and trail sign installation, and the prep work for the irrigation and seeding of Marshan Park.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**August Park Board Meeting** - Rick advised the August Park Board meeting will be held on Monday, July 30, at 6:30pm at City Hall.

**September Park Tour/BBQ, Tuesday, September 4 at 5:30pm** - Rick stated the annual park tour and bbq will be held on Tuesday, September 4, at 5:30pm. The following sites are on the Park Board Tour agenda:

1. Sunrise Park
2. Pheasant Hills Trail
3. Marshan Park

Rick stated any suggestions for the park tour or where to have the bbq will be taken.

Paul stated the bbq can be held at his house. Rick thanked Paul and indicated the bbq will be held at Paul Montain's house.

Acting Chair Huelman suggested the park tour include the skate park if progress has been made with the project.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Birch Park Trail Update** - Rick advised at the June 4, 2001 Park Board meeting, Park Board members directed staff to discuss with the City Attorney the possibility of contacting the Whitcomb's attorney regarding the procuring a trail connection from Trappers Crossing Development to Birch Park.

As requested, City Attorney Mr. Hawkins contacted Mr. Seykora. Mr. Seykora indicated the Whitcomb's originally planned to sell the 20 acres of land to a developer for a good price. However, the Whitcomb's decided not to execute the agreement due to tax

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and capital gains implications. The Whitcomb's have decided to hold the property for a few years to make a determination whether to sell it. The Whitcomb's are concerned about carving out some land for a trail connection since it may have an adverse affect on the potential development of the remaining land. Therefore, the Whitcomb's are not receptive to selling property to the City at the present time.

It appears the City is faced with two options. First, the City can wait until the parcel of land is sold to a developer and subsequently receive the necessary strip of land to fulfill park dedication requirements. Secondly, the City can pursue condemnation proceedings. A layout of the entire property would need to be done to determine if any land condemnation would affect the remaining parcel. This may result in the City compensating the Whitcomb's for an amount significantly higher than the value of the land.

Paul inquired about what the City Attorney meant by significant costs. Rick stated that because the Whitcomb's intend to sell the entire 20 acres to a developer, the cost for the strip of land may include more than just the land value because it breaks up the 20 acres.

Acting Chair Huelman suggested the City get an easement from them and then the developer would get credit for that meeting the park dedication requirements. Rick stated the Whitcomb's also have concerns about an easement because of the effect it may have on the remaining property.

Chris inquired about the process and cost of condemnation. Rick stated condemnation takes 120 days after the City Council's approval. The cost of the process varies. Paul noted that once the land is condemned, it can be built on and no time is lost. The only remaining question is the value of the land. He suggested the possibility of developing another park for the property owners to the south. Rick stated the Comprehensive Plan shows that are in the Phase 2 or Phase 3 Growth Stage.

Chris clarified that the City does have funds set aside for the development of the trail.

Paul requested staff investigate the costs of condemnation and the City Engineer look at the impact on the remaining property.

Acting Chair Huelman stated the City only needs an acre or less and the City Engineer should look at the assessment of that one acre. Rick stated City staff's opinions may be very different from that of an expert.

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Bill asked if there is any way to gauge the feelings of the residents in this area relating to condemnation. Rick indicated a survey would have to be sent out.

Bill expressed concern about infringing on the right of the property owner to make other residents happy.

Paul noted staff may find the cost of condemnation is prohibitive.

Paul Montain made a motion, seconded by Bill Kusterman, for staff to investigate the cost of condemnation and the impact on the remaining property. Motion carried.

**Spirit Hills Update** - Rick advised the City Council approved the preliminary plat of the Spirit Hills Development at the June 11, 2001 City Council meeting. The park dedication will consist of 100 percent cash. Therefore, the park dedication will consist of 51 lots at \$1,665 = \$84,915.

Paul inquired about a County trail continuation from Centerville into Lino Lakes to Minneapolis. Rick advised he has not heard about any progress relating to a County trail connection through the City.

Paul stated he was told that the trail is definitely going to connect with Lino Lakes and into Minneapolis.

Ms. O'Connell, Environmental Board, came forward and asked why the Park Board obtained the cash park dedication as opposed to land in Spirit Hills.

Acting Chair Huelman stated the plan is to have a trail corridor on the north side of Birch. There are already a number of parks in the area to serve the residents. Also, the size of the proposed park area was very small.

Ms. O'Connell asked if the Park Board ever considers developing nature preserve type parks due to funding issues.

Acting Chair Huelman noted there are many different types of parks and more trails were opted for in Clearwater Creek.

Paul added that the City also has parks that are too expensive to develop so the parks consist of green space. He reviewed the many different types of parks within the City noting that they try to blend the parks with the different types of resident needs.

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**SCHEDULE NEXT PARK BOARD MEETING:**

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

**ADJOURN:**

Paul Montain made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Welsand. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Points  
Recording Secretary