

**Park Board Meeting - March 1, 2004  
Minutes**

The March 1, 2004 City of Lino Lakes Park Board meeting was called to order at 6:33pm, by Chair Lindy.

Roll call was taken, members present were Pam Taschuk, Pat Huelman, Katie Boyle, Aaron Frederickson, George Lindy, Paul Montain and Bill Kusterman.

Also present was Rick DeGardner, Public Services Director.

**SETTING THE AGENDA:**

Paul added Item 10b, Roads and Shoulders, under New Business.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 2, 2004:**

Pat Huelman made a motion, seconded by Pam Taschuk, to approve the February 2, 2004 minutes. The minutes were approved with Paul Montain abstaining.

**OPEN MIKE:**

Mr. Mark Tafte, 6441 Clearwater Creek Drive, came forward and stated he moved into the Clearwater Creek development approximately five weeks ago. He inquired about the plans for Clearwater Creek Park and if those plans included an ice rink.

Rick advised an ice rink at Clearwater Creek Park had been previously discussed. The problem is the damage that is done to the turf during the off season. The budget is also an issue. In the past few years, the City has phased out unsupervised skating rinks. There would have to be a lot of neighborhood support for the City to pursue an ice rink at that park. He suggested Mr. Tafte raise the issue of a skating rink at a neighborhood meeting.

Rick also advised Clearwater Creek Park was master planned a few years ago with a lot of neighborhood input. Currently, the large open play area will remain an open grass area.

Chair Lindy noted the master plan for the park is available at City Hall for review.

Rick indicated he would send Mr. Tafte a copy of the master plan for Clearwater Creek Park.

Aaron stated he is the Park Board liaison for Clearwater Creek. He advised Mr. Tafte he would be happy to attend any neighborhood meetings to discuss the park.

**ADOPT 2004 PARK BOARD GOALS FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

Rick referred to a memo regarding the tentative Park Board Goals based on discussion the past few months. He noted the estimated project costs are preliminary.

**Park Board Meeting - March 1, 2004**  
**Minutes**

Rick summarized the possible trail projects along Birch Street that have also been discussed at the January and February Park Board meetings. The estimated project cost for Birch Street, North side from Black Duck Drive to Pheasant Hills Drive, is \$237,000. This project will necessitate the extension of two 88" concrete arch pipes near Quail Ridge Park that must maintain the flow of water during construction. Several retaining walls to facilitate the trail construction are also included in the project estimate. The estimated project costs do not adhere to the County's new standards of a 22' buffer zone from a rural roadway to the trail. Further discussions with Anoka County would need to occur to determine whether this project is acceptable. If Anoka County is unwilling to deviate from the 22' wide buffer zone on rural road sections, curb and gutter and storm sewer would need to be installed, since several areas along Birch Street do not provide adequate space to construct a trail with a 22' wide buffer (steep slopes, wetlands area, etc.).

Paul asked when the County adopted the new standards. Rick advised the County initiated the new standards in the past year.

Paul stated the City has water retention ponds along several areas where trails could not then be constructed. He stated he has an issue with where they are putting the ponds because there is no way to construct trails in those areas.

Rick stated the new standards do make sense in areas that are not yet developed. He indicated staff would work with the County to get the trail segment constructed in spite of the new standards. City staff is hoping the County will be reasonable and deviate from the standards in certain areas.

Pat stated that if the City had known about the new standards, the City would have required more easement area for trail development.

Rick stated he believes staff can work through the process and work with the County on this issue. The City would need written approval to proceed with the project. He stated he wanted the Park Board to be aware of this issue. The County's priority is safety in relation to the new standards.

Chair Lindy stated the Park Board needs to decide if it wants to commit to this project before staff begins the process with the County.

Rick referred to the other possible project, Birch Street from Sherman Lake Road to Centerville Road. The purpose of this trail project is an attempt to provide safe pedestrian access for the future residents of Stoneybrook Development. The estimated

**Park Board Meeting - March 1, 2004  
Minutes**

project costs while maintaining a 22' clear buffer zone on both sides of Birch Street is \$220,000. Approximately, \$70,000 of the project cost is to provide curb and gutter along about 500' of the project to reduce the clear zone from 22' to 10', thereby reducing the impact on the wetlands. Rick noted Jon Vondelinde, Anoka County Parks and Recreation Director and Nick Eeloff, Anoka County Parks Planner have expressed support for both projects.

Rick advised that if the projects are included in the goals and approved by the City Council, staff would then proceed with the County.

Pat stated he believes the Park Board is behind both projects but the project from Black Duck Drive to Pheasant Hills Drive needs to be pursued now.

Pat Huelman made a motion, seconded by Pam Taschuk to eliminate the Birch Street project, Sherman Lake Road to Centerville Road from the 2004 Park Board Goals. The motion carried.

Bill stated he believes the project cost is too much money for only one project when the City does not even have dollars for playgrounds. He suggested the City pursue an agreement with the County to do the project at some point in the future without the 22' buffer zone requirement.

Rick advised the Park Board needs to determine if they want to pursue the project. He stated staff would feel better about going to the County if the Park Board and City Council are committed to the project and have the dollars set aside. The estimated cost for the project is a lot of money for only one project. The question is if the City should continue to work on neighborhood parks or spend money on trail connections.

Pat stated he believes the project should be pursued now.

Pam stated she agrees that the project should be pursued now. Residents have indicated trail connections are very important. If the City puts this project off now, the City may not get cooperation from the County in the future.

Aaron stated the costs could be much higher five years from now. He indicated it may be best to pursue the project now.

Rick advised the City did make a commitment at some point in the past to have a contiguous trail segment along Birch Street.

Pat Huelman made a motion, seconded by Pam Taschuk, to include the Birch Street trail project, north side from Black Duck Drive

**Park Board Meeting - March 1, 2004  
Minutes**

to Pheasant Hills Drive, in the 2004 Park Board Goals, with the exception of unforeseen issues or expenses.

Bill stated he is very concerned that the City will have no dollars left to take care of the parks or other emergencies.

Chair Lindy stated the parks fund is getting very low. However, there are still some undesignated dollars in the park fund. More dollars will be dedicated as development occurs within the City.

Motion carried with Paul Montain voting no.

Paul Montain made a motion, seconded by Pam Taschuk to accept the following listed Park Board Goals, including the Birch Street project, north side from Black Duck Drive to Pheasant Hills Drive:

- Extending Glenview Trail to Sunrise Park parking lot
- Pave Birch Park Trail-Boardwalk to parking lot
- Designate Raven's Hollow Park Dedication Funds to future Birchwood Acres Park development
- Construct trails at Birch Street/Hodgson Road intersection
- Holly Drive pole relocation for new trail
- Survey Arena Acres residents regarding existing tennis courts

The motion carried.

**REVIEW 2003-2004 WARMING HOUSE REPORT:**

Rick referred to a copy of the 2003-2004 Warming House Report, compiled by Barry Bernstein, Recreation Program Supervisor. He stated Park Board member's received a copy of the report in their packets. The report will be reviewed in detail next fall.

Aaron asked if the City has data regarding the attendance at warming houses in relation to the time of day. Rick advised the City does have daily attendance reports in relation to every other hour. That information can be provided at the fall meeting when the report is reviewed. He noted the attendance numbers do not include the usage by Centennial Youth Hockey.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Rick referred to the Program Highlights Flyer from February 2004. He noted the next set of Field Trip outings would take place over Spring Break week (March 29 - April 2). Approximately 209 children and adults were in attendance for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Club (Centennial and Lino Lakes Unite with Blaine) Sweetheart Dance that was held on Saturday, February 14 at Centennial Elementary.

**Park Board Meeting - March 1, 2004  
Minutes**

The Recreation Department is currently accepting registrations for the Indoor Soccer program, however, this season the number of teams will be reduced from 8 to 6/7 due to the youth indoor soccer program's need for additional turf time. The registration period for returning Adult Softball teams is open. It is anticipated that all the leagues will fill.

The warming house season began on December 30, 2003 and closed on February 20, 2004. This was a more traditional season in the sense of the weather. Rick noted the spring edition of the Recreation Review was mailed out on February 18. Also, the Recreation Department is now accepting applications for summer employment.

**PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Rick reviewed a memo from Mike Hoffman, Parks Supervisor, which summarizes the maintenance highlights February 2004. Rick noted maintenance activities have included daily rink maintenance, snow plowing and blowing, building maintenance and equipment maintenance. Some City staff attended pesticide recertification training and school of turf grass management.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Outdoor Recreation Grant for Clearwater Creek Park Completed -**

Rick advised the City just received the final payment for the Outdoor Recreation Grant for development of Clearwater Creek Park. The \$125,000 certainly went a long way towards the development of this park. City staff is very pleased with the final product of Clearwater Creek Park and has heard several favorable comments from neighborhood residents.

**2004 Park Liaisons** - Rick referred to an updated copy of the 2004 Park Liaisons included in the packet. Paul Montain has been appointed to the Community Service Award Committee.

Paul asked if the City should possibly consider selling LaMotte Park.

Chair Lindy stated that issue was discussed at the last meeting. There are legal issues with the property not remaining a park area.

Paul asked if the City should keep Woolans Park listed as a City park. Rick stated staff has designated undeveloped parks with a different designation on the updated Parks and Trails Map.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Joint Meeting with Environmental Board on March 31, 2004** - Rick advised City staff has set up a joint meeting with the

**Park Board Meeting - March 1, 2004  
Minutes**

Environmental Board and the Park Board on Wednesday, March 31, 2004 at 6:30pm in the Community Room. The purpose of this meeting is to update the board members on the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation Facilities, Open Space/Greenways, and Trail System Plan project. Mr. Jeff Schoenbauer of Brauer and Associates has been retained to coordinate this project.

This will also provide an opportunity for the Environmental Board Members and Park Board Members to provide input in several areas such as reviewing citywide open space, greenways-parks, and trail issues. It is anticipated that the Park Board will continue to be involved throughout the various phases of the project. The final draft plan will be presented to the City Council, Environmental Board and Park Board at a joint work session, perhaps in May or June.

This meeting will take place of the April Park Board meeting. Any items related to the Park Board agenda will be addressed at the conclusion of the joint meeting.

Paul expressed concern that perhaps the Park Board is not as involved with the project as it should be. Rick stated he is anticipating that the Park Board will be involved again during the process. It is also anticipated that the Environmental Board will be involved in a similar manner. The Park Board will have to be comfortable with the plan before it is presented to the City Council.

**Roads and Shoulders** - Paul stated that due to the Stoneybrook development that occurred last fall, Birch Street has a new road configuration on the south side. The new configuration has left a portion of the roadway with no shoulder. He stated that is a huge concern and a safety issue. He indicated he is concerned that this practice is a dangerous precedent for the City as more development occurs.

Rick advised is not familiar with the plans and specifications for Birch Street in relation to Stoneybrook development. He indicated he would look into that issue and inform the Park Board by memo.

Paul stated he is not a traffic engineer but believes there was a better way to configure the roadway. He stated the elimination of the shoulder needs to be looked at so it does not happen again anywhere within the City. He stated he would also like options to improve that situation on Birch Street.

**NEXT PARK BOARD MEETING:**

Rick advised the next Park Board meeting would be held on March 31, 2004, 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room.

**Park Board Meeting - March 1, 2004  
Minutes**

**ADJOURN:**

Paul Montain made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill Kusterman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Points  
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the March 31, 2004 Park Board Meeting.