

**Park Board Meeting - May 3, 2004  
Minutes**

The May 3, 2004 City of Lino Lakes Park Board meeting was called to order at 6:31pm, by Chair Lindy.

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

Also present was Rick DeGardner, Public Services Director.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 31, 2004 MINUTES:**

Bill Kusterman made a motion, seconded by Aaron Frederickson, to approve the March 31, 2004 minutes. The minutes were approved with Pam Taschuk and Paul Montain abstaining.

**SETTING THE AGENDA:**

The agenda was passed as presented.

**OPEN MIKE:**

No one was present for open mike.

**REVIEW FOX DEN ACRES PRELIMINARY PLAT:**

Rick advised Fox Den Acres is a 50-acre development consisting of 64 residential lots. The property is located south of Birch Street and east of Deerwood Lane. The development would be accessed through the extension of Fox Road.

To satisfy the Park Dedication requirements the current proposal is to provide 6.79 acres (4.97 acres upland, 1.82 acres wetland) of parkland in the northeast corner of the development. The proposed park area has several large wetland areas and a retention pond. The current proposal consists of dedicating the 6.79 acres for parkland and paving a looped trail within the park area. This park area is wooded and would provide a natural environment for the trail. Estimated costs to install the trail is \$25,000.

When looking at the existing Park Dedication Ordinance the required cash dedication for Fox Den Acres is 64 units x \$1,665 + \$106,560. From a land dedication perspective, the required dedication would amount to 3.82 acres (50 acres - 11.8 wetland acres + 38.2 upland acres). Assuming the parkland of 4.97 acres upland x \$38,000 + \$188,860. Trail construction would be \$25,000 for a total of \$213,860. Total land and trail would be \$213,860.

Rick advised the parkland would solely be used for a trail loop, not any formal or active play area. Even though providing a trail experience is beneficial for area residents, 100% of the land value dedication should not be credited. An additional cash contribution could be acquired from the Fox Den Acres Development

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to further develop Birchwood Acres Park (half court basketball court?).

Rick indicated Mr. Michael Black from Royal Oaks Realty, Inc., is present to discuss the development and park dedication. The Park Board needs to make a recommendation to the Planning and Zoning Board and the City Council regarding park dedication requirements.

Chair Lindy stated the Park Board has obtained this type of property for park dedication fees in the past. The corner lot does look unworkable as far and development and a park area. The question is the value of that land. The City already has a lot of unusable parkland.

Rick stated he would not consider the proposed area a park area. The area would strictly be an avenue for residents to loop while walking. He indicated that is why he believes a cash dedication should also be required to satisfy the park dedication fee.

Chair Lindy asked if there would be an internal trail access within the development. Rick advised there is a single entrance from the southwest parcel. There would be other connections when other properties develop to the north.

Mr. Mike Black, Royal Oaks Realty, referred to a drawing of the property noting it is a 50-acre site. He also pointed out the wetland delineation areas. The upper area was designated as parkland because the neighborhood indicated they want trails. He referred to the proposed plat noting the park area would provide a passive trail loop and also provides for future trail expansion to the northeast. He stated the park dedication was determined by the land value and the cost to construct the trail. Those costs are double the amount of park fees if the City were to obtain cash dedication. He noted the trail loop could be eliminated from the plan if the Commission requests that.

Chair Lindy inquired about the distance from the proposed trail to the nearest existing trail. He stated it is not a contiguous trail loop.

Mr. Black stated the trail would provide for future connections. The area is heavily wooded and would provide a nice trail experience. He indicated he does not know how far the trail is from existing trails.

Chair Lindy stated the Park Board has to decide if there is merit to the trail loop. He suggested it might be better to develop that parcel with homes and develop a trail system within the development. He inquired about the average lot size.

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Mr. Black stated the lots are approximately 25,000-sq. ft. with wetlands. The lots are approximately 15,000-sq. ft. when the wetlands are removed.

Rick referred to the current Parks and Trails Map pointing out existing trails in the area of the proposed development.

Chair Lindy suggested connecting via trails the development to existing trails.

Mr. Black stated there is a problem with getting trails along backyards without affecting the wetlands. Also, the trails would not go anywhere. He offered the possibility of constructing a sidewalk to provide an off-road access to the trails.

It was the consensus of the Park Board that there would not be a significant value to only provide a trail loop within the development.

Paul stated it would be better to have trails along the roadway to connect to the existing trails.

Katie stated access to another park area, existing trails and a sidewalk would be more valuable.

Paul suggested a trail be constructed parallel with Fox Road along with a cash dedication to satisfy the park dedication fee.

Rick stated he does not see long term how a sidewalk would provide access. The options include retaining Parcel B along with a loop trail that would provide future access to other trails or require a 100% cash dedication.

Mr. Black stated this is an opportunity for the City to provide future access. That future access should be planned for now. The Environmental Board was adamant about open space on an upland area.

Aaron stated he is concerned that the City will miss an opportunity for a future trail connection to the north and east.

Paul stated he believes a cash dedication would be more beneficial than marginally useable land.

The majority of the Park Board suggested the developer develop Parcel B and recommend 100% cash dedication for the park dedication fee.

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**RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Rick referred to the Program Highlights Flyer from April 2004. He noted the first Kids Garage Sale was held on Saturday, April 17 at Lino Lakes City Hall. Twenty-four youth reserved sale tables. The event had some traffic, but not a large amount. Ideas will be researched over the next year on how to draw bigger crowds.

The Summer Playground Program is very popular this summer. Birch Park (morning session and afternoon session), as well as Clearwater Creek Park have reached their maximums.

The Recreation Review is scheduled to be in homes and on the web page the last week of May. The City Newsletter will include information about the Comprehensive Parks and Trails Plan as well as information about public meetings.

**PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Rick reviewed a memo from Mike Hoffman, Parks Supervisor, which summarizes the maintenance highlights for April 2004. Rick noted maintenance activities have included daily field preparation and soccer field layout. The fishing dock at County Lakes Park was also repaired and installed.

Seeding at Clearwater Creek Park as well as irrigation system startup and inspections throughout the park system were also completed. Other activities included trail inspection and sweeping along with playground inspection and repairs.

Paul inquired about the Skate Park. Rick advised the City has not had any vandalism problems yet at the Skate Park. If more vandalism does occur this season, the Skate Park would in all likelihood be shut down.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Discuss Request to Place Memorial Plaque Near Birchwood Acres**

**Park** - Rick advised under Open Mike at the March 31, 2004 Park Board Meeting Mr. Rick Carlson, Developer of West Shadow Ponds, ask the Park Board to consider a proposal from him near the future trail entrance along West Shadow Lake Drive to Birchwood Acres Park. He indicated a property owner requested a plaque, in memory of his parents, be placed near the trailhead. He noted the plaque would be granite stone, approximately two feet high and would not be paid for by the City. Staff is recommending the Park Board establish a policy on placing memorial plaques in City parks.

Pam asked if the County has a policy regarding memorial plaques. Rick stated the County does have a policy in relation to dedicating park benches. He indicated he does not know if the County has a policy for memorial plaques.

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Bill stated that if the City sets a policy, parameters need to be set so the memorials are acceptable and not intrusive.

Pam suggested the Park Board look at each request individually.

Rick advised he could get additional information if the Park Board thinks memorials are acceptable.

Paul expressed concern regarding memorial stones. He indicated he would not be opposed to park benches.

Rick stated he would gather more information from the County, other cities and the League of Minnesota Cities. This issue will be placed on the June Park Board agenda for more discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Council Chamber Memo from Director of Administration** - Rick referred to a memo from the Director of Administration that was included in the packets. The memo indicated no food or beverage, other than water, is allowed in the Council Chambers. The memo also asked Board Members to tidy up after meetings.

Bill advised some vandalism occurred at Shenandoah Park that has left some equipment dangerous. Rick advised staff would look into the vandalism at Shenandoah Park.

**NEXT PARK BOARD MEETING:**

Rick said the next Park Board meeting would be held Monday, June 7, 2004, 6:30pm.

**ADJOURN:**

Paul Montain made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pam Taschuk. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Points  
Recording Secretary

These Minutes were approved at the June 7, 2004 Park Board Meeting.