

**Park Board Meeting - April 7, 2003
Minutes**

The April 7, 2003 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, Katie Boyle, Michael O'Connor, Bill Kusterman, Paul Montain and George Lindy. Members absent were Pat Huelman.

Also present was Rick DeGardner, Public Services Director.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 3, 2003 MINUTES:

Pam Taschuk made a motion, seconded by Bill Kusterman, to approve the February 3, 2003 minutes. The minutes were approved with Paul Montain abstaining.

SETTING THE AGENDA:

The Agenda was passed as presented.

OPEN MIKE:

No one was present for open mike.

DISCUSS RAVENS HOLLOW PRELIMINARY PLAT:

Rick advised Ravens Hollow overlays approximately 22 acres of land located south of 62nd Avenue between Hodgson Road and Ware Road. The development consists of 40 single family residential homes.

A trail exists across the northern edge of the site, connecting Hodgson and Ware Roads. The Comprehensive Park Plan and Development Guide does not indicate a neighborhood park for this area. Birchwood Acres Park, located approximately ½ mile directly east, could serve as the neighborhood park proposed development. The City recently acquired park land that will provide contiguous park land from the existing Birchwood Acres Park to 62nd Avenue. This is also indicated in the master plan for Birchwood Acres Park. With the planned reconstruction of 62nd, a trail on the north side will provide pedestrian access to Birchwood Acres Park.

City staff has received a few telephone calls the past few years inquiring about the possibility of the City acquiring park land closer to the Fox Trace Development. Since Ravens Hollow is directly south of Fox Trace, land acquisition should be considered. Rick referred to a letter concerning this issue that was included in the packets.

Staff is recommending 100% cash dedication for the Ravens Hollow development. Perhaps the park dedication revenue generated from Ravens Hollow could be designated to further develop Birchwood Acres Park.

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Mr. Rocky Goertz, developer, came forward and advised that some of the property is zoned multi-family. Therefore, the development may include some additional units that will result in a larger park dedication fee. He stated it does not matter to him whether the park dedication fee is paid in cash or land. The City may hear from some residents regarding the safety of children crossing the street to get to Birchwood Acres Park.

Chair Lindy asked about the timing of the reconstruction of 62nd Street. Rick advised the reconstruction is scheduled for this spring. The reconstruction will give a more direct access to the park.

Pam asked if there would be a trail along 62nd Street. Rick advised a trail along 62nd Street will be constructed.

Bill asked if the residents in Fox Trace were told there would be a neighborhood park.

Mr. Goertz advised the residents were not told that a neighborhood park would be developed in Fox Trace.

Rick noted the intent was to funnel everyone to Birchwood Acres Park through a trail system.

Mr. Goertz stated he believes there are only two residents upset about not having a neighborhood park developed in Fox Trace.

Paul inquired about the open space in the center of the development.

Mr. Goertz stated he is developing a conservation type easement within the development. There will be a homeowner's association to regulate the open space. There is 5.7 acres of open land within the development.

Paul asked if there would be trail easements into the open space.

Mr. Goertz advised there would not be trail easements into the open space. The open space is not intended for park land. It is meant to maintain the trees and open space.

Pam asked where the multi-family housing may be developed.

Mr. Goertz referred to a map pointing out the area of possible townhome development. He stated he is proposing single family because the acreage is too small for multi-family. However, the Comprehensive Plan calls for townhomes.

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Paul asked where the park land would be located if land were dedicated for the park dedication fee.
Mr. Goertz advised the land dedication would be off Linda Avenue near the cul-de-sac.

Bill noted there is access for the neighborhood to a couple of different parks.

Chair Lindy stated there is no trail on the west side of Ware Road. He asked if that area is all low land.

Mr. Goertz advised that area is low land and it would be very difficult to construct a trail. However, it would not be hard to add a trail access on the west end. The access could be developed between lots 11 and 12.

It was the consensus of the Park Board to accept 100% cash dedication for the park dedication fee. The Park Board also determined a trail access from the northwest quadrant between Fox Trace and Ravens Hollow would be desirable.

2002-2003 WARMING HOUSE REPORT:

Rick reviewed the attendance report for the three shelters that were opened during the 2002-03 winter season.

The three shelters that were opened this past season were Sunrise, Birch and Lino parks. Sunrise and Birch once again proved to be the most popular locations.

Based on the anticipated budget crisis and attendance figures, Rick suggested the Park Board review the attendance figures and determine if the City should open Lino Park next winter. It may be justifiable to only have two shelters open for the 2003-04 season.

Chair Lindy stated that looking at the numbers is it tough to justify keeping Lino Park open.

Bill stated it was tough to maintain the rinks this past year. However, he indicated he does not believe staff did a good job of maintaining the rinks at Birch Park on the weekends. He stated he believes attendance would increase if the rinks are better maintained.

Rick stated that is a good point and this issue can be discussed further when the City knows what the legislature will do.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Rick referred to the Program Highlights Flyer from March 2003. He noted the second annual CLUB Sweetheart Dance on Saturday,

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February 15 was a success. One hundred eighty three people attended the event.

The Winter session programs concluded in February. Registration for spring session programs is currently underway and many programs are getting close to filling.

The Spring Activities Guide was mailed to all residents the last week of February and has been posted on the web site as well.

Pam asked why Lino Park is no longer being used for baseball. Rick advised that park is just not designed for baseball. The houses are too close to the field so Little League had to be moved to a different park.

PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Rick reviewed a memo from Mike Hoffman, Parks Supervisor, which summarizes the maintenance highlights for March 2003. Rick noted maintenance activities have included assisting the Environmental Coordinator with removal of high risk Oak Wilt trees.

Staff also met with Rehbein and Northway Irrigation regarding park development at Clearwater Creek and Highland Meadows Parks regarding irrigation, drainage and grading.

Rick noted playground installation at Highland Meadows Park is schedule for April 26. Also, Super Target is interested in donating park benches at Highland Park if they can have a plaque on the benches. A proposal will be submitted and discussed by the Park Board.

Pam inquired about the skate park. Rick advised the skate park was just opened a few days ago. The park may be shut down if there is more vandalism this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

2003 Goals Update - Rick advised the City Council approved the recommended 2003 Park Board Goals at the March 24 City Council meeting. Staff is in the process of implementing these goals. He stated he would provide periodic updates to the Park Board.

Review and Approve Members Information Sheet - Rick referred to an updated list of information for the Park Board Members. He asked for the Park Board to review the information and notify staff regarding any changes.

NEXT PARK BOARD MEETING:

Rick advised the next Park Board meeting would be held on Monday, May 5, 2003, 6:30pm.

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ADJOURN:

Paul Montain made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pam Taschuk.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Points
Recording Secretary

**On June 2, 2003 the April 7, 2003 minutes were approved by the
Park Board.**