

**Park Board Meeting - June 2, 2003
Minutes**

The June 2, 2003 City of Lino Lakes Park Board meeting was called to order at 6:40pm, by Chair Lindy.

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

Also present was Rick DeGardner, Public Services Director.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 7, 2003 MINUTES:

Pam Taschuk made a motion, seconded by Katie Boyle, to approve the April 7, 2003 minutes. The minutes were approved.

SETTING THE AGENDA:

The Agenda was passed as presented.

OPEN MIKE:

No one was present for open mike.

FLAAA PROPOSAL FOR BATTING CAGE AT CITY HALL PARK:

Rick advised the Forest Lake Area Athletic Association (FLAAA) is requesting that the City install a batting cage at City Hall Park. FLAAA currently schedules games and practices for their youth softball program at City Hall Park. The City has received a check from FLAAA for \$2,500 to help offset the cost of the batting cage.

This is the second time where FLAAA has contributed significant dollars for City Hall Park improvements. In 1999 the City received \$2,500 to renovate both ball fields. Specifically, the infield backstop, fencing, and bench areas were upgraded and replaced.

Preliminary cost estimates for a batting cage are \$5,000 to \$7,000 depending on layout, design, materials, in-house vs. contracted labor, etc. Staff recommends designating up to \$3,000 of undesignated Park Dedication funds for the construction of a batting cage at City Hall Park. Not only will a batting cage be beneficial for the FLAAA softball participants, it is important to encourage cooperative projects with various user groups.

Rick noted there have not been any discussions regarding design or the placement of the batting cage. The intent is to install the batting cage early this fall or next spring.

Pat asked if the batting cage would be used for both softball and baseball participants. Rick stated staff could look at a batting cage for both participants. The intent is however, for softball players and more productive practices. The batting cage would also benefit residents. FLAAA is the only organized group that

**Park Board Meeting - June 2, 2003
Minutes**

utilizes City Hall Park. Staff has proposed to FLAAA to consider replacing the outfield fences.

Bill asked if the cages and fence is constructed of chain link. Rick stated batting cages typically consist of cyclone fencing with netting inside. Staff will need to look at possible designs and costs.

Pat inquired about the cost of replacing the outfield fences and asked if that is a higher priority. He also inquired about vandals and safety issues in regard to a batting cage.

Rick stated the fencing is on the sides of the batting cage as well as the top. Typically, the cages are locked with a combination lock that changes every year. There is more of a security issue if a pitching machine is located on the premises.

Pam stated participants could bring their own pitching machine for the batting cage. Rick noted the City could provide a lock box to store a pitching machine if FLAAA decides to provide a pitching machine for the participants.

Chair Lindy asked if there is more benefit in approving the fencing. Rick stated that from the City's perspective, there is more benefit to consider replacing the outfield fencing. Staff has discussed that issue with FLAAA. However, FLAAA would prefer a batting cage and will contribute \$2,500 to the cost.

Bill stated he would like to know more about the anticipated use of the batting cage. He stated he is not convinced there is a real need for a batting cage. He noted he would prefer to spend the dollars on the fencing.

It was the consensus of the Park Board to get more information before a decision is made on designating dollars for a batting cage at City Hall Park.

Pam noted her concern is the location of a batting cage. She suggested FLAAA attend a Park Board meeting to present more information.

PARKS AND TRAILS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Highland Meadows Park - Rick stated work has included the installation of playground equipment, water irrigation system, landscaping, the ½ court basketball court, trail repair and grading and seeding.

Clearwater Creek Park - Rick advised wet conditions have again delayed the park development efforts this spring. T.A. Schifsky and Sons are installing the base and bituminous for the

**Park Board Meeting - June 2, 2003
Minutes**

basketball court, and prepping the entire trail segments for bituminous. Concrete pads for park benches will be installed next week. The irrigation system is scheduled for installation on Monday, June 2. Upon completion of the irrigation system, the entire park area will be final graded, seed bed prepped, and finally seeded.

Birch Park Trail - The landscaping areas have been planted. City staff needs to renovate the wetland areas for Rice Creek Watershed District approval. The only other outstanding issue is the City Council needs to authorize payment of the trail easement over the Whitcomb property. This was delayed since the easement documents could not be prepared until the boardwalk segment was constructed. This item is on next weeks City Council Agenda.

Chair Lindy asked about a bid for the asphalt at Clearwater Creek Park. Rick advised the asphalt work has already been completed.

Pat inquired about figures of usage at the ½ court basketball courts. Rick stated he would look into how to obtain usage figures. Cost would be an issue.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Rick referred to the Program Highlights Flyer from May 2003. He noted fifty-six participants are registered for this summer's Options program, which will be held at Centennial Elementary School.

All three of the Golf Academy Sessions filled this summer. The City is offering a variety of new sport camps/clinics this summer included Flag Football, Lacrosse, Basketball and Roller Hockey.

The City is also offering six playground sites this summer - one morning site at Birch Park and five afternoon sites at Birch Park, Lino Park, Sunrise Park, Behm's Park and Golden Lake Park. As of May 28, 178 participants were enrolled in the playground program.

Rick added that there are 42 teams registered for the summer softball season. The summer edition of the Recreation Review is now out in homes and can be found on the web site.

PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Rick reviewed a memo from Mike Hoffman, Parks Supervisor, which summarizes the maintenance highlights for May 2003. Rick noted maintenance activities have included planting of over 100 new and replacement trees in City parks, including over 35 in Behm's Park. Trees, shrubs and perennials were planted in Birch Park Trail planting boxes. Staff also removed and replaced the landscape bed in front of the Council Chambers.

**Park Board Meeting - June 2, 2003
Minutes**

Other activities included the completion of Highland Meadows Park playground, soccer field preparation, and the ordering of site furnishings for Highland Meadows Park.

NEW BUSINESS:

Centennial Soccer Club Inquiry on Marshan Park Parking Lot - Rick advised the Centennial Soccer Club (CSC) has submitted an informal inquiry regarding the possible expansion of the Marshan Park parking lot. This may be the impetus to further discuss the City's role in providing adequate facilities for youth sports groups. Since the athletic complex has not become a reality, the City may need to look at to what degree it can provide facilities at various neighborhood parks. Obviously, organized activities in the neighborhood parks impact the area residents.

Specifically regarding this request, the Park Board may want to consider to what level of organized activities should be scheduled at Marshan Park. If it is determined that this will be a long-term organized activity location, the City may want to look at expanding the parking lot.

Rick advised that staff will start to put together the information necessary to discuss this issue further.

Pam stated she is concerned about emergency vehicles having access to the parks during activities.

Pat stated the Park Board needs to get some idea about traffic and usage during the peak park activity nights.

Bill inquired about complaints from residents. Rick advised he has not had any complaints but the season has just begun.

Pam suggested that some of the groups use fields at other parks or the middle school.

Chair Lindy stated data is needed on the use at all fields. The Park Board has discussed not programming activities all the time at neighborhood parks.

Rick stated that this issue will be discussed further in the fall after more information is gathered.

Distribute Updated Parks and Trails Map - Rick advised an updated parks and trails map was included in the packets.

Chair Lindy inquired about the connection in Pheasant Hills to the regional park along the easterly edge. Rick stated that connection will be made when the residential development in

**Park Board Meeting - June 2, 2003
Minutes**

Centerville is completed. The developer has been requested by Centerville's Park Board to extend the trail southward.

Chair Lindy stated there has been a lot of wash out on the trail. He suggested it be fixed before it is completely lost. Rick advised staff would take a look at the trail.

Michael asked if the updated parks and trails map is available on the web site. Rick stated the parks and trails map is available on the City's web site.

Katie asked if the City ever puts up some sort of fencing behind basketball courts. She stated the brush behind the court at Pheasant Hills is very thick and it is difficult to retrieve balls. Rick stated staff will view the area behind the basketball court at Pheasant Hills Park.

NEXT PARK BOARD MEETING:

Rick advised the next Park Board meeting would be held on Monday, July 7, 2003, 6:30pm.

ADJOURN:

Pam Taschuk made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pat Huelman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Points
Recording Secretary

Approved at the 7/3/03 Park Board Meeting