

FINAL
Lake Elmo Park Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
October 18, 2010

Chairman Ames called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ames, Steele, Zeno, Blackford, Larson

STAFF PRESENT: Project Assistant Kriegler

Agenda

Agenda was approved (M/S, Steele/Zeno, 5-0)

Minutes

Sept. 20, 2010 minutes were approved as amended. (M/S Blackford/Steele, 5-0)

Eagle Scout motion changed to "funding up to \$1,400 and "Rolf" changed to Larson, (M/S Larson/Steele). Park safety discussion "grading" changed to "graded". Remove unnecessary sentence in motion supporting parking area grading and rain gardens.

Discussion on park safety and efforts to promote appropriate park use

Item tabled in light of Officer Loehrs absence.

Update on Sunfish Lake Park parking area improvements and prairie restoration project

Carol Kriegler reported that the Commission's supported parking area improvements at Sunfish Lake Park were approved by the City Council at their Oct. 5 meeting. Carol Kriegler provided an overview of the grading plan and placement of rain gardens. Three rain gardens are to be located along the south side of the parking area for the purpose of reducing run-off from the sloped turf area, while a fourth rain garden will be installed in the northeast corner of the parking area for the purpose of capturing run-off from the parking area. Grading of the parking area will result in the vast majority of run-off being directed into the northeast rain garden.

Members of the commission who had visited the park recently noted that there is considerable "wind-fall" on the trails that needs to be cleared before ski season. Members also requested that a "walk-thru" of the prairie with MNL Ecologist be scheduled for next spring.

Review and discussion on park CIP

Members reviewed the current CIP and 2010 work plan. They requested a park fund balance for the next meeting. Members once again expressed their interest in improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety along Demontreville Trail. The roadway is scheduled for reconstruction in 2011 at a road width of 24' with lane configuration / line painting yet to be determined. The Commission expressed that their highest priorities are improving Demontreville Trail and developing the Village / Stillwater H.S. base trail, presumably mostly along Hwy. 5.

The Parks Commission also expressed the following as high priorities: Demontreville picnic shelter, sign program, Lions Park volleyball court, Sunfish Lake Park West and general public safety improvements.

Motion: The Parks Commission designates Demontreville Trail from Green Acres to 50th St. and Olson Lake as a high priority trail segment and that we ask professional staff to do a feasibility and engineering cost estimate for this trail as well as the previously designated high priority trail of Highway 5 from the Village to the High School. (M/S, Steele/Zeno, 5-0)

Progress update on Trail Guide implementation steps

The Commission expressed their strong interest in moving forward with some trail development and doing so with the goal of addressing the most urgent safety issues and serving the greatest number of users. Members expressed an interest in having Ryan attend the next meeting to provide an update on Demontreville Trail reconstruction plans as well as an MPCA landfill update.

Update and discussion of the Park Commission

Members expressed their frustration and disappointment with being forced to relocate to the Annex conference room for two of three of their meetings due to the Planning Commission. Kriegler apologized for the relocation on behalf of Planning Director Klatt and explained that the need for relocation was due to the combination of the Columbus Day legal holiday, the need for video recording of Planning Commission meetings as dictated by state statute, and the need for the Planning Commission to take action on an item prior to the next evenings City Council meeting. Park Commission members expressed that they felt that it sent a poor message - - that of the Parks Commission's business being of less importance to the City.

Motion: The Parks Commission strongly urges that the Planning Commission schedule alternate meeting dates during holiday weeks in advance to avoid disrupting the work of the Park Commission. (M/S, Ames / Steele, 5-0)

Adjourned 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kriegler
Project Assistant