

**Lake Elmo Park Commission
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 20, 2008**

Chairman Steele called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Adanene, Blackford, Booher, Bruchu, Dunn, Larson, Steele, and Zeno. STAFF PRESENT: Planner Matzek, Public Works Superintendent M. Bouthilet and Project Assistant Kriegler.

Welcome new Commissioner – Mike Zeno

Chairman Steele welcomed new commissioner Mike Zeno and asked him to introduce himself.

Agenda

M/S/P, Dunn/Booher, move to approve the agenda as presented. Vote: 8:0

Minutes

Planner Matzek said that meeting minutes were not available for the meeting.

2008 Draft Work Plan

Chairman Steele identified that a work plan should be created again this year and discussed at a joint meeting with the City Council.

Planner Matzek suggested adding “Buckthorn Removal” to the work plan as Commissioner Larson had previously suggested.

Chairman Steele added “Review of CIP initiatives and developing timetable for implementation” to the work plan with a number two priority.

Project Assistant Kriegler suggested developing a plan and implementing the plan.

Chairman Steele suggested a level two priority and suggested the Park Plan have a number one priority level.

Commissioner Larson suggested adding Spring and Fall Park Visits as a number one priority.

M/S/P, Dunn/Larson, move to approve the amended work plan. Vote: 8:0.

Timeline and Process for Sunfish Lake Park Land Trust Easement

Planner Matzek reviewed the timetable and draft letter to the MN Land Trust.

Chairman Steele asked staff to email him the drafted letter so he may make changes before it is mailed. He asked that an ad hoc committee be formed to work on the Sunfish Lake Park land trust easement when needed.

Commissioners Larson, Blackford, Dunn, and Booher volunteered to be on the committee. Commissioner Dunn accepted the role of chair of the committee.

Follow up to identified challenges/issues related to trail implementation

Project Assistant Kriegler said that Klondike Avenue North is not scheduled for road improvements in the near future. She said Washington County has indicated that their policies for establishing an entrance would require a connection to a bituminous, hard surfaced, multi-use trail, which is not planned at this time.

Commissioner Zeno asked if there were any provisions for parking at the end of Klondike Avenue and if the property owners along the road are aware of this potential connection.

Commissioner Dunn said this connection was brought up as part of the master plan. The county has previously allowed people through this area for the Special Olympics.

Planner Matzek said a connection between 51st Street and Kleis Park along 53rd Street provides challenges in that the connection would be over private property. She said that the city could not utilize the private utility easement on the property without legal changes. She said the trails on 51st Street are currently private and the city would need to work with the homeowners association to have those turned over to the city as well.

Project Assistant Kriegler identified that the trail connecting the Hamlet on Sunfish Lake development to Sunfish Lake Park is partially built over an outlot owned by the homeowners association. She said it appears that an easement was not obtained by the city to allow the public use of the entire trail length and may become a legal issue as the association has posted signs identifying the trail as private.

Project Assistant Kriegler said the city engineer has provided a conservative estimate of \$130,000 to improve the existing trails in the Stonegate development.

Public Works Superintendent M. Bouthilet said the engineer's estimate was high.

Chairman Steele asked that the Stonegate Trails and the connection from the Hamlet on Sunfish Lake development, Tapestry at Charlotte's Grove, and Sunfish Lake Park connections should be brought back in March. He also said he would like to bring forward a proposal to amend the approved Trail Guide Plan to include a trail along the north edge of Lake DeMontreville.

Public Works Superintendent M. Bouthilet identified that County Road 13 is being discussed to be turned over to the city, but the road would need to be reconstructed first. He also suggested the consideration of paving the trails in Pebble and Reid Park.

Planner Matzek said the trail connection from the Tapestry development to the existing trails in Sunfish Lake Park are an easy connection that can be made this summer.

Park Signage Update

Project Assistant Kriegler said the goal for a comprehensive signage system is to promote park and trail use and to enhance city identity and character. She provided examples of signage for review and comment.

Informational Items

Planner Matzek provided updates on the informational items.

Commissioner Dunn said the signs for Sunfish Lake Park have been installed on State Highway 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Matzek
City Planner