

**City of Lake Elmo  
Parks Commission  
Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2006**

Chairman Schumacher called to order the meeting of the Lake Elmo Parks Commission at 7:00 p.m. COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: T. Bouthilet, R. Larson, Watters, L. Wagner, Steele, and Bruchu (7:02 p.m.) STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Rafferty, Planner Dillerud, Superintendent M. Bouthilet, and Recording Secretary Schaffel. ALSO PRESENT: Councilmember Conlin.

**1. Agenda**

Add Councilmember Conlin to 1.5, add Recognition of Gloria Knoblauch to 3.5, add Trail Plan Prioritization 4.5.

M/S/P, T. Bouthilet/R. Larson to accept the Agenda as amended. VOTE: 7:0.

**1.5 Councilmember Conlin**

Councilmember Conlin will recognize the Parks Commission and their achievements at the Employee and Volunteer Recognition Banquet on March 10, 2006. She encouraged commissioners to attend and gave a brief overview of how she will highlight their achievements for 2005.

**2. Minutes**

M/S/P, Wagner/T. Bouthilet to accept the Minutes of January 19, 2006 as presented. VOTE: 7:0.

**3. Lake Elmo Art Center (Ramsey Center For Arts), Bob Meyer**

Mr. Meyer requested permission to add three or four 10 X 3 garden plots at the Art Center. He presented a list of possible garden styles.

M/S/P, R. Larson/Watters to request the City Council support the addition of creative gardens at the Lake Elmo Art Center. VOTE: 7:0.

**3.5 Recognition of Gloria Knoblauch**

Chairman Schumacher introduced Gloria Knoblauch, a former Parks Commissioner and current Community Improvement Commissioner, a founding member of the Friends of Lake Elmo Library, and the individual responsible for getting wells on 31<sup>st</sup> Street tested for perfluorochemicals.

Chairman Schumacher also recognized the countless hours of volunteerism put in by former Parks Commissioner Susan Dunn.

**4. Park Plan Update**

The Planner said the City Council has recommended acceleration of the Comprehensive Park Plan in order to get a Needs Assessment for community play fields. He said the old Park Plan was developed for a much smaller population than the City now forecasts. A new Park Plan will be necessary to the programming of improvements for parks in Lake Elmo. The Planner recommends amending the CIP from the budgeted \$5,000 to \$25,000 in order to hire a consultant to do that work. Part way through that plan, the Needs Assessment for community play fields will be determined and that information can be provided to the City Council. The Planner said

that the Park Plan will also give the City a strong foundation for determining new Park Dedication Fees.

M/S/P, Watters/T. Bouthilet to recommend an amendment to the Capital Improvement Program to increase from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for the hiring of a consultant to do a Park Plan Update.

VOTE: 7:0.

Commissioner Bruchu asked how we construct a community play field when our CIP only allocates \$75,000 per year.

The Planner said that the City will bond for a big play field. He said when regional sewer arrives, development will occur at a much faster pace, and those developments will provide additional Park Dedication Fees.

#### **4.5 Trail Plan Prioritization**

Administrator Rafferty explained that the 2006 Trail Construction Program will soon get under way. Priorities for trail construction must be established. He said that 55<sup>th</sup> Street has already been determined by the City Council. Superintendent M. Bouthilet said that the cost is \$10-12 per centerline foot, but a road base already exists on 55<sup>th</sup> Street. He said there is \$150,000 dedicated in the CIP for trail construction in 2006, and he asked the commissioners to consider other locations for discussion at the next meeting. The Planner said staff will also bring recommendations to the next meeting.

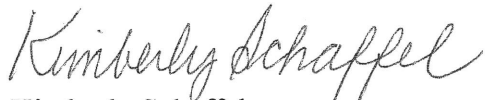
Commissioner T. Bouthilet suggested a back door entrance trail into the Park Reserve from the Old Village. Creation of a trail would legitimize what is already being used by pedestrians now.

Commissioner R. Larson said he has had serious discussions with the homeowner's association at the Fields of St. Croix, and inclusion of trails there would be a rather simple process.

Commissioners will submit trail priority suggestions to staff by March 13 for inclusion in the meeting packet.

Adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly Schaffel  
Recording Secretary