

**Park Board Meeting - November 6, 2006
Minutes**

The May 1, 2006 City of Lino Lakes Park Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., by Chair Lindy.

Roll call was taken; members present were Pam Taschuk, Aaron Frederickson, Pat Huelman, Bill Kusterman, Paul Montain and George Lindy. Absent members were Katie Boyle.

Also present was Rick DeGardner, Public Services Director and Sandie Wood, Public Services Department Office Manager.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM May 1, 2006:

Pat Huelman made a motion, seconded by Pam Taschuk, to approve the May 1, 2006 minutes as presented. The minutes were approved.

SETTING AGENDA:

There were no changes to the agenda.

OPEN MIKE:

Jim March, 1543 Sherman Lake Road was present to talk to the board about installing a bridge, boardwalk or some type of structure to span the pond. He said the residents and homeowners association have met about this and they feel there is a big safety issue and are very concerned. They have noticed an increase in usage of the trail in this area, and feel this should be given high priority. Jim and the president of the homeowners association said they hoped the Park Board would consider this project when they work on the 2007 goals. Mr. March also mentioned that the association would also be willing to do some cost sharing for this project.

Members had questions about the width and use of the pond, and what it would cost to put in a bridge. Rick responded that preliminary estimates range from \$100,000 - \$122,000 depending on the type of bridge used. Rick mentioned that staff is pursuing less costly options such as using boardwalk sections to span the pond. Members asked Jim what the pond was used for. Jim said the pond was used in the winter for ice skating. There has also been people canoeing on the pond but he doesn't think canoeing is a high priority. He also stated he didn't think there was anyone opposed to doing this project.

REVIEW 2006 SUMMER PLAYGROUND REPORT:

Rick told members that the 2006 Playground Report prepared by Mrs. Liz Benoit, Recreation Supervisor was included in their packets. He said they may recall the format of the Summer Playground Program was drastically changed due to the elimination of the program's general revenue funding. He continued by saying although the registration fees were the same as last year, the program hours were reduced from an eight week program to a seven week program as well as meeting two days per week rather than

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five days per week. In addition, several cost cutting measures were also implemented which may have affected the program quality for the participants. For example the use of specialist and performers were reduced and t-shirts were not provided. He said the overall attendance of the program dropped from 342 participants in 2005 to 272 participants in 2006.

Rick told members that it should be noted that the proposed 2007 budget includes reinstating partial funding of the Summer Playground Program.

Members asked if the decrease in numbers was due to program offerings of surrounding communities, or because of less services. Rick responded that he felt it was a combination of less service and increased program costs. He didn't think other community offerings impacted our program numbers.

Rick will bring this issue back to the Park Board in March or April for feedback on what the program should offer in 2007.

DETERMINE SKATING RINK LOCATIONS AND HOURS:

Rick said staff is recommending the following warming house shelters and hours of operation which are the same as last year:

<u>PARK</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>WEEKDAY HOURS</u>	<u>WEEKEND HOURS</u>
Sunrise Park 2 hockey rinks and general skating	6918 Sunrise Drive	4-9pm (M-F)	Saturday 12-9pm Sunday 12-6 pm
Birch Park 1 hockey rink and general skating	6520 Pheasant Run S	4-9pm (M-F)	Saturday 12-9pm Sunday 12-6 pm
City Hall Park Hockey rink and general skating	1189 Main Street	4-9pm (M,W,F)	Saturday 12-9pm Sunday 12-6 pm

Staff also recommends the following ice rink locations that do not have shelters:

Lino Park 7850 Lake Drive
General skating

He told members that the Centennial Hockey Association will utilize the City Hall Park warming house and rink on Tuesdays and Thursdays for practices.

Rick also said staff has done maintenance on the rinks and are ready to start flooding as soon as weather allows.

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Member Frederickson asked if Rick had heard from residents about putting a rink in Clearwater Creek Park. Rick's response was no and that it was decided not to put a rink there because of the damage it does to the area grass. He said several residents in that area are putting rinks in their own yards.

Members also wanted to know if any Lino Lakes hockey rinks were paved inside. Rick said there were none paved in Lino Lakes. Some Park Board Members stated they have noticed that the paved Centerville hockey rink is not used very much. It was thought maybe this could be considered when re-master planning Lino Park.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

8a. Follow-Up on I-35E Development, Mr. Frederickson:

Member Frederickson expressed his concerns with the project. He thought there was a vocabulary difference between the developer and City Council. He expressed that he had strong concerns about the development of parks/green space in the development. He also feels the programmed park area has too limited amount of parking being proposed. Chair Lindy said the developer had been told that the City didn't want the left over land (unsuitable land) for parks. He said the Park Board told the developer what they would like to see in this development.

Mr. Frederickson then expressed concerns about the total units proposed and the increase in population. As indicated in previous emails sent to Mr. Frederickson, Rick said the developer is working on some significant transportation issues with county staff and city staff. When the transportation issues are resolved, the site planning process will again commence with the developer incorporating the issues that have been previously identified by City staff and advisory boards. For example, City staff expressed a strong desire to provide a 10 acre park area as well as smaller neighborhood park areas throughout the development. Staff anticipates the amended preliminary development site plan changing dramatically from what was reviewed by the advisory boards in April. Once the site plans are reviewed by City staff, the advisory boards will again have an opportunity to comment on the plans for the Village of Hardwood Creek Development. The Park Board decided to wait until the revised plans are submitted for review before discussing the development further.

8b. Revisit Issue of Former Rice Lake Estates Park, Mr. Frederickson:

Member Frederickson told members of his concerns about the old playground equipment being taken out at Baldwin Park. He feels

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Circle Pines didn't treat Lino Lakes residents fairly. George said he felt the old equipment had been removed because of safety issues. Rick said \$25,000 had been spent on new equipment with an additional \$25,000 being spent on safety surfaces, concrete pads, and installation of the playground equipment. He went on to say that the City of Circle Pines will be making additional improvements to Baldwin Park in 2007 including a picnic shelter and new fencing for the baseball field. Future improvements include relocating the hockey rink and paving it so a basketball court could be used, trail improvements, and relocating the parking lot. Rick stated that the City of Circle Pines has fulfilled their obligations relating to the Rice Lake Estates Park situation.

Other Park Board Members felt Circle Pines did a good job in reconstructing the park.

8c. Anoka County Trail Map:

A map was included in the Park Board packets. Rick advised members that additional maps are available free of charge at City Hall.

Members asked about the trail from Bunker Park to Lino Lakes and Fridley to Lino Lakes. Rick said the county had not put proposed trails on the map but they are being worked on.

8d. Super Rink Skating Pass:

Rick told members that as part of the agreement with the City of Lino Lakes assisting the Centennial Youth Hockey Association (CYHA) in securing use of a skating facility at the National Sports Center, the City had received 216 free skating passes for use during "open skating" sessions at the Super Rink in Blaine. He stated that all the passes were given out. He said the passes were limited to one pass per family member. He went on to say that the schedule of "open skating" sessions at the Super Rink can be viewed at www.superrink.org.

Mr. DeGardner also said that there had been a free "open skate" session on Saturday, November 4, from 1 - 3pm at the National Sports Center for all Lino Lakes residents.

Park Board members thought the free skating passes were a great idea. One member had planned to attend the free skate on Saturday but didn't make it and was wondering if Rick had heard how the turnout was. Rick responded no.

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8e. Determine 2007 Park Board Schedule:

Staff recommended the following 2007 Park Board meeting dates. Rick asked members to note the September meeting will be the annual park tour and bbq:

Tuesday , January 2, 2007	Monday , July 9, 2007
Monday, February 5, 2007	Monday, August 6, 2007
Monday, March 5, 2007	Tuesday , Sept. 4, 2007-Tour and BBQ
Monday, April 2, 2007	Monday, October 1, 2007
Monday, May 7, 2007	Monday, November 5, 2007
Monday, June 4, 2007	Monday, December 3, 2007

Paul Montain made a motion to accept the Park Board meeting dates as presented. Pam Taschuk seconded the motion and the 2007 Park Board Schedule was approved.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Rick referred to the Recreation Program Highlights Flyer from October 2006. He talked about the Fall Soccer and Football Programs. He told members that the Family Turkey Shoot and Breakfast with Santa were coming up. He mentioned that the winter brochure would be in homes around the middle of November.

Aaron Frederickson said Brian Hronski, Recreation Supervisor, did an excellent job organizing the Fall Soccer Program this year.

PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Rick reviewed a memo from Mike Hoffman, Parks Supervisor, which summarized the maintenance highlights for October 2006. He touched on winterizing the irrigation systems at the parks, schools, Town Center, Fire Station 2, and well houses and lift stations. Staff is also working on getting equipment ready for winter. Members asked how many times each park is mowed during the year and about tree watering and percentage of new trees lost each year. Rick said each park is mowed approximately 25-30 times and that trees are watered by City staff and the average new tree loss is about 10%. Mr. DeGardner asked members to contact him if there are any additional questions about the Parks Department Update.

DISCUSS POSSIBLE 2007 PARK BOARD GOALS:

The Park Board discussed possible parks and trails projects for 2007. The Park Board asked Rick to provide more information at next months meeting:

Boardwalk segment for Pheasant Hills cost estimate
Park shelters
Climbing walls/other playground equipment

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NEXT PARK BOARD MEETING:

Chair Lindy advised the next Park Board meeting would be held on Monday, December 4, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURN:

Pam Taschuk made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill Kusterman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Wood
Public Services Office Manager

These minutes were approved at the December 4, 2006 Park Board Meeting.