

**Park Board Meeting - February 7, 2005
Minutes**

The January 4, 2005 City of Lino Lakes Park Board meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m., by Acting Chair Taschuk.

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

Also present was Rick DeGardner, Public Services Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 4, 2004:

Pat Huelman made a motion, seconded by Bill Kusterman, to approve the January 4, 2005, minutes as presented. The minutes were approved.

SETTING AGENDA:

There were no changes to the agenda.

OPEN MIKE:

No one was present for open mike.

REVIEW 2004 PARKS AND RECREATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Rick stated the Parks and Recreation Department had a very busy and productive 2004. He referred to a summary of accomplishments that was included in the packets noting the following:

Parks

- Installed open air shelter at Birch Park
- Installed trail in northeast area of Pheasant hills to connect to Regional Park Trail
- Installed full size basketball court at Rice Lake Elementary School
- Installed ½ court basketball court at Behm's Park
- Planted 70 bare root trees and 60 shrubs throughout various parks
- Installed 20 bluebird houses at various park locations

Recreation

- Processed 3,241 registrations
- Special Events continue to improve:
 - Sweetheart Dance - 209 participants
 - Family Turkey Shoot - 167 teams
 - Breakfast with Santa - 200 participants
 - Snow Day - 160 participants
- Summer playground enrollment was highest ever at 347 participants
- Tennis program had enrollment of 171 participants

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Aaron asked if there is a list of priorities for Girl Scout and Boy Scout projects. Rick advised the City is involved early in relation to a specific project. The City does provide a list of options for possible projects. He explained the process noting most of the projects include landscaping, murals or signs at various parks.

REVIEW NEW TIERED FEE STRUCTURE, REGISTRATION PROCESS & PROGRAM CHANGES:

Rick advised beginning this spring, there are several significant changes related to the Parks and Recreation Department. The most substantive changes pertain to program fees and the registration process. The Department has converted fees for most of the programs to a tiered rate system. Those programs with the new tiered-rate system will have a regular fee and a Lino Lakes resident fee, which is lower.

The process to register for programs will change dramatically. In summary, all resident registrations received (by mail, fax, drop box) by February 28 will receive first priority. Resident registrations (phone-in, walk-in) will be accepted beginning March 3 - they will receive second priority. General registration will begin March 7. At this time, anyone who wishes to register may do so. No residency requirements will apply at this time. A copy of the registration information page that will be included in the spring brochure was also included in the packets.

Rick stated since the Centennial School District is now operating the Kid's Club program during the school year and summer, the Parks and Recreation Department would no longer be offering the "Options" program.

The Parks and Recreation Department will not be operating a summer playground program at Golden Lake Park in Circle Pines this summer. However, the summer playground program is being expanded at Sunrise Park by adding a morning program.

Rick also advised the size of the adult softball program has been reduced by eliminating the Tuesday night men's league. This will provide additional fields for the various youth sports associations. The Department has also given registration priority for resident teams, and will be charging an additional fee for "non-resident" teams.

Rick noted programs that are co-sponsored with other communities typically will not have a tiered fee schedule. There are other cities that have a tiered fee schedule and program fees for Lino Lakes are very reasonable.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss Merit of Park Liaisons -

Rick stated historically, the Park Board has assigned a member to each of the 21 neighborhood parks on an annual basis to serve as the park liaison. Rick indicated that since 1997, he does not recall a situation where a designated park liaison has attended a neighborhood meeting or addressed concerned residents without City staff and/or other members present. There have also been situations where the designated park liaison was uncomfortable conveying the Park Board's position to their neighbors. (Typically, park board members have been assigned to be the park liaison for their neighborhood park.)

Rick suggested the Park Board members discuss the merit of continuing with the practice of assigning an individual park board member to address any concerns that may arise regarding a neighborhood park; or if any concerns, comments, or suggestions should be conveyed at the monthly park board meeting.

Bill stated he feels a sense of ownership to the parks he is assigned to. He indicated he makes sure he is aware of what is happening at the particular park so he can better answer resident's questions.

Aaron agreed there is an ownership aspect with being a park liaison. He stated he also believes resident's may be more comfortable approaching a park liaison as opposed to the entire Park Board.

Pat stated he also like the ownership aspect of being a park liaison.

Paul added he takes pride in the parks he is assigned to.

Rick referred to the 2004 list of Park Board Park Liaisons and asked if any changes should be made.

Aaron Frederickson made a motion, seconded by Bill Kusterman, to adopt the 2004 Park Board Liaison list for year 2005, as presented. The motion was approved.

Elect 2005 Community Service Award Committee Member - Rick advised each fall, the Lino Lakes Community Service Award is presented to two residents whose actions and service make a significant impact on the community. Dr. Lindy was a recipient in 2001. Each of the advisory boards is requested to elect a member to participate in the evaluation process. Last year Paul Montain was the Park Board's representative.

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Aaron Frederickson volunteered to be the Park Board's representative for the 2005 Community Service Award Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rick advised there is no new information on Rice Lake Estate Park.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Rick referred to the Program Highlights Flyer from January, 2005. He noted the 6th Annual Snow Day was held on January 29 at Wargo Nature Center. Overall, the event was a huge success. The Sweetheart Sock Hop, now in its fourth year, is scheduled for Saturday, February 12 at Centennial Elementary School. Currently 67 people have registered.

Summer Softball information packets have been sent out and registration is set to begin for resident teams Friday, February 18.

There are three weeks left of the outdoor skating season. The rinks at Birch, Sunrise, and City Hall Park will hopefully remain open until Monday, February 21.

Rick advised the Spring Edition of the Recreation Review is scheduled to be in homes the last week of February. He noted the City's web site has undergone a major overhaul and is very much improved.

PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Rick reviewed a memo from Mike Hoffman, Parks Supervisor, which summarizes the maintenance highlights for January, 2005. Rick noted the main activities included rink maintenance - daily sweeping, blowing, shoveling, and flooding of four hockey and four pleasure rinks as weather permitted.

NEXT PARK BOARD MEETING:

Acting Chair Taschuk advised the next Park Board meeting would be held on Monday, March 7, 2005, 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURN:

Paul Montain made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pat Huelman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Points
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the March 7, 2005 Park Board Meeting.