

**Park Board Meeting - August 5, 2002
Minutes**

The August 5, 2002 City of Lino Lakes Park Board meeting was called to order at 6:30pm, by Chair Lindy.

Roll call was taken, members present were Bill Kusterman, Pam Taschuk, Katie Boyle, Michael O'Connor and George Lindy. Members absent were Paul Montain and Pat Huelman.

Also present was Rick DeGardner, Public Services Director.

APPROVAL OF JULY 1, 2002 MINUTES:

Bill Kusterman made a motion, seconded by Katie Boyle, to approve the July 1, 2002 minutes. The minutes were approved.

SETTING THE AGENDA:

The Agenda was passed as presented.

OPEN MIKE:

No one was present for open mike.

REVIEW BEHM'S CENTURY FARM 6TH-10TH ADDITIONS - PRELIMINARY PLAT:

Rick advised the 95.12-acre development consists of 156 single-family lots. The proposed parks and trail amenities are as follows:

Park - Outlot B (13.5 acres). The proposed park area consists of a significant amount of wetland as well as a 90' power line easement. The park area does have road frontage at three different areas and will provide good access from different areas of the development. Given the ditch, the power line easement, and the wetlands, the city needs to insure there is a suitable area for development consisting of contiguous, usable upland. It appears there is possible room for park expansion near the northwest area of the park, perhaps up to the ditch line.

Trail A - An 8' wide bituminous trail along the southern edge of Carl Street. Carl Street is classified as a collector street.

Trail B - A trail that begins in the southeast corner of the proposed development that extends the platted trail in the Behm's Century Farm 5th Addition adjacent to the Lino Air Park. The trail continues through the proposed park area providing access to the proposed park from Carl Street and continues northward to the northern limits. The trail would also provide direct park access from the northern most street.

Trail C - A trail beginning at the eastern limits of proposed development and moves westward into the proposed park area. This would also provide an access to the park via the road directly east of the proposed park area. The proposed trail is located in close proximity to the existing power line.

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Rick added the Environmental Board reviewed the project last week and the Planning and Zoning Board will be reviewing it on August 14, 2002.

Mr. John Johnson, Engineer for Gary Uhde, came forward and reviewed the preliminary plat noting the proposed location of Carl Street. The proposed location has caused a lot of discussion. It was determined that Carl Street will be built on the indicated location on the current map.

Mr. Johnson advised a traffic report has been completed that does show other options for the roadway. If the location is changed, the trail location will also be affected. He noted the total upland park area is 8.46 acres, over 5 acres of wetland and available open space. He also reviewed the park dedication requirements for the project. He indicated Mr. Uhde would like to create the park area as soon as possible and a recommendation needs to be made to the Planning and Zoning Board and the City Council.

Chair Lindy asked if the intent of the park area was a linear type park. Rick advised the intent was to have a larger park area to accommodate substantial park amenities.

Mr. Johnson stated there is a greenway element that blends into the project. Earlier discussions did include linear greenways but staff did indicate the active park should be in one area.

Chair Lindy noted in the original discussions did include the difficulty of getting around the wetlands.

Mr. Johnson referred to the map and pointed out the brown dotted line noting there is space there. The wetland there cannot be defined. That area needs to be mitigated but there needs to be a connection to the southern piece of the property. The two cul-de-sacs do connect with a trail. There was concern by the Air Park regarding the location of the trail.

Chair Lindy stated the upland park area has notions of wetland also. He asked if the green area on the map is upland.

Mr. Johnson stated there is a large area that is wetland that needs to be restored in another location. The green area will become entirely upland.

Rick stated the city needs to get a minimum of 4-5 acres of contiguous upland that is buildable for the park area.

Mr. Johnson stated the developer understands that and he believes that will happen with the current plan.

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Chair Lindy inquired about the location of the area that will be developed for the park amenities.

Mr. Johnson referred to the map and pointed out that park area noting any of the green area can have park amenities. The question is where the trail will be developed. The plan may also have another acre to include in the park area.

Chair Lindy referred to the map and inquired about the green square.

Mr. Johnson stated the green box is a larger area of open space around the trail to buffer the residents.

Chair Lindy stated the Park Board needs to differentiate between useable park land and open space.

Mr. Johnson stated that area is part of the park land dedication calculations. He stated he has not yet discussed with staff how the park land and open space will be calculated in regards to park dedication requirements.

Chair Lindy stated it appears that if the land is not developable it has been thrown into open space. The Park Board needs as much developable property as possible for the park area.

Mr. Johnson stated he can not respond to that at this time. The plan tries to blend a lot of different aspects including the power line easement, wetlands, trails, developable upland and open space. The plan does try to optimize the amount of land to dedicate to the park.

Rick advised there are three substantial areas for park activities. He stated he does like the concept of the trail corridor and the park area. He indicated his only concern is that after the Rice Creek Watershed District makes its final determination that the city has 4-5 acres of contiguous land that can be developed for an active park area. The city does have to determine if the smaller green box shown on the map will remain as is or developed and maintained.

Mr. Johnson stated the Environmental Board made it very clear they want natural open space areas within the plan.

Bill stated he likes the plan and the location of the park within the plan. He stated the city just needs to be sure to obtain the 4-5 acres of contiguous developable land.

Chair Lindy stated he wants to see a developable park area that is not especially spread out.

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Mr. Johnson stated staff had indicated the city needs 8 acres of upland with 4 ½ acres of that contiguous land to develop the park area.

It was the consensus of the Park Board that the presented plan is agreeable but the City needs assurance that it will obtain 4-5 acres of contiguous developable park land.

Mr. Johnson advised that if there are significant changes to the plan he will present those changes to the Park Board at a future meeting.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Rick referred to the Program Highlights Flyer from July 2002. He noted the Summer Playground Program is coming to a close and will officially end on August 1. There were 229 full-time registrations and over 210 daily registrations this summer.

The Options program is still going well. Some negative comments about the construction at the new location have been received, however, the new location has allowed for some cooking programs, on-site swimming and more classroom space - all of which were unavailable at the previous site.

Rick advised many of the youth instructional programs are now over or will be coming to a close in the early part of August. Over 120 youth participated in the Soccer "Fun"amentals program and over 300 youth participated in the T-Ball program.

Registration is now complete for the annual Safety Camp program scheduled for August 8. Ninety-nine youth are currently registered. Registration has concluded for the Fall Soccer and Tackle Football programs. Approximately 500 youth are registered for soccer and approximately 300 youth are registered for football.

Rick noted work on the Fall Activities Guide is underway. Delivery is scheduled for the last week in August.

PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Rick reviewed a memo from Mike Hoffman, Parks Supervisor, which summarizes the maintenance highlights for July 2002. Rick noted the summer softball and soccer programs have come to a close, which will allow more time for improvement projects vs. daily game preparation.

Rick added that maintenance highlights during a very busy July have included party wagon delivery and pickup, a new City Hall Park sign, and playground installation at Clearwater Creek Park.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Birch Park Trail Update - Rick advised he had indicated in a July 12, 2002 memo, the lowest submitted bid is \$106,632. To date the designated park dedication fund for this project amounts to \$75,000. Taking into account all associated project costs including the above bid, engineering, legal fees, and easement acquisition are approximately \$135,000. This leaves a shortfall of \$60,000.

Mr. Richard Gray, Landscape Architect of TKDA, and staff have reviewed this issue and have looked at several options including whether to modify the bid proposal, re-bid the project, or to accept the low bid. Also considered was modifying several line items such as omitting the load testing of piers and omitting the grouting of pier shafts. Several substitutes such as using poured concrete rather than pavers on the stairs and open areas were considered. However, the identified cost savings are marginal and will detract from the aesthetics of the project and its longevity.

Rick recommended that the city proceed with the project and award the bid to Global Specialty Contractors, Inc. with a base bid amount of \$106,632. This will require designating approximately \$60,000 of undesignated park dedication funds for the Birch Trail project. There is currently \$98,954 in undesignated funds. Also, the city has received \$113,725 in park dedication fees for the developments (Trappers Crossing, Royal Pines, Gemini Estates) that will utilize this trail segment to access Birch Park.

If the Park Board concurs with the recommendation, this item will be discussed at the August 12 city council meeting.

Pam stated this trail needs to get done even though it is a large amount of money the Park Board has to spend. The city should proceed with the trail.

Rick noted he does not expect that the city could get lower bids if the project was re-bid. The project is a good quality project and the initial costs were just underestimated.

Michael stated he feels the project should move forward.

Bill stated the city has worked for this trail for years and it needs to get done.

Pam Taschuk made a motion, seconded by Michael O'Connor to proceed with the installation of the Birch Park Trail in the amount of \$106,632 with Global Specialty Contractors, Inc. The motion passed.

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Woods of Baldwin Lake Park Playground Equipment Update - Rick stated the playground structure that was set on fire at Baldwin Lake Park was discussed at the last Park Board meeting. The claims adjuster has indicated the city will be receiving a check for \$8,870.61 to replace the equipment. This includes the city's \$500 deductible. Staff will be working with the manufacturer to replace the damaged portions of the playground structure.

Pam asked if the City has any leads regarding who is responsible for the fire. Rick advised the Police Department does have a suspect identified. It is being determined whether or not there is enough evidence to make an arrest. Restitution will be pursued if the juvenile is convicted.

SCHEDULE NEXT PARK BOARD MEETING:

Rick advised next month's park tour will be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2002, 6:00pm at Paul Montain's house.

ADJOURN:

Pam Taschuk made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Katie Boyle. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Points
Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved at the 11/5/02 Park Board Meeting