

Minutes
of the
NORTH MANKATO PARK & GREEN SPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
North Mankato, Minnesota
July 15, 2008

A meeting of the North Mankato Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee was held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2008 in the Large Conference Room of the Municipal Building.

Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee members present: Chair Diane Norland, Nancy Gehrke, Rob Johnston, Mark Porisch, John Hurd, Tom Hagen and Mike Fischer. Members absent: Tracy Malm, Bess Tsaouse, LaVonne Smasal and Chris Corley. Guests present: Wendell Sande and Scott Thiem.

A motion was made by Tom Hagen, seconded by John Hurd, to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2008 and May 6, 2008 meetings. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.

Chair Norland reviewed the agenda items as follows:

1. Discussion with City Administrator Wendell Sande.
2. 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan.
3. Draft Summary of Survey.

Discussion with City Administrator Wendell Sande

Administrator Sande reported the seedlings inadvertently mowed on the west bank of Spring Lake Park will be replanted. Tom Hagen will provide the City Administrator with the names of the teachers for the classes that planted the trees.

Administrator Sande explained the budgeting process reporting recommendations for the 2009 Budget and Five-Year Capital Improvements expenditures should be made in priority order. He reported that with the recently approved local option sales tax, this frees up money currently used for payment of the Contract for Deeds for park land and we will be able to do some significant projects in the parks over the next 5-10 years.

In response to a question from Chair Norland about the best way to meld the Park Advisory Committee with City staff, Administrator Sande reported that everything should be channeled through Mike Fischer and Nancy Gehrke.

Other items discussed were hiring a consultant for a Benson Park Concept Plan, a fishing pier for Spring Lake which will be dedicated to Jacob Thompson, moving of the hockey rink and refurbishing of the swimming facility. The Park Advisory Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 23rd at the Shelter No. 3 parking lot to view the proposed location for the fishing pier at Spring Lake. Administrator Sande reported after City Council approval to hire a consultant for the Benson Park Concept Plan, the consultant would be invited to meet with the Park & Green Spaces Advisory Board.

Administrator Sande shared an email from Brady Schmidt, President of the Mankato Area Jaycees. Mr. Schmidt reported the Jaycees are looking for possible projects and suggested a shelter at Pleasant View Park. Chair Norland requested that Nancy Gehrke email Mr. Schmidt and invite him to the August 12th Park Advisory Board meeting.

Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Chair Norland presented the preliminary Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan 2009-2013 which will be incorporated into the Park Department's plan.

Draft Summary of Survey

Chair Norland presented a draft survey regarding park enhancement that when finalized will be sent out with the utility bills. Chair Norland requested members of the Committee review the survey and bring any recommendations for changes to the survey to the next meeting.

The next Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on August 12, 2008 and September 16, 2008 in the Large Conference Room of the Municipal Building.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Chair

Secretary