

Minutes
of the
NORTH MANKATO PARK & GREEN SPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
North Mankato, Minnesota
May 18, 2010

A meeting of the North Mankato Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee was held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 in the Police Annex Community Room.

Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee members present: Chair Diane Norland, Nancy Gehrke, Jim Santori, Tom Hagen, Chris Corley, Tony Ulmen, Rob Johnston and Joe Kluender. Also in attendance was Mara Natrakul from the Mankato Healthy Lawns Team.

Approval of Minutes

Member Hagen moved, seconded by Member Tsaouse, to approve the minutes of the Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee of January 26, 2010. With all members voting in favor, the minutes were approved with one correction.

Report on Historic Parks

Member Corley reported he received feedback on the Historic Parks Statement and sent out the revised report to the Park & Green Spaces Committee. He summarized the report and noted the Historic Parks Subcommittee would meet with Administrator Sande prior to a presentation to the City Council which they would like to schedule for one of the June Council meetings. The Subcommittee would like to schedule neighborhood meetings for September with the final report outlining the vision for Spring Lake Park and Wheeler Park for the next several decades presented to the City Council in October. Attached and made a part of these minutes is a copy of the Draft Historic Parks Statement as revised April 20, 2010.

Discussion was held about capturing an oral history of North Mankato by conducting interviews with those aware of the history. Member Hagen reported a Minnesota State University student may be interested in taking on this project. He reported the group who meets in Spring Lake Park annually would be a good source for interviewing. Chair Norland reported she will contact Ben Leonard at the Nicollet County Historical Society in an effort to organize this process. It was noted that Wayne Comstock has done a CD of the history of North Mankato. Member Hagen will begin gathering photos to include.

Member Kluender moved, seconded by Member Hagen to present the Historic Parks Statement to the City Council at their June 7, 2010 meeting. Chair Norland will also invite Ben Leonard to this meeting. A Park & Green Spaces Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 22, 2010 to plan for a debriefing and planning for the community meetings.

Benson Park

Chair Norland reported the *Free Press* recently published an article outlining future improvements in Benson Park. She reported Monarch Wildlife Systems has been engaged to plant prairie grass and wild flowers at Benson Park. Some discussion was held about the plentiful deer population and it was noted they feed on wild flowers.

Discussion was held about the elevation report that was to be completed for Benson Park.

Other Business

Mara Natrakul from the Mankato Healthy Lawns Team reported the corn gluten was applied to an area in front of the Municipal Building on April 19, 2010. The adjoining area was treated with herbicides. Rob Johnston reported it takes three years to rid a lawn of dandelions using corn gluten.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Chair

Secretary