

Minutes
of the
NORTH MANKATO PARK & GREEN SPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
North Mankato, Minnesota
September 22, 2011

A meeting of the North Mankato Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee was held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 22, 2011 in the Police Annex Community Room.

Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee members present: Chair Diane Norland, Chris Corley, Rob Johnston, Joe Kluender, Nancy Gehrke, John Hurd, Scott Thiem and Bess Tsaouse.

Update Report

Chair Norland recapped vision plan and guiding principles accepted by the City Council for the parks design and redesign, urban reforestation, biodiversity. She reported trees were planted in Spring Lake Park and Benson Park in 2011.

Chair Norland also reported the service hired for weed control along the levee has been spraying Quick Pro. City Engineer Malm has information regarding more environmentally friendly products.

Chair Norland reported mowing has been minimized at Benson Park in the Oak Savanna area. She also reported the Mayor has been speaking with individuals at the City of Mankato regarding a history walk and linking all the veterans' memorials.

Discussion was held on the Sales Tax Fund and the Legacy Fund grants. Chair Norland reported no grants were given out by the Legacy Fund in 2011. Notice of the next award of grants should be in early 2012. If the City is successful in receiving a grant for Benson Park, the City's portion would be 10 percent. Member Johnston reported notice should be given to the residents that the land purchased for Benson Park would be completely paid for in 2012.

Chair Norland discussed the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan noting that some items have been pushed back because of budget constraints, including the Old Belgrade Hill trail.

Chair Norland suggested it was time to sunset this Committee since the work directed by the Council has been completed. She asked the members if other duties such as fundraising, creating a Park Foundation or a "Friends of Benson Park" or "Friends of Spring Lake Park" should be the next step for a committee to undertake for the North Mankato parks. She will bring this item to the Council for discussion. If the Council does not act on forming a Committee for fund raising, it was suggested this could be accomplished by members of the community.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Chair

Secretary