

Minutes
of the
NORTH MANKATO PARK & GREEN SPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
North Mankato, Minnesota
March 30, 2010

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

Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee members present: Chair Diane Norland, Nancy Gehrke, Bess Tsaouse, Tom Hagen, John Hurd, Chris Corley, Tony Ulmen, Mark Porisch and Tracy Malm. Also in attendance was Mara Natrakul from the Mankato Healthy Lawns Team.

Corn Gluten Demonstration Area

Mara Natrakul spoke about the application of corn gluten versus chemicals on lawns and reported she recently completed working with the Mankato Schools on a corn gluten project sponsored by a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency grant. Discussion was held on the application of corn gluten on one-half of the area in front of the Municipal Building and chemicals on the other half. It was determined signage distinguishing the two areas is necessary. A request was made to notify residents of this test area by means of a notice on the utility bill or an insert in the utility billing.

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 the Historic Parks Subcommittee met to discuss Spring Lake Park and Wheeler Park. He presented a Draft Historic Parks Statement which in summary gave a brief introduction of the history of North Mankato, background of Spring Lake Park and Wheeler Park, process recommendations for 2010, park recommendations overview and thematic recommendations. He requested that City Administrator Wendell Sande provide additional historical background information on Wheeler Park. After some discussion, it was recommended that the Park & Green Spaces Committee review the Draft Historic Parks Statement and email any recommendations to Member Corley prior to April 15th. The Historic Parks Subcommittee will meet to finalize the report prior to the next Park & Green Spaces Committee meeting on April 27, 2010. The draft plan would be presented to the City Administrator and City Council in April or May 2010 with the recommendation that several community meetings be held to unveil the plan and take community input. The process recommendations were reviewed and the date was changed for the final report to be submitted to the City Council in November 2010.

Other Business

Member Ulman reported that KMSU is sponsoring a Spring Roots Festival with ten bands on North Riverfront Drive on Saturday, April 17, 2010.

Member Tsaouse reported Crossview Covenant Church has agreed to have the community gardens on land they own behind the church. She reported that members of SHIP went to a conference on community gardens on Saturday, March 27, 2010.

Member Porisch reported he spoke with the Head Ranger of Minneopa State Park and the ski trail at Minneopa Park will be extended.

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

Chair

Secretary