

Minutes
of the
NORTH MANKATO PARK & GREEN SPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
North Mankato, Minnesota
August 11, 2009

A meeting of the North Mankato Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee was held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 in the Police Annex Community Room.

Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee members present: Chair Diane Norland, Nancy Gehrke, Mike Fischer, Tracy Malm, John Hurd, Joe Kluender, Tom Hagen and Bess Tsaouse.

A motion was made by Member Tsaouse, seconded by Member Hagen, to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2009 meeting. With all members voting in favor, the minutes were approved.

Chair Norland reviewed the agenda items as follows:

1. Updates on Benson Park
2. Thompson Fishing Pier
3. Spring Lake Park
4. Outdoor Heritage Amendments

Updates on Benson Park

Member Fischer reported the Benson Park Master Plan was laid over the existing topography to see how the plan fit within the contour of Benson Park. He reported that staff is recommending the woodland habitat be moved farther to the south because of the large berm in the original area planned for the woodland habitat. In order to keep an open space for kite flying and other activities, the parking lot, Littlebug Bay and the wildflower area would be moved farther into the park. Chair Norland reported the northeast corner has a very large dirt pile that could be contoured to develop a large sliding hill. Discussion was held about adhering to the original Master Plan and adding large trees to the berm as part of the woodland habitat. Member Hagen moved, seconded by Member Tsaouse, to recommend the original Benson Park Master Plan to the Council with no changes. Vote on the motion: Norland, Malm, Hurd, Hagen, Kluender and Tsaouse, aye; Gehrke and Fischer, nay. Motion carried.

Discussion was held about the proposed schedule for completion of items in Benson Park. Member Fischer reported because of large equipment that would need to be brought in for excavation of Littlebug Bay and the infrastructure for the water feature and Littlebug Bay, the schedule may need to be revised so that other restoration areas are not disturbed.

Chair Norland reported she spoke with Administrator Sande regarding mowing of the parks and planting grasses that are sustainable and do not need to be mowed. She also spoke with him about leaving a larger collar around Ladybug Lake that is not mowed. Chair Norland reported the mowing issue will be discussed at a future Council workshop.

Thompson Fishing Pier

Member Gehrke presented the preliminary drawings of the Thompson Fishing Pier. Discussion was held regarding the width of the walkway to the pier and the size of the pier itself. Member

Hagen stated he believes the walkway should be no more than 5' wide and the pier should be downsized. Member Fischer will request a drawing of Spring Lake with the pier overlaid to show the proportion of the pier to the lake.

Spring Lake Park

Chair Norland reported she will email the prioritized list of items for Spring Lake as compiled by the Spring Lake Park Subcommittee to the Park & Green Spaces Advisory Board.

Outdoor Heritage Amendments

Mark Porisch attended the meeting on the Outdoor Heritage Amendment and will bring details to the September meeting.

Other Business

Member Malm asked about the schedule for trails around Pleasant View Park. She also questioned if contact had been made with the Jaycees who were interested in building pergolas for shade in some of the parks. Chair Norland will follow up on this item.

The September meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2009.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Chair

Secretary