

Minutes
of the
NORTH MANKATO PARK & GREEN SPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
North Mankato, Minnesota
June 9, 2009

A meeting of the North Mankato Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee was held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 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, Jim Santori, Rob Johnston, Tom Hagen, Bess Tsaouse and Mark Porisch. Also in attendance was Council Member Bill Schindle.

Chair Norland reviewed the agenda items as follows:

1. Updates.
2. Spring Lake Park Plan.

Updates

Chair Norland reported as soon as the topographical map is ready for Benson Park, work will begin on the grading plan.

Chair Norland reported that Chad Carlberg reviewed area parks and he believes the best place for a disc golf course would be the land adjacent to the dog park. He felt Bluff Park was too crowded and that parking and traffic would be an issue.

Chair Norland spoke with Administrator Sande on a number of issues. Tree plantings on the west bank of Spring Lake Park will occur this fall. Plans and specifications are being prepared for the fishing pier and bids will be taken in July. Bathrooms on the south end of Spring Lake Park may be built this fall.

Chair Norland discussed the use of herbicides and pesticides on public grounds with Administrator Sande and he suggested doing test plots using corn gluten. They also discussed rain gardens and the potential of helping residents build rain gardens on their property through a grant program.

Spring Lake Park Plan

Tom Hagen reviewed the Spring Lake Park Plan compiled by the Spring Lake Park Subcommittee as previously presented to the Park & Green Spaces Committee. Discussion was held regarding the long-range vision for Spring Lake Park. The consensus of the Committee was that Spring Lake Park should be defined as a family focused multi-purpose park. Tom Hagen will compile a list of the items from the Spring Lake Park Plan for review and prioritization by the Committee. Chair Norland will re-send to Committee Members the results of the questionnaire and survey regarding parks.

Other

Council Member Schindle asked the Park & Green Spaces Committee to make a recommendation to the City Council limiting future neighborhood parks to 3-4 acres.

Questions were raised by Committee Members about the Park Department continuing to mow the water ditches at Benson Park. Chair Norland will review this matter with the City Administrator and respond to the Committee by email.

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

Chair

Secretary