

Minutes  
of the  
NORTH MANKATO PARK & GREEN SPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
North Mankato, Minnesota  
May 12, 2009

A meeting of the North Mankato Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee was held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 in the Police Annex Community Room.

Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee members present: Chair Diane Norland, Nancy Gehrke, Chris Corley, Scott Thiem, Tom Hagen, Jim Santori, Rob Johnston, Tom Hagen and Mark Porisch. Also in attendance were Chad Carlberg and Ben Keist representing disc golf.

Chair Norland reviewed the agenda items as follows:

1. Benson Park.
2. Disc Golf.
3. Jacob Thompson Fishing Pier, Spring Lake Park.
4. Spring Lake Park Plan.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Jim Santori seconded by Rob Johnston, to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2009 Park & Green Spaces Advisory meeting. With all members voting in favor, the motion carried.

### **Benson Park**

Chair Norland announced that 25 large oak trees have been donated to Benson Park for the oak savannah. The engineers, Bolton & Menk, are working on the contour plan for Benson Park and when that is completed, the grading plan will be the next step. She reported Planner Fischer submitted a grant request to the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for matching funds from the LCCMR for the development of Benson Park.

### **Jacob Thompson Fishing Pier**

Chair Norland presented a revised copy of the plan for the Jacob Thompson Bridge at Spring Lake. She reported that anyone wishing to donate to the Jacob Thompson fishing pier may send their donations to the attention of the City Clerk, 1001 Belgrade Avenue. Tom Hagen asked that an overall layout of Spring Lake Park depicting the pier and a potential future bridge be presented to the Committee. Chair Norland stated that maybe the City Administrator or City Planner would do a walk of Spring Lake Park with committee members.

### **Disc Golf**

Chad Carlberg and Ben Keist representing disc golf appeared before the Park & Green Spaces Committee and presented a proposal for a disc golf course in North Mankato. Ben reported that the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) has over 40,000 members and the Southern Minnesota Disc Golf Association has 140 registered members. There are over 3,000 courses in the United States and it is the fastest growing recreational sport. An 18-hole disc golf course was recently built in Land of Memories Park in Mankato. Ben reported it is not uncommon for the disc golf course at Land of Memories Park to have 300 visitors in one day with ages from 2-3

year olds and up to 80-year olds. He reported a minimum of 15 acres of land is needed for an 18-hole course and courses co-exist with other uses at parks. Ben reported the estimated cost for an 18-hole disc golf course is \$14,483. After some discussion about sites for an additional 18-hole disc golf course in this area, which included Nine-Mile Park, Minnemishinona Falls Park, Bluff Park and Kiwanis Park, Chair Norland requested they research sites that would be feasible and bring layouts back to the North Mankato Park & Green Spaces Committee.

**Spring Lake Park Plan**

Chair Norland reported the next action for the Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee is the Spring Lake Park Plan. The Committee asked about the replacement of trees on the west hill of Spring Lake Park. Discussion was held about holding neighborhood meetings prior to putting together plans for the parks. It was suggested that neighborhood meetings be advertised by placing fliers on the doors of those residents living adjacent to the parks.

The next meeting of the Park & Green Spaces Advisory Committee is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2009.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary