

ARLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 18, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Ihrke.

Present: Chairman Ihrke, Hultgren, Larsen, B.Thomes, Councilmember Wills

Absent: Battcher, Schultz

Also Present: Street/Park Supt. Thomes, Garden Club Members Leanne Post & Darlaine Dammann

Motion by B.Thomes, seconded by Hultgren, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2007 meeting as presented.

Garden Club Members Leanne Post and Darlaine Dammann explained that they had discussed landscaping around the Sibley Medical Center sign or planting trees in Memorial Park. They decided to landscape around the Sibley Medical Center sign, which would include brick pavers and red rock. Ihrke thanked the Garden Club for their proposed donation. It was the consensus of the Park Committee to recommend to the City Council to accept the donation from the Garden Club for landscaping around the SMC sign.

Post commented that they would possibly like to plant some trees next year in Memorial and/or Fairview Parks, but expressed concern about who would be responsible for watering them. Supt. Thomes stated that there are 3 hydrants in the area and longer hoses could be put on them for the Garden Club to use for watering. He stated that planting trees is somewhat limited because of the helipad and expressed concern about what kind of trees were being considered.

The Park Committee reviewed a letter from the Sibley Medical Center Foundation requesting permission to plant a tree in Memorial Park in memory of Louie Woehler. They were favorable to the idea and some discussion was held on what species of tree should be planted and where (again questionable due to helipad location and FAA regulations). It was also agreed to see what Pauline Woehler's wishes were. It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend to the City Council to grant the request from the Sibley Medical Center Foundation. Ihrke thanked the Foundation for the proposed donation.

The Park Committee reviewed an email from Kim Mork asking the Committee to consider replacing the play equipment in Fairview Park and putting up equipment like what is at Four Seasons and Frenzel Parks. Supt. Thomes stated that during previous Park Board meetings discussions have been held on the possibility of purchasing a piece of equipment yearly for certain parks, but no official action was ever taken. Ihrke commented that it has been the intent of the Committee to put new equipment in the various parks, but has chosen to wait until after the various construction projects are completed that way there are no issues with having to move equipment at a later date. Supt. Thomes added that the equipment at Frenzel Park was put in due to a grant the City received and the equipment at Four Seasons Park was put in through a donation from Margaret Majors. Some discussion was held on what funds were available (in Park budget, remaining M. Major fund, park dedication fees from 2 developments, availability of matching grants, etc.) if any, for replacing some equipment. Discussion was also held on whether a larger play area should be put, but there was some concern about how much land would be available once the new shelter was constructed and/or the hospital parking lot has to be expanded. Wills will contact Ms. Mork and explain the Park Committee's position on the play equipment. Hultgren commented that the letter from Ms. Mork should be given to the City Council for review to let them know that the public is asking for different equipment.

Supt. Thomes commented that the shelter in Fairview Park had been taken down earlier in the day.

Brief discussion was held on the proposed joint trail system.

Discussion was held on whether to continue with monthly meetings or go to quarterly meetings. It was the consensus of the Committee to meet quarterly, which would be June 20<sup>th</sup>, September 19<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup> with the understanding that if something comes up a Special meeting can be held.

Supt. Thomes explained that the bridge (60+ feet) had been taken out at the Sportsman Park and really was not worth trying to fix up. He commented that it actually needs to be cut up for scrap metal in order to get it hauled away; it is still at the park being an eye sore. Hultgren commented that the owner of Emma Krumbees (Belle Plaine) has 3 bridges that are well constructed and for sale. He suggested looking at purchasing one to replace the bridge at the Sportsman Park. Supt. Thomes commented that he thinks the bridge should not be replaced until such time that there is a trail system and the area can be cleaned up (very thick with weeds). B.Thomes likes the idea of getting the bridge back in so people can take nature walks if they want. It was agreed to table the bridge discussion until the next regular meeting in order to obtain some names/prices for removing the old bridge and checking on the prices of new bridges.

Motion by B.Thomes, seconded by Wills, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

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Vice Chairman Robert Thomes

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Chairman Alan Ihrke