

ARLINGTON PARK BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2007

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

Present: Chairman Alan Ihrke, Michelle Battcher, Gary Hultgren, Sue Schultz, Bob Thomes

Absent: Pia Larsen, Councilmember Wills

Also Present: Street/Park Supt. Thomes, Garden Club Members Mary Hennies and Darlaine Dammann

Motion by B. Thomes, seconded by Battcher, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2007 meeting as corrected.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by B. Thomes, and passed by unanimous vote to appoint Michelle Battcher as the Secretary of the Parks Committee for one year.

Garden Club Member Mary Hennies stated that they had some money in their treasury (approximately \$500) and wanted to use it to help beautify the city (mainly the hospital park). They originally had thought about making a flower garden around the SMC sign, but have since changed their minds as the group is getting older and 1 more bed may be more than they can handle, plus there is no water real close by. They had also thought about possibly purchasing some trees for the park, but wanted to know what the Park Committee would like to see. Discussion was held on proposed locations where trees could be planted throughout the city. Supt. Thomes stated that the street department would take care of watering the trees for the first few years, at least until they got established. Supt. Thomes suggested having some landscaping done around the SMC sign without flowers. It was questioned if some kind of shrubbery would work around the SMC sign. It was the consensus that the Park Board was open to whatever the Garden Club could come up with and they would bring a proposal to the next meeting.

The Park Committee reviewed the 4 applications that were received for the Summer Recreation positions (1 Director and 2 Assistants), which 3 were returning from last year. They also reviewed the pay for the staff. Supt. Thomes commented that city staff had called around to surrounding communities to see what types of programs were out there and how they paid their staffing/bus drivers. Ihrke commented that he would recommend hiring the 3 returning applicants and suggest the 4th be used as an umpire or substitute if something would happen to one of the other 3. B. Thomes questioned if the 4th applicant has ever participated in sports and expressed concern that he would not be qualified to be an umpire if he hasn't.

Motion by Battcher, seconded by B. Thomes, and passed by unanimous vote to recommend to the City Council to approve hiring Doug Flieth as the Summer Recreation Director and Stephanie Schultz and Paul Pichelmann as the 2 assistants.

Some discussion was held on the program itself and what is or is not offered and why. Supt. Thomes stated that money becomes an issue; the City does not charge the students to participate in the program, except if they want to purchase a t-shirt, plus it would have to pay more money to the staff for the additional time. It was the consensus of the Parks Committee that the wages for the Summer Recreation Program were fine and were not recommending any changes.

Supt. Thomes spoke on the bridge at the Sportsman's Park. He stated that he was able to speak a DNR representative and she explained that the bridge can be removed as long as there were no supports/pillars in the creek itself, which there are not any. He stated that a new bridge could be installed anywhere as long as the supports/pillars were not in the creek itself. However, if installation of a new bridge requires

the pillars/supports to be in the creek (water), a permit must be obtained from the State (DNR). Supt. Thomes suggested having Scott Equipment look over the bridge and give an estimate on the costs to fix it up. He also could get some estimates on a replacing the bridge completely; he knows there are places to buy pre-made bridges then comparisons could be made. It was agreed that the bridge has to come out due to safety reasons. It was understood that there is not enough money in the Parks budget to replace the bridge this year, the City would have to budget it for it in the future. Supt. Thomes will check on who can remove the bridge and at what cost, plus get some estimates on having the bridge repaired/replaced and report back to the Committee.

Discussion was held on the fences at Four Season Park. Supt. Thomes explained that he had obtained a couple of bids for the fence to divide the ball fields and the low bid was \$2,400. He stated that he has been attempting to work with Bruce Pinske (RR Chairman) about placing a fence near the railroad tracks and is running into some opposition. He stated that the railroad is not allowing anything within 50 feet of the tracks (their right-of-way).

It was agreed to hold off discussing shelters for any of the parks until it warms up outside and then the group can walk/view them in person before any decisions are made. Battcher commented that she would like to see the meetings held at the parks (rotate locations) when it is warm enough.

Supt. Thomes stated that he had also gotten estimates on the mulch that is needed for the 2 playground areas. The low bid was just over \$3,100 for 2 loads (1 for each playground).

The Committee reviewed Ordinance No. 203-Creating the Parks Committee. Ihrke explained that the Council would be holding the second reading at their next Council meeting.

Supt. Thomes explained that the Mayor has asked all Committees to present reports to the Council various times throughout the year and the Park Board was scheduled for June and November.

The Committee reviewed Ordinance No. 198- Regulating Solicitors, Peddlers, Hawkers, Itinerant Merchants and Transient Vendors of Merchandise in the City of Arlington. Supt. Thomes explained that last year an individual had approached the city about selling items (refreshments) during the soccer games that were held at Frenzel Park (on public property) and the City really didn't have anything in place that regulated this. They implemented this ordinance for future instances that may arise.

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

Secretary Michelle Battcher

Chairman Alan Ihrke