

ARLINGTON PARK COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

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

Present: Chairman Ihrke, Hultgren, Larsen, Schultz, Councilmember Wills

Absent: Battcher, B. Thomes

Also Present: Street/Park Supt. Thomes, City Administrator Jaunich, Mayor Kreft, Addison Montiel,
Brandon Walstad, Joseph Hansen, Daniel Streeter, Marcel Montiel, Joseph Streeter

Motion by Wills, seconded by Schultz, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the June 28, 2007 meeting as presented.

Addison Montiel, Brandon Walstad, Joseph Hansen, Daniel Streeter, Marcel Montiel presented information for creating a Skate (board) Park, which included items they would like to see in the park, what other cities have and some prices. Ihrke questioned how many individuals actually would use the park. The boys commented that there were approximately 20 people in Arlington and many more in surrounding communities that would probably come to use it also, as there is not another Skate Park in Sibley County. The boys also commented that they had approached the Council about this park, which they had suggested a possible location being near the Baseball park (behind center field). Joe Streeter commented that there is a "circuit" that holds competitions in various locations throughout the State pending the parks meet their standards, which Arlington could become one and this would bring more people to town.

Adm. Jaunich handed out some information (including park size: 12,000 sq. ft. minimum and 15,000 sq. ft. maximum) that he obtained from the League of MN Cities regarding insurance issues with Skate Parks. It was noted that anything over four (4) feet high within the park will affect the City's insurance greatly. LMC recommends that a maintenance and inspection program be followed if a skate park is created; that signs be posted at the park that contain the rules; and that cities require participants to sign a waiver. Some discussion was held on park size and possible locations. Joe Streeter commented that in a year or so a couple of the boys would be old enough to do Eagle Scout projects. He stated that as part of their Eagle Scout project the boys could provide assistance/labor with putting up fencing/equipment, etc. for the skate park.

Ihrke thanked the visitors for their information and stated that the Park Committee will continue to research the issue further. The Committee was very impressed with the fact the boys come to them and the Council on their own and with the information they presented.

Supt. Thomes commented that he had spoken with a few people that he knew from NYA about their skate park. He was informed that the park does not get used much as the kids got bored with it and go to other communities with larger/better skate parks. Some concern was expressed about spending the money on this type of park and then it doesn't get used (a passing phase). Mayor Kreft suggested contacting some of the communities that have skate parks to find out park size, usage, type of equipment, and associated costs, etc.

Ihrke commented that the following items had been completed and all look good:

- 1) Fence at Four Seasons Park between the play equipment and railroad tracks;
- 2) Sidewalks from street to the play equipment at both Four Seasons Park and Frenzel Park;
- 3) Sidewalks from Nursing home and parking lot to the shelter at Fairview Park;
- 4) Shelter construction at Fairview Park.

Brief discussion was held on the play equipment proposed for Fairview Park for 2008. The Committee reviewed some drawings of different equipment displays.

There was discussion about budgeting for a skate park. It was noted that a location should be determined first before proceeding to far with design concepts, etc. It was also noted that a resident had contacted one of the Councilmembers about making a donation to the skate park.

Adm. Jaunich explained that he was working on a Capital Projects Fund for the Council and how it worked/could be used for future projects.

Supt. Thomes commented that the Sportsman's Club had some money they would like to invest towards the parks. He asked for the Committee suggestions of things they would like to see in the parks (drinking fountains, equipment, etc.).

It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Supt. Thomes will contact the play equipment companies about this date so they can present information at the meeting.

Brief discussion was held on the trail system (including joint trail).

Motion by Hultgren, seconded by Larsen, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

Supt. Dan Thomes

Chairman Alan Ihrke