

Medina Park Commission Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2007

Medina City Hall

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1.) Call to order

The Park Commission of Medina, Minnesota met in regular session on March 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Chambers. Park Commissioner Chair Ann Thies presided.

a.) Commissioners Present: Ben Benson, Madeleine Linck, Bob Pastor, Ann Thies, Brian Kingsley and Gerry Dykhoff

b.) Absent: Galen Bruer

c.) Also Present: Jodi Wunsch and Carolyn Smith

2.) Additions to agenda – Jodi requested to add “Problem with Dog Poop in the Park” under the Staff report.

A motion was made by Bob Pastor and seconded by Madeleine Linck to approve the addition to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

3.) Approval of last meeting’s minutes:

The February 21st meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

A motion was made by Brian Kingsley and seconded by Ben Benson to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4.) Public comments: None

5.) Friends of Elm Creek

The Director of the Friends of Elm Creek, Kent Kiewatt, and another member, Ted Olson introduced themselves and gave a little background on the organization’s vision to work together with Maple Grove, Plymouth, and Medina to create a corridor that creates a regional recreational asset. This trail corridor would run along Elm Creek and is referred to as the Elm Creek Corridor Regional Trail.

The Friends of Elm Creek have received funding to hire a consultant which is Sanders, Wacker & Bergley to facilitate a meeting including representatives from Maple Grove, Plymouth, and Medina. The Friends of Elm Creek’s request to the City is if they can put their consultants in touch with us to discuss this regional trail. Bob Pastor volunteered to be the City of Medina’s Park Commission representative. Carolyn Smith did not feel city staff could devote time to this project and especially with all the other meetings going on with the Comprehensive Plan. Smith recommended that the Park Commission consider this regional trail concept when looking at future trails for the Comprehensive Plan.

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6.) Uniform Park Signs

Jodi Wunsch gave a brief report on past discussion the Park Commission has had regarding uniform park signs. In the past, the Commissioners seemed to like the sand blasted signs with cedar posts as a support system. They felt the signs should be uniform, but no logo has been created and no formal decisions have been made.

Ann Thies asked where the Council was at in the selection of an Uptown Hamel sign. Smith stated that the current design has not been accepted and the cost was too expensive.

Smith suggested a monument type sign to match current development in the city. Madeleine Linck suggested the sign should have a rural and earthy look, not bright flashy urban colors.

Jodi Wunsch mentioned the budget in our Capital Improvement Plan has \$7,500 for signs at Hamel Legion Park in 2007 and \$20,000 for all the other parks in 2008.

A motion was made by Madeleine Linck and seconded by Ben Benson to recommend natural, rural, pioneer, earthy tones to be considered by the council for the Uptown Hamel sign and to table this discussion until the council has made a decision on the Uptown Hamel Sign. Motion passed unanimously.

7.) Hamel Legion Park Plaza

Jodi Wunsch suggested that the Park Commission determine what they want the Plaza to look like including materials and landscaping. Ben Benson stated that he visited the park earlier in the day and was disappointed with the amount of utility lines that run through that whole area.

There was confusion on who would be funding the war memorial that Gerry Dykhoff was requesting. Carolyn Smith mentioned that the war memorial may be new to the council and Gerry Dykhoff should write a formal letter to the council explaining that the Hamel VFW and Hamel Legion would commit to paying for the memorial and would like to incorporate it into the plaza at the base of the flag pole.

Gerry Dykhoff also presented another idea for the location and design of the plaza. He proposed two separate smaller designs. One design would be closer to the trail head and would consist of a raised fountain, a drinking fountain, a picnic table, and two benches. The other design would be closer to the building and

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would consist of pavers, war memorial, and the lighted flag pole. There was a general consensus that the two smaller designs were nice.

Ann Thies suggested that Gerry Dykhoff go back and get costs for the fountain and everything he just proposed. She felt a ball park cost would be helpful before the Park Commission moves forward with a design and location.

The Park Commission agreed to have a simple and easy maintenance plaza which could include benches, permeable pavers, one picnic table, and some nice shrubs.

8.) Comprehensive Plan Update

Ann Thies and Madeleine Linck reported that things were still moving along and progress is being made. Jodi Wunsch reported that a consultant from CR Planning would be at the April Park Commission meeting to begin discussing trails for the Comprehensive Plan.

9.) Staff Report

a.) Annual Park Tour – It will be held on Saturday, April 14th. There was a general consensus to begin the tour at 8:30 a.m. instead of 9 a.m. and to add Hidden Lake to the tour agenda. Jodi Wunsch will look into renting a van for the tour and will extend an invitation to the Council and Planning Commission to attend the tour.

b.) Fire Pit Selection – Jodi Wunsch reported that the City has not received all the quotes for this project and we would like to table it until the April meeting.

c.) Basketball Court & Playground Equipment – Ben Benson suggested the basketball court should go where the current playground equipment is located. The new playground equipment should be located closer to the building. There was discussion on the Lions still having to raise and commit \$37,500 before any final decisions are made on the playground equipment. Gerry Dykhoff felt we only needed a 40' x 70' court instead of 50' x 70' and we only needed one, not two courts. The Park Commission decided the standards for the court could be decided by City staff.

d.) Problem with Dog Poop in the Park – Jodi Wunsch reported that one resident complained that dog poop at Hamel Legion Park was a problem. She showed some options of garbage cans, signs, and bags designated for cleaning up after your dogs. The Park Commission did not feel this was a big problem and decided we should put an article in the next newsletter to educate residents on cleaning up after their dogs. If the article does not work, we can look into some sort of volunteer clean-up program.

e.) Open Space Trails Criteria – Ann Thies briefly reviewed the trails criteria handout. She then gave some insight on where she felt Medina could have active and passive trails and the potential connection of parks and trails throughout Medina. One question she recommended asking CR Planning was how to deal

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with the flexibility for the trail plan as far as knowing who will develop their land. Should the trail map go in the Comprehensive Plan or should it just be referenced in the Comprehensive Plan?

A motion was made by Ann Thies, seconded by Gerry Dykhoff and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jodi Wunsch