

Scandia Park and Recreation Committee Minutes
Monday, March 3, 2008

Members Present: Karen Schik, Alex Bildeaux, Mike Goeken, Matt Rasmussen, Joan Benner, Tom Triplett

Absent: Edward Ruff, Dan Skupien

Guest: Anne Hurlburt

1. Meeting called to order at 7 pm.
Agenda approved
Minutes of Feb 4 approved.
2. **Secretary appointed:** Dan Skupien
3. **2007 accomplishments, 2008-9 goals reviewed.** See attachment.
4. **5013c discussed:** The idea is to create an independent 501c3 organization made up of city residents as a volunteer organization. Some of the Park Board may be included in this group. This "Friends of Scandia Parks" organization could raise \$ independent of the City of Scandia, generate citizen interest, and be an advocate before the county and DNR. This group would be separate from the City of Scandia. Tom reported it takes 1 year to complete tax exempt status, but incorporation could be immediate, and fundraising could begin. Tom has volunteered that he would donate legal work to apply. The idea would be that the St Croix Foundation would administer funds as the organization started up, at a cost of 3-5% of the intake.
5. **Lilleskogen Park:** Karen has been researching grant possibilities and matching donations of plants and labor- it was determined that we are not ready to apply for the DNR Conservation Partners Grant. The first step is to pursue a hydrologic analysis of the park **if the City Council approves the Park Plan at the March 18th meeting.**
6. **Wind in the Pines Work Day:** March 29 1pm. Committee only. Discussion about community participation in the future.
7. **Garden Show:** March 29 9:30-11 am. Thanks to Edward and Marty and Anne for poster/planning for this event.
8. **Summer Programs** reviewed: 21 programs at Lakamaga and the Community Center.
9. **Comprehensive Plan:** Public Meetings April 8 and 10, 6:30-8:30
Greenway Planning and development priorities March 24.
10. **Park and Recreation Committee vacancy:** applications accepted through 3-12, interviews to be completed before the 18th council meeting.
11. **Easement Mapping:** 5 or 6 exist, map distributed. Consider MN Land Trust for management in the future.
12. Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program discussed.

Next Meeting: April 7, 7 pm

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2007 and PROGRAM GOALS 2008-2010 Scandia Park and Recreation Committee Report to City Council

2007 Accomplishments

PARKS

Wind in the Pines Park

New Initiatives:

- Obtained \$6,000 grant from Great River Greening for trail stabilization plan and project.
- Developed plan for trail connector to make entire trail system contained within park boundaries.
- Began removal of exotic woody species.

On-going projects:

- Completed trail maintenance – cleared extensive fallen trees, mowed grassy trails, re-established overgrown former trails.

Lilleskogen Park

New Initiatives:

- Hired consultant to produce detailed park development plan.

On-going projects:

- Burned brush piles from previous removal work.

Lion's Park (Hay Lake)

- Discussed potential plans for a ball field and playground. Assessment of need for a ball field is needed before additional work.

Trails

- Met with Gateway Trail group and developed conceptual alignment of trail through city center.

RECREATION

New Initiatives:

- Implemented Open Gym program at Scandia elementary over 4 Saturdays in winter.
- Implemented new Snow Tubing event in December at Trollhaugen.

On-going projects:

- Coordinated with Recreation director and implemented Winterfest.
- Coordinated dodge-ball tournament at Taco Daze.
- Engaged with the public at Park and Rec Booth at Taco Daze.
- Assisted with winter rec programs (skating lessons).
- Provided feedback on recreation programs.

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2008 GOALS

PARKS

Lilleskogen Park

- Seek funding for Lilleskogen park development – wetland and woodland restoration, paved trails, boardwalk, parking lot, lighting.
- If funding obtained, begin projects.

Wind in the Pines Park

- Continue trail maintenance – mowing, clear trails as needed.
- Complete removal of exotic woody species from the park.
- Seek funding to implement trail connector project and conduct project (fall) if feasible.
- Seek means to develop a comprehensive management plan for the park.

Open Space Plan

- Work with Comprehensive Plan Committee as needed to finalize prioritization plan of Open Space/Green Corridor Plan.
- Evaluate how to proceed with implementation of Open Space Plan.
- Engage in the Land and Water Legacy program: assist landowner application to program by public meeting or other landowner outreach to owners of targeted priority parcels.

Trails

- Engage with Gateway Trail group and help to move project forward.
- Begin process of developing potential trail system in Scandia and identifying priorities.

RECREATION

- Review 2008 recreation programs developed by Recreation Coordinator (RC).
- Assist RC at 2008 Garden Show and other programs, if needed.
- Coordinate dodgeball tournament and/or other recreation programs at Taco Daze.
- Evaluate possibility of expanding winter Open Gym program.
- Plan and coordinate Vinterfest 2009 with RC.

OTHER

- Explore concept of a 501c3 group to enable better access to funding sources.
- Explore ways to notify and engage citizens in Scandia parks and events.

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2009 GOALS

PARKS

Lilleskogen

- Continue Park Development process at Lilleskogen.

Wind in the Pines

- Continue maintenance tasks.
- Pursue ways to get signage and trail markers (e.g. Friends Group)

Scandia Parkland South of Ballfield

- Assess the site – ecological conditions.
- Develop a plan for how to improve it – trail connector, exotic species control.

Lion's Park-Hay Lake

- Determine if ballfield and playground should proceed. Provide feedback to city council regarding project details.

TRAILS

- Continue work with Gateway Trail group.
- Continue pursuing other trails project.

RECREATION

- Continue all regular committee functions and activities.

OTHER