

Medina Park Commission
Meeting Minutes for May 7, 2008
Special Meeting: Annual Park Tour

1. Call to Order: Chair Thies called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Role Call

Present: Ann Thies, Madeleine Linck, Ben Benson, Brian Kingsley, Galen Bruer, Beth Nielsen

Absent: Peter Lecy

Also Present: City Council member Carolyn Smith, Mayor Tom Crosby, Planning Commissioner Jeff Pederson, Planning Commissioner Victoria Reid, Public Works Superintendent Steve Scherer, Assistant to City Administrator Jodi Wunsch, Assistant to Public Works Linda Lane, Gerald Dykhoff, and Kellan & Craig Passow.

2. Annual Park Tour

Hamel Legion Park

Entrance Plaza Fountain: Ben Benson brought in pictures from a company out of Buffalo Minnesota that creates bubbling boulders. There was some interest from the Park Commission to continue working with this company to get a quote for a bubbling boulder that would be raised off the ground to serve as the fountain at the entrance plaza.

Steve Scherer recommended that the shrubs/plantings be wrapped around the back east corner of the plaza so that the fountain could be centered amongst the shrubs/plants. Several commissioners also mentioned the need to screen the fire hydrant, at least on the side that faces the entrance plaza with a plant or shrub.

Gerry Dykhoff mentioned that he would like to see a 38 inch square table in the entrance plaza. This table has already been paid for by the Hamel Lions in honor of Donny DesLauriers. Since the table will be smaller, Steve stated that he would like to see a second table of the same size in the future.

Gerry Dykhoff announced that his family would be planting the tree (a Rubrum Maple) that the Park Commission donated in memory of Rosie Dykhoff tomorrow evening. The tree will be centered along the west edge of the Entrance Plaza. The Park Commission will continue to discuss options for identifying that the tree is in memory of Rosie Dykhoff.

Utility Screening: There was some discussion on how to screen the utilities around the park. The main utility that needed screening was Xcel Energy's Transformer. There was a general consensus to use cedar fencing to hide the transformer. Another idea was to plant ivy on the fence.

Fire Pit: The Park Commission recommended putting two benches on 2009 C.I.P. for the fire pit. There was also discussion on safety, because there is no cover or screen over the pit and it would be easy to step into it by accident.

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Playground: Steve mentioned that he was working on finding a round table for under the canopy. There was a general consensus that a number of benches were also needed near the trail around the playground equipment for parents/guardians to sit while watching the kids play.

Other Items:

- Posting Rules: It was suggested to post rules in front of the basketball court and tennis courts. The rules should include “No Rollerbladers or Skateboarders”.
- Park Signs: There should be two street signs on Brockton Lane, one from the north and one from the south, directing people to the parking lot for Hamel Legion Park.
- Concession Stand: The Park Commission walked to the proposed location of the new concession stand. There was a general consensus that a 50 x 50 foot building was too large for that location.

Rainwater Nature Area

The Park Commissioners all received a copy of the design plan for Rainwater Nature Area that was created by Fortin Consulting. Everyone walked the park to visualize what it will look like. A suggestion was made that the extra dirt which would be removed when lowering the berm should be used on the back side of the hill to level off the slope to increase the sitting area.

Holy Name Lake / Park

Steve Scherer explained the plans for Holy Name Park. A parking area will be created at the top of the park and the drive down to the water would be removed. Dirt would have to be moved from both sides of the current drive and placed in the middle to make the surface level. The park will also feature a rain garden and shoreline restoration. The Park Commission requested that we discuss at our next meeting drafting a letter to Mayor Crosby regarding the right of way across County Road 24 in the North Ridge Farms development. It was also suggested that we notify the public in the next Medina Message that Holy Name Park would be closed beginning in June for construction.

Walnut Park

Steve Scherer asked the Park Commission for suggestions for this park. It is in a low area and floods every time there is a large rain. This area could be used as another demonstration area with the right plantings so that it could function as a rain garden. A few other suggestions were made:

- Paint the poles used for volleyball.
- Sealcoat the basketball court.
- Paint the basketball pole and install a new backboard.
- Paint the benches and/or replace the bench boards.
- Need garbage can & recycle bins.

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The Park Commission also requested getting the neighborhoods feedback on what they would like to see in this space. A suggestion was also made to put dog signs in all the parks with dog waste bags.

3. Adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jodi Wunsch