

Medina Park Commission Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2013

Medina City Hall

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The Park Commission of Medina, Minnesota met in regular session on August 21, 2013 at 7:04 p.m. in the Medina City Hall. Park Commission Vice Chair Ann Thies presided.

1) Call to Order

Commissioners Present: Ellis Olkon, Dino DesLauriers, Madeleine Linck, Ann Thies, Janet White, and Steve Lee

Commissioners Absent: Paul Jaeb

Also Present: City Council Member Melissa Martinson and City Administrative Assistant Linda Lane

2) Additions to the Agenda: None.

3) Approval of Minutes:

• **July 17, 2013 Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Linck and seconded by Lee, to approve the minutes as presented from July 17, 2013. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Public Comments (on items not on the agenda): None.

5) City Council Update

Martinson updated the Park Commission on recent City Council actions.

6) Park Signage Layouts

Park Commission decided to wait until Jodi Gallup gets back from maternity leave to continue with this item.

7) The Park at Fields of Medina

Dino Deslauriers and Janet White agreed to do the tour of the playground equipment plant in Delano with City staff and also visit a couple of parks that have their equipment displayed. There was discussion concerning the area where the park is planned and why there are mounds of dirt. The Park Commissioners asked to have Steve Scherer check on why the Developer hasn't moved ahead with the seeding and preparing for the placement of the playground equipment, since it was the Commissions understanding that it would be ready for equipment placement by the end of summer, with an open house scheduled for the fall.

8) Future Dog Park Discussion

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Linda Lane went through the slide show that was put together with the pictures of other cities dog parks, as well as aerial photos of the three locations that are a possibility in Medina for a Dog Park.

Once the viewing of the slide show was complete, Steve Lee led a dog park discussion using an outline he prepared that had been passed out at the beginning of the meeting.

There was discussion concerning the three possible park locations shown on the slides, along with a list of the criteria for where the dog park should be located, as well as what amenities should be available at the facility.

The Commission also discussed proposed rules, park hours, maintenance needed and costs, cost to build the park, as well as other considerations that were discovered at parks located in other cities.

Thies asked for feedback from each of the Commission members to see how each felt about adding this to the Park Master Plan. Olkon said he felt a vote should be taken on if all were in agreement with a dog park and where it should be located. He thanked Lee for all the research and work that he put into the information presented, as well as work Thies had done.

Linck said she sees the need for a dog park in our City. She sees people enjoying it and feels it is very worthwhile.

White said she is not against dog parks in general, but wasn't sure concerning the timeline. With the population changing she sees that there may be more need for a dog park. She is concerned with the ongoing cost and time that may be spent by the Public Works department staff. She said the report was well prepared and spoke to some of the questions and issues that she had. She understands that there are many good dog owners, but there will always be some that aren't. White was also concerned with whether it would actually be used or if it would sit empty like some of our other parks.

Dino isn't sure about the need for a dog park and he said Scherer also had concerns about the maintenance that would be needed since Public Works is short-staffed already.

Thies added that she spoke to several other City dog park workers and was told that it was very low cost and low maintenance. She said they mentioned that they don't even have a budget line item for it, and that people self-police themselves.

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It was also mentioned that at a small dog park like we are discussing there would be the pressure of others seeing that they aren't faithful with picking up after their dog.

Thies read an email from Park Commission Chair Paul Jaeb stating that he is opposed to a dog park and why - staff not large enough to handle more park maintenance, LMCC insurance, etc.

Another email was read from former Commission Member Ben Benson who is in favor of a dog park and believes it would be popular and well used.

Thies mentioned the population growth that will be happening over the next two to three years and the need for a dog park.

Motion made by Olkon, seconded by Lee, to incorporate a dog park into the Park Master Plan. All aye.

The Park Commission felt they would like guidance from the City Council and more direction on the things that had been discussed. Martinson suggested having a Commissioner attend the City Council meeting on Tuesday, September 3rd to do a short presentation. Olkon agreed to attend and present to the Council and report back at the next Park Commission meeting.

9) Adjourn

A motion was made by Olkon, seconded by Lee and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Linda Lane.