

Medina Park Commission Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2010
Medina City Hall
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The Park Commission of Medina, Minnesota met in regular session on October 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Medina City Hall. Park Commission Chair Ben Benson presided.

1) **Call to Order**

Commissioners present: Ben Benson, Madeleine Linck, Janet White, Ann Thies and Bill Waytas (arrived at 7:07 p.m.)

Commissioners absent: Chris Hilberg and Paul Jaeb

Also present: Assistant to City Administrator Jodi Gallup, Public Works Superintendent Steve Scherer and City Council member Carolyn Smith

2) **Additions to the Agenda:** None.

3) **Approval of the Minutes**

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- Page 3: 5th Paragraph – ...no active parks planned near this site.
- Page 4: 2nd Paragraph – He said he would be interested.
- Page 5: 11b) Sixth bullet point – We had three desirable species.

A motion was made by White and seconded by Linck to approve the minutes, with the noted corrections. Motion passed unanimously.

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

5) **City Council Update:**

Carolyn Smith updated the Park Commission that since the last time the Park Commission met, the City Council:

- Approved applying for a grant for ball field lights for two fields; Hamel Athletic Club committed to 25% funding and paying for maintenance costs.
- Discussed hunting regulations; put together a task force to look at hunting regulations and make recommendations.
- Noted that the property along Highway 55/Sioux Drive had developed a plan and some of the trees were planted.
- Noted that Hennepin County Board voted 5-0 against building the wind turbine at this time.
- Rescheduled the November 16th Council meetings to November 22nd.

6) **Fortuna Farms Park Dedication Discussion**

Gallup gave a short presentation to the Park Commission on the applicant's proposal to subdivide their existing 46.33 acre property at 1425 Tamarack Drive into three lots.

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Gallup showed the Park Commission a map of where the property was located in the city and showed an aerial photograph of the subject property with a line showing the proposed division into a 14.54 acre parcel, 12.21 acre parcel and 17.43 acre parcel.

Gallup gave an overview on the options for park dedication. The City's park dedication ordinance allows the City to require up to 10% of the buildable land to be dedicated for parks and trails, which would be 3.6 acres for this site. The cash-in-lieu amount can be 8% of the average market value of the property, but no more than \$8,000 per new dwelling unit, which would be \$16,000. The City can also take a combination of land and cash.

The Park Commission reviewed their Active Study Area map and noted that there were no active parks planned near this site.

The Park Commission reviewed their Trail Plan and noted that the plan identifies a moderately-low priority trail along Tamarack Drive, a low priority trail along Deerhill Road, and a low priority trail that would connect Deerhill Road to Wolsfeld Woods Scientific and Natural Area.

It was noted that the proposed trail along Tamarack Drive would make more sense on the east side of the road so an easement along the west side of Tamarack Drive would not be necessary.

There was a general consensus that the Park Commission should recommend taking a trail easement along the north property line along Deerhill Road and down the west property line to connect to Wolsfeld Woods Scientific and Natural Area.

Discussion took place on the possibility of working with the property owner to the west, Jack Wahlfors, to avoid building the trail over the creek and wetlands. It was also noted that the City may need a trail easement along the south east corner of Wahlfors' property to connect to the existing trail in Wolsfeld Woods Scientific and Natural Area.

Discussion took place on the need for parking because this trail would allow for the only public access in Medina to Wolsfeld Woods Scientific and Natural Area. It was recommended that the city should take enough land on the north west corner of the subject property for two or three cars to park.

A motion was made by Thies and seconded by Linck to recommend that the applicant shall dedicate an easement 15 feet in width adjacent to Deerhill Road for trail purposes, dedicate an easement 20 feet in width down the west property line for trail purposes, dedicate land on the north west corner of the property for two or three cars to park, and shall pay the remaining balance in cash-in-lieu of dedicating additional property for park and trail purposes. Motion passed unanimously.

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7) Staff Report

a) Park Sign Landscaping: Gallup gave an update and showed pictures of the landscaping staff did around the new uniform park signs. Scherer stated that all the park signs have been landscaped except Lakeshore Park and Morningside Park because he would like to design the landscaping at these parks to match the playground equipment border.

A motion was made by Benson, seconded by Waytas commending staff activities in landscaping the park signs. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Holy Name Park Pavilion: Gallup stated that Matt Wilson was not ready to give an updated presentation on his proposed park pavilion at Holy Name Park. He plans on attending the November 17th meeting. Smith stated that the Council wants the Park Commission to create a policy for these types of projects; it should be a goal for 2011. Things to think about should be if Eagle Scouts should provide their own raised funds, a policy for maintenance, and if the project is in the Capital Improvement Plan or not.

c) General Items:

- Gallup reminded the Park Commission that Linck and Hilberg's terms would be expiring in the end of 2010, and they would need to re-apply if still interested in serving on the Park Commission.
- Linck noted that the trail map needs to be corrected in Baker Park; the trail should be moved back west because it does not go through the wetland.

10) Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jodi Gallup.