

9-19-00

# **WATERTOWN PARK, RECREATION AND FORESTRY COMMISSION MINUTES**

September 12, 2000

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Watertown Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission met on Monday, September 12, 2000 at 4:30 pm at 515 South First Street. The meeting was called to order by the President Richard Tietz. Present: Richard Tietz, Norman Bartel, Dan Milewsky, Tim Nordwig, Don Cayan, and James Braughler. Absent: Michael Knutson.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission minutes from the August 7, 2000 commission meetings. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Senior Center Advisory Board minutes of August 9, 2000. Motion carried.

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Commission president, Richard Tietz reminded the commission members that the Brandt/Quirk Park dedication will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2000. He encouraged all commission members to attend the dedication.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. **CONSIDER THE PARK DEDICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A LAND DIVISION AT 1022 LISBON STREET:** The proposed land division would create a new lot on which the owner is proposing to build a duplex. A motion was made and seconded to accept money in lieu of land dedication. Motion passed.
2. **REVIEW PROPOSAL TO INSTALL NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT SCHALLER PARK:** Commission members reviewed letters received from individuals who wrote both in favor of placing playground equipment in Schaller Park and from individuals opposed to the playground equipment. A number of residents also attended the meeting.

Speaking in favor of the playground equipment were; Andrea Fisher, Kay Rather, and Mark Stevens. Those in favor of the play equipment stated that there was a need for the play equipment because there are 33 children, ages 6 months to 12 years living in the neighborhood, the neighborhood is rather isolated because of Hwy 26 and the river, and that the park had been donated to the city for the purpose of a playground.

Speaking in opposition to the playground equipment were Dave and Cathy Egan and John Higgins. Those in opposition stated concerns about safety because of the close proximity to the river, minimal use of the playground equipment that was in the park in past years, and health concerns with the large goose population frequenting the park, concerns of placing a fence along the river and concerns of placing a portable restroom at the site.

The director, John Steber, stated that he continues to have reservations about placing equipment at this park site because of the significant river current adjacent to the park, the limited size of the park and compatibility with the adjacent property owners.

After considerable discussion a motion was made and seconded to approve Schaller Park as a site for future playground equipment and request funds for the purchase and installation of said play equipment in the 2001 budget proposal. Motion passed on a 3 to 2 vote.

3. **CONSIDER REQUEST TO HAVE THE CITY CHEMICALLY TREAT LAKE VICTORIA WEED AND ALGIE PROBLEMS:** The director presented a letter from MaryAnne Wieland of 1612 Lakeside Terrace. The letter included the names and addresses of eleven (11) adjacent property owners. In her letter, Mrs. Wieland noted that the department was currently chemically treating Heiden Pond and requested that the department consider also treating Lake Victoria. She noted that Lake Victoria is located adjacent to Heiden Pond and that there is an exchange of water through a culvert between the two ponds which contributes to the weed and algae problems in Lake Victoria. She also noted that this year it costs the adjacent property owners \$2,635.00 in 2000 to chemically treat the lake.

The director presented a map of the two ponds and the adjacent property owners. He noted that the city owns better than half of the frontage adjacent to Heiden Pond and owns less than a quarter of the frontage on Lake Victoria which is the narrow of land and the South Third Street right-of-way. Mr. Steber explained that the department accepted responsibility for spraying the weeds in Heiden Pond only after Aquatic Biologists of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin did an evaluation of the Heiden Pond weed problem in 1992. The report noted that a majority of the weed problems stemmed from nutrient loading which comes from a drainage ditch along Boomer Street which empties into the pond. Mr. Steber note that there is a small 14" culvert located in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street right-of-way which does connect the two ponds. In his opinion, the culvert is not a major contributor to the weed problems in Lake Victoria. It is his opinion that much of the nutrient loading is likely coming from the yards of the homes which have been built adjacent to the lake in recent years.

A motion was made and seconded to deny the request to have the Park, Recreation and Forestry Department accept responsibility for weed and algae control of Lake Victoria. Motion passed.

4. **REVIEW OF THE 2001 BUDGET PROPOSAL:** Commission members reviewed the departments 2001 budget proposal. After considerable discussion and a number amendments a motion was made and seconded to accepted the 2001 Budget Proposal as amended. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
John R. Steber  
Director of Park, Recreation and Forest