

## City of Columbus Park Board Meeting

February 21, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

### Call to Order

Jim Ingalls called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

### Roll Call

Members Present: Andrea Messina, Sandie Wood, Bob Bodene, and Jim Ingalls.

Also Present: Council Member Jeff Duraine, Public Works Superintendent Jim Fraley, City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, and Secretary Karen Boland.

### Approval of Minutes

Andrea Messina made a motion to approve the September 20, 2012 minutes. Second by Sandie Wood. Motion was approved.

### Agenda Additions or Deletions

None.

### Treasurer's Report

Park Fund ending balance for 12/31/12	\$42,641.63
Park Capital Fund ending balance for 12/31/12	\$17,575.75
Park Land Fund ending balance for 12/31/12	\$17,407.06

### City Administrator's Report

Elizabeth Mursko invited Park Board members to ColumBiz, a business forum being held on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 10 a.m. at Running Aces. It's a breakfast meeting that provides networking opportunities and will include presentations from the Anoka County Attorney, the City Engineer, and on the Business Expansion and Retention Program. The Columbus Economic Development Authority is partnering with the University of Minnesota on this program. A volunteer task force will be trained by the U of MN to go out in teams and conduct face-to-face surveys at local businesses. Answers to the survey will be entered into a database and a report will be generated to help identify things the City can do to support Columbus business owners in order to retain and expand business growth in the City. Elizabeth invited Park Board members to consider volunteering for the Business Expansion and Retention Program task force and/or share this opportunity with others that might be interested.

Elizabeth also reported the Arbor Day Event committee held their first meeting. The Arbor Day event will be Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to noon at City Hall.

### New Business

Andrea Messina asked about news of a walking trail by the well house, south of Running Aces. Elizabeth said Anoka County has acquired the land as part of the Regional Park and is looking at constructing a trail just north of the pump house. A Columbus Conservation Area has also been designated on Lake Drive –south of Lamprey Pass. The conservation area will allow hunting. Timelines for improvements are unknown.

### Old Business

#### a) Columbus Fall Fest Event

The Fall Fest was in September 2012. The cold weather seemed to hurt the turn-out and keep most people across the street by the City Fire Hall building, but Jim Ingalls and Bob Bodene felt the bean bag toss game would be worth another try in 2013.

#### b) Prioritize Park Tour Items

The following tasks were addressed and prioritized by board members:

- **First** priority - Install a fence in front of the bleachers at the ball field on the Public Works Bldg side of Kettle River Boulevard. Jim Fraley will get a quote on how much this will cost.
- **Second** priority - Replace the timbers around the swing set by the tennis court. Jim asked if the board would like to look at curbing like that around the new playground. It will last longer and can maybe be lumped together with other needed concrete work. He will get price information.
- **Third** priority - Put concrete under the bleachers, picnic tables, and equipment boxes behind the ball-field backstops. Jim will check the number of tables without concrete pads and get price information.
- **Fourth** priority - Rout out the tennis court. Jim thinks he can rig a way to get the router onto the court without cutting the fence.
- Remove the telephone poles laid on the north and south sides of the park, and on the City Hall side of Kettle River Blvd. The City Council was not in favor of taking out the timbers, because they act as a barrier to keep

vehicles off the fields and as a buffer to prevent kids from accidentally running into the road. Elizabeth and Jim will talk to the Risk Safety Officer from the League of MN Cities that works with Columbus, and ask for input on whether to remove the timbers. Board members discussed other possible barrier options, particularly along Kettle River Boulevard.

- Pave the main parking lot. Although this would look nice and lessen maintenance, board members believe this would be too expensive. Jim will get a ballpark estimate.

c) Update on Mowing

Elizabeth reported that RVS was the low bid for the mowing contract. They have a two-year contract. The City Council and Personnel Committee opted to keep the mowing under contract and have park work done by a seasonal worker position that can work up to 32 hours/week from May through October. The Council has asked Jim and Elizabeth to find out if RVS would take on the park work. In the past, two people split the position. The City wants to ensure it remains a temporary seasonal position if it is not contracted.

d) YMCA Park Play Days Update

The YMCA Play Days program is scheduled for Session 1 – 6/10 thru 7/11 (no 7/4) and Session 2 – 7/15 thru 8/15. Both sessions meet Monday thru Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. Children 4-12 years old are eligible. Kids will be separated into two groups: 4-7 year olds and 8-12 year olds. The fee is \$80/child per session. The program information appears on page 60 of the 2013 Community Guide for the Forest Lake Area. It is also on the YMCA website and flyers are available at City Hall. Elizabeth will find out if the Y plans to distribute flyers through the school or pre-schools.

Jim Fraley reported that ball-field calls are already coming in and home school groups use the shelter and park regularly in spring.

e) Phase 3 of Playground Installation

Board members would like to find out what steps must be taken to move forward. What would the total cost be to acquire the remaining equipment and complete the installation?

Next Meeting

Two members present are unable to attend a March meeting. The next meeting will be April 18, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Works Building.

Adjourn

Sandie Wood made a motion to adjourn. Second by Andrea Messina. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary