



January 4, 2010

## Meeting Minutes of the Birchwood Parks and Natural Resources Committee

Members Present: Craig Aichele, John Lund, Kathy Malles, Cynthia Tomlinson, Deb Harrod  
Absent: Gene Ruehle, Mike Connelly  
Also Present: Barb Carson, Council Representative  
Guests: Tom Hoffman, Jim Ecker, Paul Steinhauser

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Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes from October, November, and December were approved with one correction.

### Tennis Courts:

Tom Hoffman, Jim Ecker, and Paul Steinhauser provided the Committee with their input concerning resurfacing the tennis courts. Jim recommended that a porta-potty be available at the park (provided the hoses can reach it from the truck for emptying—20' reach required). He also recommended that there be a rain canopy for those waiting to use the court.

He supplied information on the USTA Northern Adopt-A-Court Grant which is a dollar for dollar matching grant (10% of project cost), and also on the USTA's Public Facility Assistance Program (an invitation only grant—20% of project cost). Birchwood applied and was approved three to four years ago, but the city decided to defer. Funds are still available and even more comprehensive so there is potential to do more than just an overlay. Our chances are "pretty good." Birchwood has a committed tennis community with potential for people to donate private funds to push it over the finish line. We would get an answer from them by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Tom is familiar with the application process and will submit the paperwork.

Paul Steinhauser has extensive experience with several tennis and fitness clubs and is familiar with resurfacing options. Every 4 to 6 years, tennis courts need a color coating to seal it for the base to stay sound. Leaves on a court over winter accelerate degradation of the surface, and there are about a half dozen trees which if removed, would help preserve the court. Also, Tom expressed concern about tree roots on the south side. The approximate costs for overlay, crack repair, matting, 2-in. bituminous, topcoat painting, interlocking tile surface, and removal of encroaching south side roots were discussed. It was recommended that we try out the tile surface at an indoor court before the next meeting.

*Mayor Wingfield would like the Committee's recommendation for the March council meeting.*

Buckthorn Removal: Cynthia checked with Barb on our application to the "Sentence to Serve" program for buckthorn removal. Removal methods and safety issues were discussed.

Handyman: The Committee would be able to ask the village handyman to work on projects when he/she is available as long as the city's higher- priority work is done first.

Trees: Deb asked about the tree at Kay easement that is near her house and the city's decision to not trim healthy trees.

Warming House and Rink Usage: The mobile unit is working out well, and John was complimented on the benches he made for it. *Mayor Wingfield would like a report on long-range costs for the warming house at the council's March meeting.*

Kathy asked if we could document the number of people using the skating rinks and prepare a summary of the numbers, hours, etc. at the end of the season to see if adjustments need to be made for next year. Barb said that she is getting a count from the student attendants. Rules were discussed about hockey rink usage (sleds, older vs. younger kids).

**BUDGET:** Cynthia asked if there were projects that weren't included with the presented 2010 budget. Kathy said that lift storage fees would be allocated for parks to help pay for these unbudgeted expenses, and John thought there may be up to 30 lifts stored (\$3K). The projects discussed are listed as follows:

1. Tables/Benches and Canoe Rack: The \$2K needed for tables/benches and the \$400+labor for a new canoe rack were inadvertently left off the budget request. Kathy reported that locally-made green-treated tables can be purchased for \$220, and Deb stressed the importance of fixing/replacing them. The plan is to request the \$2K and tackle the tables/benches one at a time at the Committee's discretion. For the new canoe rack, city insurance regulations for building one at Kay Beach should be looked into, and other locations considered if not possible at Kay.
2. Hockey Rink Surface Painting: The surface painting needs to be included in our 2010 expenses—possibly a "Sentence to Serve" or Adopt-A-Park project. John estimated that it would cost about \$600 to do including paint and squeegees.
3. Signs and chains at easements: The labor for spray painting could be done by volunteers.
4. Swing set: Cannot be brought up to code where it is, and there's no other location for it. John mentioned replacing the playground edging nearer the swing set with a safer product. Costs will be determined later.
5. Board Paint: Barb estimated \$300 for painting the hockey boards.
6. Repair 125' of the Bituminous Curb: John will bring in an estimate the next meeting.
7. Steps/Paths/Woodchips: Some steps can be repaired this year, and some can be put on next year's budget. Woodchips are free. Cynthia said that Nordling Walkway doesn't need more gravel yet.

Minnesota Hockey Day: Birchwood will celebrate Minnesota Hockey Day by holding an event at the hockey rink on January 23 for which Community Club funds could be used. Cynthia encouraged the committee to help organize refreshments, postcards, contest/prizes, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Kathy Malles