

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Perkins called the meeting to order. Committee members present: Perkins, Dikun and Marzahl. Alderman Hinterlong was absent. Also present were Alderman Nolan, City Administrator Nelson, Supt. Parks and Recreation Burkart and members of the audience.

NISRA Presentation

Brian Shahinian, Executive Director of NISRA gave a brief background on the history of NISRA, which was founded in 1976, with the mission statement of enriching the lives of people with disabilities through meaningful recreation experience. NISRA is comprised of 10 member park districts and/or cities. Hampshire Park District will join the association on May 1, 2005. Harvard has been a member since 1985 and is part of the northwest region which includes Harvard, Woodstock and Marengo. Some of the programs offered throughout the year include Special Olympic training programs, day camps, social clubs, camping trips, overnight trips and other special events. NISRA also assists member communities to include residents with disabilities in their programs. Brian reviewed the NISRA Annual Report for 2003/2004 and noted that in 2003/2004, Harvard had 38 individuals who registered for various programs which represents 4.5% of the in-district participation. Harvard's membership dues were \$20,677 which are based on an equalized value and represents 2.9% of all member dues. In 2004, 44 different weekly programs were offered in our region with activities in Harvard including after school sports programs, chef's kitchen, Harvard Bowl and Harvard swimming and an after school bowling program. A hiking club will be added this spring. NISRA is starting to offer more youth-at-risk programs. Administrator Nelson noted that the City levies a special recreation tax to pay Harvard's membership dues. Member participants in NISRA programs pay a program fee similar to a typical park program fee. The Committee discussed the rewards of the program to area residents with disabilities. Brian encouraged input if there is anything else they can do to promote their programs or ways to serve more people.

Update on Mary D. Ayer Park Shelter

Chairman Perkins updated the Committee on the Mary D. Ayer Park Shelter which will be 45' x 22'. Costs to date:

Dumpster - \$ 360.00

Concrete - \$ 600.00

Shelter \$8,600.00

Ron Finke will do the concrete work. Blue Ribbon Electric will be submitting cost for a couple lights and an outlet plus additional costs for backfill, landscaping, sidewalk. Total cost should not exceed \$12,000. Moved by Marzahl, seconded by Dikun to recommend to the City Council appropriation of funds for the Mary D. Ayer Park Shelter not to exceed \$12,000. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review Parks Capital Improvements

Chairman Perkins noted that the line item under J.C. Park/Hers Field for the electrical box will be done this spring; the front on the electric panel popped out and needs repair before the season starts.

Alderman Nolan reported on a conversation he had with Don Larson that the Lion's Club may be interested in putting in a warming shelter at Lion's Park if there isn't sufficient support for the skate park.

Supt. Burkart noted that his first choice would be safety lights at Milky Way Park with possibly flood lights on the washroom buildings and shelter. There was discussion of exploring the feasibility of reusing the poles and/or lights that are being taken off the viaduct. Dave will look into and report back to the Chairman.

The Committee discussed a need for trees at Milky Way Park in between each of the baseball fields, in the picnic area and to continue planting along the walking path by the parking lot. The cost for 2½-3" stock trees is \$350-\$400 installed. Moved by Dikun, seconded by Marzahl to recommend to the City Council the appropriation of funds in amount of \$4,000 for trees at Milky Way Park concentrating on the baseball fields. All ayes. Motion carried.

Supt. Burkart reported on literature and prices he has received for features at the pool.

Moved by Dikun, seconded by Marzahl to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Darrell Perkins, Chairman