

## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**May 24, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.**

Chairman Perkins called the meeting to order. Committee members present: Perkins, Dikun, Marzahl and Ulmer. Also present were Alderman Logan, City Clerk Wells, City Administrator Nelson, Supt. Parks and Recreation Burkart and Don Larson, President of the Lions Club.

### **Lions Club Request/Skate Park**

Don Larson addressed the Committee outlining the Lion's Club proposal to build a skate park in Lions Park which would be a level concrete surface about the size of a tennis court. Their suggested location is off Harvard Hills Road because there are few close neighbors and there is access to sidewalks, nearby restrooms and a telephone. Total cost for the concrete pad and structures can be upward of \$150,000 with the initial cost to install the concrete pad at about \$20,000. Structures can be put in as funds become available. The Lions Club would also like to put in a path from the pavilion on the south end of the park going north along Harvard Hills Rd. up to the skate park and at a future date, extend the path so that it loops back around Lion's Park and connects to the beginning of the path on McKinley. The City would be responsible for any supervision, maintenance and upkeep of the skate park.

The Committee discussed concerns with vandalism and graffiti that have been reported in other skate parks. Administrator Nelson noted that liability insurance would be no different than someone walking in the park or swimming at the pool. The structures would add to the property insurance.

Supt. Burkart indicated that if the City wanted to have the skate park, this would be the only site that was feasible. Bob noted that Delavan just put in a skate park which cost about \$100,000 and they're having problems raising funds to cover the cost. Bob also relayed maintenance issues and graffiti in skate parks in other communities which are relatively new and was concerned that he doesn't have sufficient manpower for upkeep. Further, that the skate park would need to be fenced in and lighting would be necessary. Don Larson stated it was not their intent for the skate board park to be used at night.

Becky McDevitt who lives across the street from the proposed skate park expressed concerns with limited city manpower and supervision of the children using the park.

Chairman Perkins reported on property already destroyed with individuals stacking up picnic tables for skate board use and indicated he would like to see a more family oriented use of the park.

Moved by Perkins, seconded by Marzahl to deny the request. All ayes. Motion to deny the request approved four to zero.

At 7:30 p.m., moved by Dikun, seconded by Marzahl to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Submitted by:  
Darrell Perkins, Chairman