

*The minutes will be presented for approval at the next Park Board meeting.*

## **Goodhue County Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Board**

A meeting of the Goodhue County Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Board was held on September 19, 2008, at Byllesby Park.

### **Attendees**

Richard Samuelson	County Commissioner
Bonnie Dicke	Chair
Paul Schluter	Vice-Chair
Harris Haugen	Member
Paul Kalass	Member
Gary Fridell	Member
Scott Roepke	Member
Greg Isakson	Public Works
Jim Klevan	Public Works
Willie Root	Public Works

### **Absent**

Ron Allen	County Commissioner
Sean Dowse	Member
Carol Lee	Assistant County Attorney

### **Agenda**

Call meeting to order

Review, discuss and approve minutes from the June 26, 2008, meeting

Old Business

Paving Park Trails – Cost Update and Final Report

Soccer Equipment – Cost Update

Tree Planting Proposal – Update

By Laws – Continue Discussion

Other

New Business

Park Benches – Request for Additional Benches

SMART Committee – Member Update

What's Next?

Other

Next Meeting Date

Adjournment

### **Call to Order & Approval of Minutes**

The Goodhue County Parks, Trails and Recreational Advisory Board (Park Board) met at noon at Byllesby Park for the annual Picnic. Chair Dicke called the actual Park Board meeting to order at 12:45 pm. Minutes from the June 26, 2008, meeting were reviewed, discussed and approved as presented by a Fridell motion with a Haugen second.

### **Paving Park Trails**

Greg Isakson led the discussion on the completion of the paving project at the Park this year. Mr. Isakson stated that Aslakson's Blacktopping Service was hired to pave the remainder of the trail system in the Park, and they completed the project for \$55,000, in a timely manner.

### **Soccer Equipment Update**

William Root gave a brief update on the possibility of constructing a soccer kickback board. A supply cost handout was discussed for the kickback board and the project was approved as presented by a Kalass motion and a Schluter second. Mr. Root discussed the applicability of constructing youth soccer fields at the Park, stating there was room for two small fields for 9 and 10 year olds. The Board agreed to take this issue under advisement with potential additional discussion at a future meeting.

### **Tree Planting Proposal**

Mr. Klevan led a discussion on the background of the DNR's Forest Stewardship Plan for the Park. The majority of the trees in the Park are Ash trees; and with the destructive 'Ash Bore' working its way across Wisconsin, there is a concern that the Park could become very bare if the Ash Bore were to destroy the majority of the trees. Therefore, the Board would like to begin the process of planting other tree varieties so we can prevent a massive tree loss due to any particular disease. Mr. Kalass suggested staff check the local nurseries this fall for specials on trees. The tree planting project of having staff plant some larger saplings during the fall of 2008, and plant a bundle of smaller saplings from the SWCD next spring was approved by a Kalass motion and a Fridell second.

### **By-Laws Continued Discussion**

The Board tabled this issue until this winter when there will be more time for in depth discussion.

### **What's Next**

Mr. Isakson asked the Board to consider projects for next year, assuming the Park Board receives \$50,000 in its 2009 Construction budget. The Board was informed that the well at the Park had to be closed due to the presence of coliform bacteria in well water samples. At this point, staff is not sure if we need to replace a portion of the system or drill a new well and start over. Commissioner Samuelson suggested we just not turn the system back on next spring and see what kind of reaction we get from the public. If no one complains, then why replace it?

Mr. Isakson recommended that the primary use for next year's construction fund should be to work with the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota on the extension of the Mill Towns Trail between Cannon Falls and the Park. Once they finalize land acquisition, they will begin construction of the trail and we may need to partner with them to finalize a phase of that new trail. Also, as the land acquisition process continues, we may continue discussions with the City of Cannon Falls regarding the possibility of moving their ball fields near our Park and combine the land acquisition process. If Park Construction funds are not needed for a combined project on the Mill Towns Trail extension, then the secondary use for the funding should be as a match to grants to build steps to the top of the Western Wooded part of the park. If neither of these options come into play, then the Park Board should review the Park's Master Plan and select the next smaller phase to implement (play ground equipment, etc.) The board should also consider how to use donations (such as the Lion's Club and Masonic Lodge). One option to explore is purchasing additional park benches (based on requests from the public).

### **SMART Committee**

Mr. Kalass discussed the recent symposium in Zumbrota. The Committee spoke well of the Parks and Trails system in Southeast Minnesota, and the continued effort to make the system more attractive to every group that would like to use the system. Mr. Kalass stated that Goodhue County needs to make another appointee to the Committee to replace Henry Sorenson. This commitment includes about four meetings a year and generally two visits to the Capital each year to lobby for trail support. Scott Roepke will ask the members of the Cannon Valley Trail Board. Paul Schluter also indicated he was interested in the appointment. A recommendation for this appointment should occur at the next Park Board meeting.

### **Jim Klevan's Retirement**

The Board recognized Mr. Klevan's contributions to the Park Board and the County over the years. Mr. Klevan's absence from the Board will be significant.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Possible meeting dates will be forwarded to Board Members in order to determine the next Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*William Root*

William Root

Goodhue County Public Works