

City of Winsted
Park Commission
Monday, April 8, 2013
6:00 p.m.

Park Commission Members Present: Steve Ebert
Petie Littfin
Kimberly Moen
Bonnie Quast, Council Liaison

Staff Present: Brad Martens, City Administrator

1) Call the Meeting to Order

Ms. Moen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2) Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2013

Mr. Ebert made a motion to approve the minutes of the Park Commission Meeting on March 11, 2013. Ms. Littfin seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

3) Staff Report

Mr. Martens gave the following City of Winsted Staff Report related to the Park Commission:

- The dumpster at Hainlin Park was removed for the winter season and will be returned to the park when the weather is warm enough for the parks to be open.
- The park restrooms will be opened when the weather is warmer.
- Luce Line State Trail Update – There will be a bonding bill this year within the State Legislature and Winsted will be advocating for funding for the trail within this bill.

4) No Old Business

5) New Business

a) Ice Skating Rink

Mr. Martens stated that on February 15, 2013, the City Council held a goal setting session and established five (5) goals for the City of Winsted for 2013. One (1) of these goals is to build a lighted skating rink for the community. The City Council has requested that the Park Commission assist in the planning and design work for the rink.

Mr. Martens stated that staff has worked to investigate possible opportunities for building this rink and recommends three (3) possible locations for the Park Commission to consider as follow.

1. Land directly adjacent to Hainlin Park to the east
 - a. Pros:
 - i. Centralized location in the community
 - b. Cons:
 - i. Requires purchasing property to accommodate
 - ii. Requires extensive excavating as the lot is not level
 - iii. Access to electricity and water is difficult
2. Westgate Park
 - a. Pros:
 - i. Land is already owned by the City
 - ii. Added amenity to a park that has limited use
 - b. Cons:
 - i. Requires extensive excavating as the lot is not level
 - ii. Significant water issues already exist in the area so additional expenses could be incurred compared to different sites
 - iii. Access to water could be difficult

3. Winsted Elementary School property, east of school
 - a. Pros:
 - i. Centralized location in the community
 - ii. Land is owned by Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted School District and could be used by both the school and City
 - iii. Project expenses could be shared by the City and School District
 - iv. Lot is flat so limited excavation would be required
 - v. Easy access to electricity and water
 - b. Cons:
 - i. Negotiation required to ensure access is maintained by City
 - ii. School District is in control of property

Both Council Member Quast and Mr. Ebert asked if the City would be liable if a child was injured during school hours on the rink. Mr. Martens stated that whoever owns the equipment would have the liability, so it would be the City's. This would be the case wherever the rink was located.

Mr. Martens stated that he spoke with the principal of Winsted Elementary who is in favor of the location. He continued by stating that on May 23, 2013 there will be a referendum to vote for expansion at the Winsted Elementary School. If approved, the plan could be adjusted and the rink could be moved to a different location on the property.

The Park Commission discussed the options and preferred the Winsted Elementary School property location.

Mr. Martens stated that the rink may initially be created with used materials on a trial basis; however, the goal is to have a permanent structure to be used year round.

Ms. Moen motioned to recommend the Winsted Elementary School location as the preferred location to build a lighted community ice rink. Ms. Littfin seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

b) Trail Plan – Luce Line State Trail Connection on City/County Streets

Mr. Martens stated that at the March 11, 2013 Park Commission meeting, Commission members approved a motion recommending that the City Council direct staff to begin working on a plan to connect Winsted to the Luce Line State Trail. This recommendation was forwarded to the City Council for review at the March 19, 2013 City Council meeting where the Council spoke in favor of the plan developed by the Park Commission and directed staff to move forward.

Staff has done some initial design work in regards to signage and requests feedback from the Park Commission prior to presenting the design to McLeod County for review.

Mr. Martens displayed the proposed plan.

Mr. Martens stated that the proposed 3rd Street route within the plan may be a temporary route because in the future, the goal would be to run the trail on a privately owned property.

Mr. Martens stated that McLeod County has seen the proposed plan and has some safety concerns for the route along Baker Avenue; however, if people use a designated route with signs it provides a better option than people traveling on their own on different paths.

Mr. Martens stated that the project will likely begin in 2014 unless there is a bonding bill that is passed within the State Legislature.

The Park Commission members discussed the proposed plan and the large number of signs within the plan, stating that possibly this number of signs may be reduced, especially if there are painted sharrow signs on the road.

Mr. Martens stated that the number of signs may be reduced and that once the path is created, the Park Commission can walk or bike the path as a group and stake where the signs should be placed together.

Ms. Moen stated that she would like to see a lot of time and thought put into where to place the signs. She continued by stating that when this is thought of, the City should consider relocating and fixing some of the current Winsted Byway signs. Mr. Martens responded that at the time the stakes are being set for the signs, possibly some of the Byway signs may be removed and that the sponsor names that donated for those signs could possibly be placed on the kiosk that is proposed to be placed in the promenade because the sponsors had made an investment.

Mr. Martens thanked the Park Commission for their comments and stated that the final plan will be completed when a bonding bill is passed.

c) Josiah Riemer – Eagle Scout Project – Hainlin Park

Josiah Riemer, 402 – 6th Street North, was present at the meeting and addressed the Park Commission with a request to install outdoor fitness equipment in Hainlin Park to fulfill a requirement to become an Eagle Scout. Mr. Riemer explained the Eagle Scout project requirements. Mr. Riemer provided information regarding the equipment to the Park Commission members and stated that the pictures of the equipment provided were from a community in Iowa.

Ms. Moen stated that she liked the idea, and that it gives older children another option for physical activity while in a park.

Mr. Martens asked Mr. Riemer what his timeline and budget for the project were. Mr. Riemer stated that the project must be completed in three (3) months and that he will be attempting to raise the funds for the project from local businesses.

Ms. Moen asked if Mr. Riemer would be selecting the equipment for the park and how the work would be completed. Mr. Riemer stated that after he received approval, he would purchase the equipment and supervise a team of volunteers to install the equipment. Ms. Littfin asked if the ground will be prepped and has been looked at for the selected equipment. Mr. Riemer explained how the equipment would be installed and what materials would be used around the equipment.

Mr. Martens stated that the Park Commission is a recommending body to the City Council and that the City Council would give the formal approval for the project. Mr. Martens offered to work with Mr. Riemer to create a proposal for Park Commission approval, and then City Council approval, by the end of May, 2013. That would give Mr. Riemer the month of June to complete the project. Mr. Riemer responded that his project must be complete by June 19, 2013. Mr. Martens provided Mr. Riemer with his contact information for Mr. Riemer to contact him.

6) Announcements

a) Open Park Commission Positions

Mr. Martens stated that anyone interested in serving as a Park Commission member should submit a letter or email of interest to him.

7) Adjournment

Ms. Littfin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ebert seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Brad Martens

Brad Martens,
City Administrator
City of Winsted