

MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

December 3, 2008
5:00 p.m. – 2117 West River Road

President Nordyke called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Walt Dziedzic, Bob Fine, Carol Kummer, Mary Merrill Anderson, Tracy Nordstrom, Jon Olson, Scott Vreeland, Annie Young and President Tom Nordyke - 9.

Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Merrill Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Vreeland –

THAT THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED, BE APPROVED.

Action Taken: Approved on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Young moved, seconded by Commissioner Fine –

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2008 REGULAR MEETING BE APPROVED.

Action Taken: Approved on a voice vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Richard Mammen introduced Bill Roddy, Osiris Organization, who reported to the Board on the computer lab updates taking place in the recreation centers and addressed upcoming plans for the labs.

CONSENT BUSINESS

Commissioner Vreeland moved, seconded by Commissioner Fine –

- 2.1 THAT THE BOARD APPROVE FINAL PAYMENT TO VEIT & COMPANY, INC., CONTRACT NO. 24622, FOR KENWOOD ISLES TENNIS COURT IMPROVEMENTS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$259.69 (FUNDING SOURCE: ENCUMBERED FUNDS ARE SUFFICIENT FOR THIS PAYMENT).

- 2.2 THAT THE BOARD APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 TO MEYER CONTRACTING INC., CONTRACT NO. 26104, FOR RIVERBANK STABILIZATION AT SHERIDAN MEMORIAL PARK, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,036.40 FOR A NEW CONTRACT TOTAL OF \$270,242.80 (FUNDING SOURCE: BUDGETED MWMO GRANT FUNDS).
- 2.3 THAT THE BOARD APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO VEIT & COMPANY, INC., CONTRACT NO. 26240, FOR PARKING LOT AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS AT NORTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL PARK, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$124,711.29 FOR A NEW CONTRACT TOTAL OF \$1,071,135.50 (FUNDING SOURCE: MET COUNCIL GRANT).
- 2.4 THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH OSIRIS ORGANIZATION FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT, STAFF TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THE COMPUTER LABS IN THE RECREATION CENTERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$120,000.00 (FUNDING SOURCE: EXPENSE COVERED BY BUDGETED FUNDS).
- 2.5 THAT THE BOARD APPROVE A TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FOR ROUTINE COMPUTER HARDWARE REPLACEMENT IN 2008 AND 2009 WITH HEWLETT PACKARD INC. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE OF MINNESOTA WSCA CONTRACT NO. 432981 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000.00 (FUNDING SOURCE: EXPENSE COVERED BY BUDGETED FUNDS).

Following a short presentation by staff on item 2.5, President Nordyke called the question on items 2.1 through 2.5.

Action Taken: Approved on a voice vote.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

There were no "Reports of Standing Committees" to be heard.

Commissioner Vreeland moved, seconded by Commissioner Nordstrom –

THAT THE BOARD AMEND THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE THE FINAL REPORT ON THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REVIEW UNDER "UNFINISHED BUSINESS".

Action Taken: Approved on a voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DISCUSSION

Final Report on the Superintendent's Review

President Nordyke introduced the "Summary of Salient Points of 2008 Evaluation of Superintendent Jon Gurban", a copy of which will be made part of the Board's permanent record, and reads as follows:

Summary of Salient Points of 2008 Evaluation of Superintendent Jon Gurban

The Park Board retained James Metzen to evaluate the current performance of Superintendent Jon Gurban. The evaluation was presented to the Park Board on October 1, 2008.

Superintendent Gurban was evaluated in ten areas and also gave him an overall rating. For each area, the possible ratings were

- Below expectations; needs improvement
- Meets expectations
- Exceeds expectations
- Consistent superior performance

The following is a summary of the salient points of the evaluation of Superintendent Gurban:

1) Board Relations

- Below expectations; needs improvement (3)
- Meets expectations (3)
- Exceeds expectations (1)
- Consistent superior performance (0)

Board members felt the Superintendent and his staff have a deep commitment to the parks and done good work and deserve credit for that work. However, several Board members continued to have serious issues with the lack communication between the Superintendent and Board members.

2) Staff Leadership and direction

- Below expectations; needs improvement (0)
- Meets expectations (3)
- Exceeds expectations (3)
- Consistent superior performance (2)

Board members felt Superintendent Gurban has done an tremendous job in putting in place excellent staff is excellent and that our staff is our greatest asset. The need for strong diversity in management and staff was stressed.

3) Strategic Direction

Below expectations; needs improvement (0)
Meets expectations (2)
Exceeds expectations (3)
Consistent superior performance (1)

Board members praised the Superintendent and staff for the direction of the Park Board and in particular the Comprehensive Plan, and for making the Park Board a national leader. One Board member expressed the desire to work collaboratively with other park systems in the region.

4) Innovation

Below expectations; needs improvement (2)
Meets expectations (2)
Exceeds expectations (2)
Consistent superior performance (1)

Board members addressed the “hub model,” one feeling it was a great idea and another expressing hope that it would improve the organization. One Board member expressed concerns about Phillips.

5) Thriving System

Below expectations; needs improvement (0)
Meets expectations (2)
Exceeds expectations (3)
Consistent superior performance (2)

Board members again stressed the excellence of the Superintendent and Staff in the Comprehensive Plan.

6) Sustainability

Below expectations; needs improvement (1)
Meets expectations (2)
Exceeds expectations (3)
Consistent superior performance (1)

One Board member suggested the Park Board share a sustainability coordinator with Three Rivers or St. Paul. Another noted concern that the Park Board does not get enough credit for the good things it does.

7) Dynamic Parks

- Below expectations; needs improvement (0)
- Meets expectations (2)
- Exceeds expectations (3)
- Consistent superior performance (2)

Most board members felt that the Superintendent and Staff had done an excellent job in this area. One commented that data preservation, record keeping and information retrieval systems are poor and other commented that progress on the assessment of Park Board properties was slow.

8) Safety

- Below expectations; needs improvement (0)
- Meets expectations (3)
- Exceeds expectations (0)
- Consistent superior performance (5)

One Board member noted unclearness on the Park Board's goals in the area of safety. One Board member felt that the Superintendent and staff should get an A+ in the area of safety and another also praised not only the commitment to safety but the monthly police updates for the Board.

9) Urban Forest, Natural Areas and Waters

- Below expectations; needs improvement (1)
- Meets expectations (2)
- Exceeds expectations (3)
- Consistent superior performance (1)

More than one Board member noted the lack of an overall environmental plan. One Board member felt there was a need to focus on getting information to citizens on what the Park Board is doing. Others felt the Superintendent and staff were doing a good job, particularly given limited resources.

10) Independence

- Below expectations; needs improvement (2)
- Meets expectations (3)
- Exceeds expectations (1)
- Consistent superior performance (1)

Board members had mixed opinions on this point including about what relationships are necessary to maintaining the Board's independence.

11) Overall rating

- Below expectations; needs improvement (1)
- Meets expectations (2)
- Exceeds expectations (2)
- Consistent superior performance (1)

Board members again stressed that the Superintendent has strong leadership skills, particularly with staff, and that he is highly competent and loves the park system. However, Board members also reiterated that the Superintendent continues to have significant difficulties with communicating with the Board and the Community and needs to improve these relationships.

Commissioner Young moved, seconded by Commissioner Dziedzic –

- 8.1 THAT THE BOARD ACCEPT THE “SUMMARY OF SALIENT POINTS OF 2008 EVALUATION OF SUPERINTENDENT JON GURBAN”.

Action Taken: Approved on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no “New Business” to be heard.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 1.1 Email submitted by Superintendent Gurban from Scott Wellan, Minneapolis Public Works, regarding a telephone call received by 311 expressing thanks for the new street lights along East River Parkway.

PLACED ON FILE

- 1.2 Email submitted by Dawn Sommers to Minneapolis Public Works from Deb Warren, Minneapolis, expressing thanks for work on East River Parkway paths and the new street lights.

PLACE ON FILE

Commissioners reported on communications received and activities that have taken place since the November 19, 2008 Regular Meeting.

Copies of communications submitted by Commissioners are made part of the Board’s permanent record.

OPEN TIME

Park National League Baseball Presentation

Dennis Schilgen and Jeff Bull discussed the Park National League Baseball program and showed a PowerPoint presentation. They addressed fees and proposed lowering the cost for use of fields in the Minneapolis park system.

Following discussion by the Board, President Nordyke directed staff to review the budgetary impact and report back to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The time being 5:35 p.m., Commissioner Vreeland moved, seconded by Commissioner Young –

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

Action Taken: Approved on a Voice Vote.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.