

**City of Minnetonka Beach  
Park Commission Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 10, 2011**

**Members Present:** Chair Patty Rezabek, Dave Christiansen, Kevin Decker, Amy Johnson, Laura Inglis and Council Liaison Michelle Kroll

**Members Absent:** Robb Ball

**Staff Present:** Marilyn Regnier

**Others Present:** Police Chief Correy Farniok and DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor Bryan Lueth

**Materials Distributed:**

1. Agenda 3. December Draft Minutes 3. Urban Deer Population Control Polices & Procedures and City of Deephaven Proposal for Deer Management 4. City Code Sec. 904 Park Commission, Park Commission Teams, and 2011 Meeting Calendar 5. Tree Inventory Agreement 6. Permit Application for Special Events Using Public Property 7. OYHA Request for Hockey Rink Ice Time 8. Ordinance Excerpt-Diseased Trees 10. 2010 Budget & Final Expenditures 11. 2011 Budget

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION PLAN/ PARTY RESPONSIBLE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chair Patty Rezabek.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>1. Approve Agenda</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add under reports, keep a walking path clear from Half Moon Park and Lafayette Rd. on east side up to Ray Peters Park.</li> </ul>	<p><b>(Amy Johnson motion, Kevin Decker second to approve the agenda as written; all present aye).</b></p>
<p><b>2. Approve Minutes of December 7, 2010</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove Robb Ball as attendee from minutes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>(Dave Christiansen motion, Kevin Decker second to approve the December 7, 2010 minutes as written; all present aye).</b></p>
<p><b>3. Deer Herd on East Side of City – Bryan Lueth-DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bryan Lueth, DNR Urban Wildlife Manager, was invited to speak to Parks and residents due to the large increase of deer damage to vegetation on the east side of the city. He spoke about deer management, the policy and procedures the DNR has set, damages caused by deer, what options cities have. Ecological damage can happen when there is an over abundant deer population. The DNR determined that management plans are best made at the local level. DNR policy is that taking of antlerless deer is most effective. DNR requires a</li> </ul>	<p><b>(Dave Christiansen motion, Kevin Decker second to request City Council, on an urgent consideration, hold a public hearing on February 1<sup>st</sup> on the topic of deer management for the city; all present aye).</b></p>

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	<p>special deer removal permit after the required hunting time period, and also requires a deer management plan. City would need public input from residents by holding a public hearing. A monitoring and evaluation component is needed in the plan to see if and how the plan is working. The city should have a ban on feeding deer. Fencing, as a deterrent strategy, would need to be 8 to 10 feet tall for 90 % effectiveness at keeping deer out and is often cost prohibitive. Deer drives to other areas and deer catch and relocate programs are not considered effective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastside residents complaints include: the deer are eating vegetation, including arborvitae, in people’s yards, deer are on decks and at garage doors and are sometimes reluctant to be easily shooed away. Residents have come close to hitting deer while driving through the area on Lafayette and Woodbridge Roads. There haven’t been any known vehicle /deer accidents in the city this year. Considering that over the last five years, there has been considerable dollar investment in the reforestation of the city parks, there is concern that the deer will destroy the vegetation and wildflowers coming out in the spring now that the city has had buckthorn removed.</li> <li>• Lethal Management Options - Archery season is mid-Sept through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Firearms season early Nov. to end of Nov. The City can hold a hunt other than the regular hunting season with a special permit from the DNR. Approved contracted hunters would have to have a hunting license and the city can limit the number of hunters. City can choose to close the park or leave open. Orono held a 9-day bow and arrow hunt last fall at Noerenberg Park that removed about 10 deer.</li> <li>• Three Rivers does aerial surveys of deer populations for cities and will be doing an aerial count of Noerenberg soon. See if it could be coordinated to do an aerial count of the Beach at the same time.</li> <li>• The City of Minnetonka uses their police snipers with silencers in their city for deer removal. Find out if they would be available to other cities and cost involved. A company has to come out and</li> </ul>	<p>Amy and Laura will make phone calls to find out costs. Patty, Amy and Laura will work on a written deer management plan which will be needed for Council approval.</p> <p>Marilyn will talk with Mayor Anderson and Administrator Susanne Griffin regarding setting a public hearing for Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, prepare and get the hearing notice published in the Pioneer newspaper and the Beachcomber.</p> <p>City needs to adopt a firearms ordinance. Staff will follow up with police.</p>

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	<p>take the deer for processing and it needs to be donated to a charitable organization such as a food shelf or a conservation organization, or individuals in need. The DNR works with a liaison from the Hmong community and they follow DNR regulations and take, process and donate the deer at no cost. The DNR process for a special permit turn around is a few days. City would have to decide the appropriate number of deer to be removed, the DNR doesn't.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside of hunting season, a hunt would require a special DNR permit. Need to have a public hearing and a deer management plan prepared. Special permit would allow deer bait to lure them, and permit will allow taking them at night. DNR requires information about the deer taken, plus they must be tagged. Tags are attached to the deer on site by shooter, city keeps a log. Permit is good until March 31<sup>st</sup>, form needs to be filled out and given to DNR.</li> <li>• Craig Peterson removes deer for Deephaven/Woodland. White Buffalo is a sharp shooter who also can be hired. Superior Wildlife Mgmt did the hunt in Burnsville. DeAnn Bloom is a contact at City of Minnetonka about their deer removals. Orono has used the Bow Hunter's Assoc.</li> <li>• Bryan Lueth presented list of 34 other metro cities using deer management plans; including the western area cities of Deephaven, Minnetonka, Plymouth, Shoreview, Wayzata and Woodland.</li> <li>• Bryan Lueth thinks hiring a firearm sharp shooter would be best in our city when wanting to remove deer quickly. Deer breed in Nov., most fawns are born May - would not want to remove a doe after fawns are born. Council may not be meeting in March, making it necessary to hold a public hearing at the Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting.</li> <li>• Regarding costs, Commissioners felt the deer herd is a city issue, too, and not just a park budget issue because the deer are eating vegetation in homeowner's yards.</li> </ul>	

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<b>4. Organizational Tasks</b>		
Thank you to Council Liaison Mike Taylor & Welcome Council Liaison Michelle Kroll	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patty thanked Mike Taylor for being on the Park Commission as Liaison, and welcomed new Liaison Michelle Kroll.</li> </ul>	
Positions & Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patty as Chair, Amy Vice-Chair, Kevin Treasurer. Laura and Patty Maintenance. Laura and Dave Forest Restoration. Amy and Robb Comprehensive &amp; Enhancement Planning.</li> </ul>	Marilyn will email Kevin 2010 forecasted and actual spent budget sheets and check with Robb on assignment choices.
2011 Calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will need to be a date change for December meeting because Council will need to hold their Truth in Taxation Hearing on the first Monday.</li> <li>Dave suggested holding set volunteer days.</li> </ul>	Decide December Park Commission meeting date.
<b>5. Maintenance Committee Report &amp; Recommendations</b>		
<p>2010 Tree Trimming &amp; Removal Final Work &amp; Costs</p> <p>Concerned Tree List for 2011-Storm Damaged Trees in Lafayette Park</p> <p>A Cut Above Tree - Tree Inventory Agreement &amp; Update</p> <p>Outcome of Laura Inglis follow-up with Prairie Restoration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that all of the Tom Houston tree trimming/cutting bills have been covered.</li> </ul> <p>Laura has left numerous messages with Prairie Restorations and hasn't heard back yet regarding what areas for buckthorn removal were covered in their bill which has been paid.</p>	<p>Ben will handle the removal of storm damaged tree limbs from trees in Lafayette Park.</p> <p>Laura will invite Tom Houston to the March meeting to present the Tree Inventory.</p>
<b>6. Park Usage Permit for Special Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand from 21 days to 30 days notice to neighbors</li> </ul>	Bring Park Usage Permit for Special Events back

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<b>Recommendation to Council</b>	<p>on the park usage permit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tabled until February, look at it with reference to winter.</li> </ul>	to Feb 7 <sup>th</sup> meeting. Read it with reference to winter use requests.
Permit for Use of Public Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
<b>7. Ray Peters Park Winter Use Recommendation to Council</b>  Signage at Ray Peters Park – Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	Put on agenda for summer, how effective was posting parking by permit only
Orono Youth Hockey Assoc. Request for Hockey Rink Ice Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because of residents concerns from previous seasons (team-uniformed, young-adult men monopolizing rink time and misbehaving with bad language and inappropriate discussions in the presence of young children and children feeling intimidated by older non-resident hockey players), it was decided, after consulting with the city attorney, to post “parking-by-permit only” for the Ray Peters Park parking lot. It is the first step to provide increased, comfortable access to our residents, and to alleviate some of the parking lot congestion since there are only eight parking places. Allowing any organized hockey team ice time would go against what Parks had tried to do to increase ice time for residents.</li> </ul>	Patty will get back to Lee Goehring about why his request is not given a go ahead.
<b>8. Ordinance on Emerald Ash Borer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does ordinance need to include specifics and where or how to dispose of EAB trees?</li> <li>• Because changes are “fluid” with EAB, need to leave ordinance as it is.</li> </ul>	Patty will follow up on the ordinance.  Publish EAB reminders in Beachcombers regarding firewood and managing their properties according to State recommendations.
<b>9. Update on Water Project and Impacts on Parks &amp; Boulevards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a question regarding whether the proposed water project line would possibly damage two large pine trees in Ray Peters Park. There may be other areas of concern to watch.</li> </ul>	Monitor as snow melts in spring.

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<b>10. 2010 Budget &amp; Final Expenditures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$17,913.56 of the 2010 budget has been spent or 99.52 % of the \$18,000.</li> </ul>	
<b>11. 2011 Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parks proposed 2011 budget has been trimmed to \$14,000.</li> <li>Take a closer look at budget, are priorities being met?</li> <li>Discussed Parks being open to donations because their budget has been cut. Suggest gifts to parks to help pay for a garden, such as an “Adopt a Garden”.</li> </ul>	Discuss at next meeting.
<b>12. Public Works Director - Report</b>		
Work Report		
Work Request –Jan. & Feb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There had been a previous request to have Ben look at the sign on the western entrance to Minnetonka Beach to see if it was peeling. Ben has looked at the sign, and it is the pole that needs to be painted.</li> </ul>	<p>Ben can paint the sign pole at the western entrance to the city later this year.</p> <p>Request Ben install hooks in warming house for hanging coats.</p> <p>Patty will talk to Ben about tree branches in park.</p> <p>Thank you in Beachcomber for Ben. Kudos for all the hard work this beginning winter season.</p> <p>Have Ben check by Fire Lane 11, pipe running water to lake from Goodman property.</p>
<b>13. Commissioner &amp; Other Reports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amy will take the minutes at the Feb. meeting in Marilyn’s absence.</li> <li>Amy will talk to Patty about kicking off a tree donation fund by donating part of the cost for the new “Autumn Blaze” Maple and serviceberry at City Hall. Need to decide how to carry out</li> </ul>	

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	donation program.	

**(Laura Inglis motion, Amy Johnson second to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.; all aye).**

*Next Meeting Date: Monday, February 7, 2011.* Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by City Clerk Marilyn Regnier.