

# Joint Powers Steering Committee Minutes

June 4, 2015

City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Conference Room

Present:

School District 709: Kerry Leider, Jay Roesler

City of Duluth: Kathy Bergen, Keith Hamre, Erik Birkeland, Lisa Luokkala, Hank Martinsen, Kelly Fleissner

Chair: Kathy Bergen

Vice Chair: Jay Roesler

Minutes Recorder: Lisa Luokkala

- I. **Duluth Traverse at Lincoln Park Middle School** – The most recent rendition of the agreement was not cleared by the City’s attorney. The City is requesting that the School District consider either an easement or a license. The School District indicated they need more flexibility to get out of the agreement than what an easement would allow. The School District will entertain the idea of a license. The City of Duluth will draft a license agreement for the School District’s review. **Next Steps:** Erik/Hank from the City will follow up directly with Kerry on this matter.
- II. **School Property adjacent to Hartley Park** - City of Duluth submitted a Lessard-Sams Grant application on June 4 to acquire School District property adjacent to Hartley. The acquisition of the land is only part of the grant, which also includes restoration of the property and Tischer Creek, along with restoration of Buckingham Creek. Notification of the grant status will be 3-4 months out. **Next Steps:** Kathy will send Kerry a detailed map of the parcels included in the grant proposal. It was suggested that we should formally draft a letter of commitment from ISD 709 so that we can assure the land will be available when grant monies are secured. In addition, School District suggested we start the process of a purchase agreement to both secure the land and also address the future land use changes.
- III. **Memorial Park/Laura MacArthur green space** - The mini-master plan for Memorial Park is being reopened to address changing scope because of its status as a “Grand Avenue Park” through the ½ and ½ Tourism Tax Fund. Memorial qualifies for up to \$500,000 in match funds through the ½ and ½. The City has been approached by Irving Community Club and Valley Youth Center about the possibility of building a Rec Center on the Memorial property. The area of concern is maintaining adequate green space for Laura MacArthur and assure they are in compliance with and State minimal standards for green space. The School District shared that there is no state minimum needed to be upheld, although assuring adequate green space for the school is of the highest concern. **Next Steps:** A representative either from Laura Mac or from the District will be invited to participate on the Mini-Master Planning Stakeholder Committee which will convene sometime in July.
- IV. **Joint City/School District Facility on Garfield Avenue** – The School District has both transportation and facilities management needs that are eminent. Pursuing a shared facility meets the large-scale goals of the Joint Powers Committee that were envisioned at its

creation. The City is waiting for proposals for both an architect and an operations consultant to conduct a study. ISD could potentially be included in that study. **Next Steps:** Erik will connect with Kerry to discuss further the potential integration of ISD 709 into the study.

- V. **Future of Grant Rec Center** – The structure is compromised and will eventually be structurally unsound for use. The more recent addition of the building is the portion that is compromised, the original footprint, although not ADA accessible, is sound. The City of Duluth has been monitoring the property and the initial cost to address the current structural issues is not cost effective. In addition, the City has no desire to dedicate funds to rebuild. The City will keep the School District up-to-date on the building status. School District indicated that maintaining at least the original building for storage for field leagues would be an ideal outcome. The longevity of the building is unknown, the building could be structurally unsound in as little as a year. **Next Steps:** City Parks Division will touch base with Myers-Wilkins new Executive Director to make them aware of the building’s status in preparation of them having to relocate programming in the upcoming years.
  
- VI. **Construction of Laura MacArthur Tennis Courts** –7 tennis courts, a shot put and discus area are slated for construction to begin June 11. The intent is to have these open to the public but the priority will be the use for Denfeld High School. These are not intended to be locked facilities but will have the capability to be locked if need be. If there is misuse of the the courts, the School District will lock the facilities. School District indicated that if the courts are open to the public beyond the school tennis season, they would recommend a shared expense of nets. Friends of Tennis hasn’t shown any interest in managing these courts, but it was agreed that is something to ask of them again. In addition, Kathy indicated that summer Parks staff may be available to accommodate opening and closing the courts for public use if need be.
  
- VII. **Westminster Church Property** – School District ask to be included in any future meetings on this site for the greenhouse. **Next Steps:** Keith will follow up with his staff project leads and share upcoming meeting dates with the District.
  
- VIII. **Field Coordination Needs** – A new Rec Specialist at Parks starts this month (June) and once settled into the new position will be available to finish up the field inventory project that had been started years ago through the Joint Powers Committee. School District indicated an increasing need for field use and that most of their fields are at or above desired capacity of use.
  
- IX. **Next meeting is set for Thursday, August 20 at 1:30 PM at Parks and Rec Conference Room.**