

Hester Park Task Force

7/8/08 Meeting Summary

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonja Berg
Glenda Burgeson
Pam Haugen

Kelly Haugen
Vicki Henry
Michelle Johnson

Mary Justin
Kristi Laliberte
Mark Larcom
Janet Reigstad

Meeting Summary

The Hester Park Task Force met from 6:00p to 7:00p on Tuesday, July 8th.

We started the meeting with a summary of our June discussion. We then went through the list of ideas for the park (which were identified at the June meeting) to decide which projects we were serious about pursuing.

All Task Force members in attendance offered their ideas and preferences, and the list below represents the five projects that are moving on to the next level in terms of discussion, research, and possible project action plans. Some comments that were discussed during the brainstorming session include:

- Should we find out what happens to the trees at the current site of the library and consider asking for some if the city has no other plans for them when they demolish the site? (Vicki)
- If and when we add some additional garbage cans, should we also get some cigarette disposals? (Glenda)
- Should we consider creating a plaque/welcome sign for Hester Park that provides some historical information/background on the park and our neighborhood? (several)

The Task Force decided to ask Scott Zlotnik, Director of the Parks Department, to attend our next meeting and provide some information on what we can and cannot do as a Task Force, what the Parks Department will need to be involved in (in terms of execution and/or funding), and what the general schedule is in terms of park maintenance and upkeep of equipment. Mark Larcom agreed to contact Scott at 320-255-7216 to see if he can attend our August 12th meeting at 6:00. **Update: Mark was able to speak with Scott on 7/9, and Scott will be attending our August 12th meeting. He plans to also bring along someone who can provide some information about the plans for the Beaver Island Trail.**

The Task Force also agreed that, when the representative from the neighborhood watch group visits the Steering Committee next month, we would like to have him weigh in on what can be done about crime prevention at the park. For that reason, I'm asking Task Force members who attend the August 12th meeting at 6:00 to stay for at least the first part of the Steering Committee meeting (which starts at 7:00).

Ideas for the Park (refined list)

- 1) New nets for basketball hoops
- 2) A few more picnic tables, grills, and garbage cans
- 3) Enhance the natural beauty of the park with more flowers and other planting/landscaping/trimming
- 4) Research and move forward on security/crime prevention efforts (e.g., additional lighting?)
- 5) Consider adding a skating rink in the future

Next Meeting

August 12th at 6:00p, Cathedral Conference Room- South Building, downstairs, off to the right. Please plan to stay for at least the first part of the Steering Committee meeting (which starts at 7:00) to hear the speaker on neighborhood crime prevention.