

# Hester Park Task Force

## 9/11/08 Meeting Summary

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Glenda Burgeson  
Pam Haugen

Kelly Haugen  
Michelle Johnson

Mary Justin  
Pat Justin

Mark Larcom

### Meeting Summary

The Hester Park Task Force met from 6:00p to 7:00p on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> in the park.

The group discussed the following topics:

- Meeting schedule: our plan is to meet an hour before the monthly Steering Committee meetings. Depending on how things are going, we may decide to skip December's meeting.
- Goal statement: we agreed on a proposed goal statement that will be reviewed, modified if necessary, and approved at the October meeting.
- 2009 beautification project: We will start seriously planning for 2009 at the October meeting. Task Force members will be asked to help find people and organizations willing to get involved in the project. We will invite Scott Zlonik to our October meeting to discuss our plans for 2009 and see how the Parks Department will be involved, both from a funding and planning/implementation perspective.

### Meeting Schedule

As indicated above, the next two Task Force meetings will be as follows:

- Thursday, October 2nd at 6:00p- Cathedral conference room.
- Thursday, November 6th at 6:00p- Cathedral conference room.

### Goal Statement

The proposed goal statement is as follows:

*To preserve and enhance the beauty of Hester Park, promote neighborhood involvement and oversight, and work to keep the park a safe, clean, and welcoming place for all who enjoy it.*

### 2009 Beautification Project

The Task Force is hoping to move ahead with item #3 on our list below. During our September 11<sup>th</sup> walk in the park, we discussed a number of possibilities for planning, landscaping, and other enhancements. Our ideas include:

- Completely re-do the valley with fuller, more extensive plantings and additional color
- Improve the planting around the stairs nearest to the tennis courts
- Fix the bridges and steps that are broken, cracked, or in need of mortar repair
- Find a way to discourage smokers from dropping their butts and/or add cigarette disposals at the bridge
- Consider adding a fountain in the platform area near the stairs
- Consider adding a swing at the top of the hill past the platform area
- Consider "adopt-a-plot" to encourage people and organizations to sponsor maintenance and upkeep of the park
- Consider adding an attractive sign welcoming people to Hester Park—another opportunity for flowers and plantings

This will be a very big project that requires much involvement, and it will require us to reach out to the broader community. Some ideas to move forward on this include:

Contact the reformatory re: service projects.

Contact the technical college and SCSU re: student projects.

Contact Northside Floral or Pavison's (sp?) farm regarding flower and plant donations or purchases at cost.

Contact Boy Scouts regarding possible Eagle Scout project.

We are going to ask Task Force members to roll up their sleeves and help move forward on these (and hopefully other) ideas at the October meeting. Please try to attend as many upcoming meetings as possible if you plan to be involved in the 2009 beautification project. The October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting at 6:00p will be an important first step in the project.

**Ideas for the Park (standing list- please continue to provide suggested additions/revisions)**

- 1) New nets for basketball hoops- **mission accomplished!**
- 2) A few more picnic tables, grills, and garbage cans- **mission accomplished!** (with the exception of more grills, which we will discuss with Scott on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.)
- 3) Enhance the natural beauty of the park with more flowers and other planting/landscaping/trimming- **in planning phase.**
- 4) Research and move forward on security/crime prevention efforts (e.g., additional lighting?)
- 5) ~~Consider adding a skating rink in the future~~ (Requests to delete this from the list were expressed at the 9/11 meeting.)