

# Hester Park Task Force

## 10/2/08 Meeting Minutes

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Glenda Burgeson  
Pam Haugen  
Kelly Haugen

Vicki Henry  
Michelle Johnson  
Mary Justin

Pat Justin  
Sue Kelley  
Janet Reigstad

Guest: Scott Zlotnik, Park Director

### Meeting Summary

The Hester Park Task Force met from 6:00p to 7:00p on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Cathedral Conference Room.

Scott Zlotnik of the Parks Department participated in our meeting to discuss how we might move forward on the beautification project, what we should keep in mind as we move into the planning phase, and how we might secure the right partnerships and funding to get the job done.

### Meeting Schedule

Please note that we will be meeting at 6:30 in November (not 6:00, as previously indicated). The meeting will run from 6:30 to 7:30 in the Cathedral Conference Room on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The Steering Committee will meet immediately after.

### Goal Statement

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the following goal statement for the Hester Park Task Force:

*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

Scott had the following information and ideas to offer regarding our planned beautification project:

- Start with small projects and build to larger ones.
- Continue involvement with the Healthy Neighborhood Partnerships Program (HNPP), as monies are available through this partnership.
- Continue conversations with the Parks Department, and think of ways to work with the Planning Department as well (e.g., commercial developments often include additional funds to improve the local neighborhood, and there may be a way to incorporate funds for Hester Park into the planning for the Beaver Island Trail expansion).
- Continue thinking about various partnerships, some of which were identified at the September Task Force meeting and are outlined on the following page.
- Fundraisers are encouraged, but let Scott know so they're in the loop and can inform us of any necessary paperwork/licenses, etc.

Glenda and Kelly asked some questions about other projects in the community, including the stairs at Riverside and the band shell and flowers at Barden Park. Scott confirmed that work release crews from the prison worked on the stairs at Riverside, but he pointed out that that's in Sherburne county, so we may not be able to access those services. The band shell at Barden came from a MN Historical Society grant, so we should check to see if the WPA bridges in Hester are on the historical registry of landmarks (a requirement to receive a grant for that project). Finally, Scott said the flowers in Barden are 100% maintained by the neighbors. The Parks Department provided the irrigation, delivered the dirt, and paid a couple hundred dollars for flowers, and the neighbors did the rest. We agreed that that process could work for us, too.

We talked about the possibility of requesting funds from businesses, including the hospital, which may see a sizable donation to the beautification project as some positive PR timed to coincide with the current \$200+ million expansion. (Also, family and friends of patients like to stroll through the park, and many hospital employees use the park during breaks and over lunch.) However, Janet pointed out that we should think carefully about this idea, because it may come with some unintended consequences.

Other local businesses include Mathew Hall and Bernick's. Excel Energy is another business worth considering. Scott explained that we all pay an additional fee on our Excel bill that is set aside to fund certain community projects, including the Lake George project, for which Excel donated \$100,000.

Regarding gifts from businesses and private parties: Scott pointed out that memorials are often problematic, and he would urge us to consider against formal recognition of gifts received, if possible.

If we want to create a new sign (maybe a donation from Mathew Hall?), we have to check with the sign ordinance before finalizing any decisions. Scott said the Park Department could help deliver and install a sign for us, if requested.

Another thing to remember is that Hester Park turns 100 in 2010. It would be wonderful if we could "unveil" a finished project as part of a 100-year birthday celebration!

Project Leaders: Because this effort will require a great deal of attention and involvement, I asked for volunteers to lead the project. Kelly and Pam Haugen graciously accepted, and a motion was made, seconded, and carried to appoint them as co-leaders of the Beautification Project.

The next meeting will be at 6:30 on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral Conference Room. I will call the meeting to order, ask us to approve our October minutes, and turn it over to Kelly and Pam Haugen to lead the rest of the discussion.

#### 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:**
  - 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.
  - Contact master gardeners re: public service projects. (Note: Pat is going to check with an ICU nurse he knows. Michelle was given the name of Nancy (John) Bartlett in Sartell.)
  - Contact the Southside Coalition re: their work at Barden Park
  - Contact the rotary club regarding sponsoring the sign.
  - Consider fundraisers this winter and spring (kite-flying contest, hot-chocolate during sledding, Easter egg hunt, etc.)
- 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.)