

Hester Park Task Force

11/6/08 Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Glenda Burgeson
Pam Haugen
Kelly Haugen

Faye Haws
Vicki Henry
Michelle Johnson

Mary Justin
Kristi Laliberte
Mark Larcom

Joan Rydberg

Hester Park Task Force Goal Statement

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.

Meeting Summary

The Hester Park Task Force met from 6:30p to 7:30p on Thursday, November 6th at the Cathedral Conference Room. A new member was welcomed to the Task Force. **Faye Haws** is a Northside resident, a Master Gardener, and a great new addition to the Task Force.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on October 2nd were presented for review and approval. Noting no changes, the Task Force voted to approve the October 2, 2008 minutes.

2009 Beautification Project

Pam and Kelly Haugen presented information from the 10/16/08 Coalition meeting and other information and ideas they had discussed regarding the Beautification Project:

- At the Coalition meeting, Scott Zlotnik reviewed a slide presentation of various parks and discussed options regarding funding and partnerships that should be considered, such as:
 - Working with the Park Department; applying for grants; asking for donations/soliciting funds; charging fees for events, socials, and other fundraisers; considering the “Adopt a Park” program; and accepting in-kind donations.
 - Regarding grant money available from the MN Historical Society, Vicki Henry offered to check with the Stearns History Museum to determine whether the WPA bridges and walkways are classified as a historical landmark.
- Dan Frank from the Initiative Foundation talked with the Haugens regarding River Recovery, which has up to \$10,000 in grant money available for projects that provide “access and enjoyment to the river.” The Hester Park Task Force could apply for a grant if we’re able to think of creative ways of connecting the park with the river (e.g., swings, benches, enhancing/adding an area for fishing, etc.) There are some restrictions to the grant money (e.g., monies cannot be used for playground equipment, but they can be used for freight costs associated with such a project).
 - Later in the discussion, some of the longer-tenured Northside residents pointed out that Hester Park once had a stream that led to the river. This could be an idea for meeting the River Recovery’s definition for grant money.
 - The Haugens will continue conversations with Dan Frank and/or River Recovery to determine next steps and timing to allow us to pursue this option.
- Juliana Elchert is the person who spearheaded the Barden Park revitalization, and she’s someone we may want to meet with as part of our information-gathering phase.
 - Faye Haws knows Juliana and agreed to contact her regarding a possible meeting and/or attending our next Task Force meeting.

Vicki Henry distributed information from the city regarding planting options (i.e., plants that are and are not approved for city use). Faye Haws will be able to provide expertise in this area as well and also indicated that the Task Force will need to conduct a sun study in the spring after the leaves have fallen in to determine what kinds of plants will thrive in the various spaces.

Faye Haws offered to bring past photos of Hester Park (circa 1960s and 70s) for the Task Force to review at an upcoming

meeting.

Kristi Laliberte provided information regarding the start of a three-year construction project at the Water Treatment Facility that has affected the sledding hill at Hester Park. The city has begun construction of a fence on the North/South hill to prevent sledders from using the hill and potentially sliding into a newly-established gravel construction zone/driveway at the north end of the treatment facility. Task Force members that are involved in this issue include Kristi Laliberte and Michelle Johnson. Other Steering Committee members that are involved are Dave Laliberte and Kaye Schimmich. These members will be following up with the Park Department and the WTF to discuss possible alternatives and/or explore other options (e.g., requesting the re-opening of the Cathedral sledding hill).

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11th at the Cathedral Conference Room from 6:30 to 7:30.

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 still need to discuss with Scott Zlotnik.)
- 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.)