

Hester Park Task Force

1/8/09 Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Glenda Burgeson
Pam Haugen

Vicki Henry
Michelle Johnson

Kristi Laliberte
Steve Lanz

Janet Reigstad
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, January 8th at the Cathedral Conference Room.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on December 11th were presented for review and were approved.

Update on Jobs List

Pam Haugen presented an overview of the jobs list and an update of what has been accomplished recently. The Task Force reviewed the current Jobs List, and progress on jobs are listed below:

- Approach the city for Northside-Hester Park Neighborhood to formally adopt the park.
 - Michelle met with Scott on 1/12/09 and completed applicable forms. Kaye's address was used as the "organization's address," since she chairs the larger neighborhood steering committee.
- Display our pictures of Hester Park at the Annual Neighborhood Meeting on 2/22/09.
 - Vicki has agreed to handle this for us. (Note from Michelle: Vicki, you may want to check with David Mohs and/or Kristi Laliberte on the Steering Committee if you would prefer to have them made into a slide presentation. They are already working on a slide presentation of some current photos taken at recent neighborhood events. Otherwise poster board should be fine.)
- Create a sign-up sheet for the Annual Neighborhood Meeting asking for volunteers that might be interested in working in the park this spring and summer and/or assisting with planning or fundraising efforts.
 - This was discussed at the Steering Committee meeting, and Kristi Laliberte will create the sign-up sheet for us, because she is already creating some sign-up sheets for other reasons/Task Forces.
- Contact the St. Cloud Neighborhood Coalition and/or Central MN Community Foundation to set up a Hester Park Fund to handle donations and payments.
 - Michelle: Email sent to Marge Pryately on 1/27/09 to determine which organization should manage our funds. Also sent an email to Susan Lorenz at CMCF on 1/27/09 to ask about establishing a fund there (probably more appropriate, per Don Hickman at IF, as SCNC is more appropriate for grants administration).
- Develop a Master Plan with the city.
 - Michelle spoke to Don Hickman at IF on 1/27/09 regarding two \$10K grants available (through CMCF and IF). Money must be spent on planning, which works perfectly for us. He put me in touch with Susan Lorenz and Marian Bender, Executive Director of MN Waters, to see about attending the CMCF River Connections Steering Committee meeting on Feb. 19th. (Don said IF will likely transfer their \$10K to CMCF to reduce the burden of additional grants administration.) Based on Michelle's conversations with Don and Scott Zlotnik, a good plan would be for us to secure some grant money, then work with Scott to try to get matching funds from the city so we can engage a consulting firm to develop a "Master Improvement Plan," which Scott said is actually different than a master plan.
- Start park clean-up in late April/early May.
- Participate in the Earth Day clean-up event (added by Michelle, based on discussions with Scott Zlotnik).
- Conduct a sun study when appropriate (Faye Haws).
- Fundraising - set up a database to keep track of donations and mailings, also potential donations/Adopt-a-Park

Sponsor.

- Develop a PowerPoint presentation to be used for presentations to the city and potential donors.
- Design a Hester Park Fund logo so that the park will be identified on mailings and literature related to the park.
 - Task Force: Discussed plan to hold a contest open to all (including art teachers and students of ALC and Cathedral). Provide information about the contest in an upcoming Bridges Newsletter. (Work with Steering Committee and Communications Task Force.)
- Continue to obtain as much information as we can on Hester Park and collect pictures and postcards.
 - Task Force: All task force members are encouraged to collect information.
 - Vicki: will submit her article to Citizen Times (see below) at a future date to request pictures from the larger community.
 - Kelly: check with the Times for photos – possible Myron Hall pictures/St. Cloud Times.
 - Joan: Contact people who worked on the WPA- Whitney Center.

Other Business

Vicki shared an article she wrote for possible submission to the Times as a Citizen Times article. The article provides some background on the Task Force and asks readers to submit any old pictures of the park. After discussion, it was agreed that the Task Force should hold off on sending the article until the neighborhood has been authorized to formally adopt the park. We will also need the Communications Task Force to review and approve the article, and we may want to send it to Scott Zlotnik for his approval as well.

Vicki discussed an idea to have residents of Independent Living design and paint the garbage cans in Hester Park. It was discussed that we should review the idea with the Park Department, since Scott Zlotnik will need to first approve any such project. (Michelle asked about this issue during her meeting with Scott on January 12th and Scott confirmed that we are not able to proceed on projects of that nature without his involvement. He also said it is difficult to get “art” approved within the confines of the standards developed by the city.)

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 5th at the Cathedral Conference Room from 6:30 to 7:30.

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

- New nets for basketball hoops- **mission accomplished!**
- 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.)
- 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 Pattison's 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.)

- Research and move forward on security/crime prevention efforts (e.g., additional lighting?)
- ~~Consider adding a skating rink in the future (Requests to delete this from the list were expressed at the 9/11 meeting.)~~