

Hester Park Task Force

3/4/09 Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Denise Gagner
Pam Haugen

Kelly Haugen
Vicki Henry

Michelle Johnson
Jen Thompson

Kristi Laliberte
Steve Lanz

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 7:15p on Wednesday, March 4th at the Cathedral Cafeteria.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on February 5th were presented for review and were approved.

Housekeeping Items

- Two new members were welcomed to the task force. Denise Gagner and Jen Thompson signed up for the task force at the neighborhood's annual meeting last month. Michelle indicated that a couple other people had expressed interest in joining the task force, but were unable to attend tonight's meeting.
 - A new membership roster will be distributed after next month's meeting, so any additional member(s) can be added.
- Michelle indicated that the article Vicki wrote for the Citizen Times was submitted to Scott Zlotnik (who also forwarded it to Pat Shea of the Public Utilities Department). They asked us to include a sentence describing our collaboration with the Parks Department and the PUD, so Michelle will include a comment to that effect and send it to Vicki for her review. It will also be shared with the Communications Task Force for approval before sending it on to the St. Cloud Times.

Jobs List

The Jobs List was reviewed and updates were discussed. A suggestion was made to check with Glenda Burgeson and see if she would be willing to research who might be able to restore the WPA bridges and walkways. This was added to the jobs list, and Michelle will check with Glenda at next month's meeting.

- Contact the Central MN Community Foundation regarding possibility of setting up a Hester Park Fund to handle donations and payments.
 - Michelle and Pam, Kelly, and/or Denise will meet with CMCF at some point regarding this possibility.
- Develop a Master Plan with the city.
 - Michelle and Kelly have joined the Mississippi River Connections group to determine whether our task force should team up with MRC in this regard.
- Participate in the Earth Day clean-up event.
 - Michelle has discussed this with Kaye Schimnich, Steering Committee Chair. Kaye will attend the April Task Force meeting to provide an overview of the event, which is planned for April 24th.
- Start park clean-up in late April/early May.
- Research regarding who could handle the restoration of the WPA bridges and walkways: Glenda?
- Conduct a sun study when appropriate (Faye Haws).
- Fundraising:
 - Consider small fundraisers to start building interest and enthusiasm. Ideas include root beer floats on the 4th of July (per Kaye, this will likely be done at the Steering Committee level), "portraits in the park" (Denise), kite flying contest, Easter egg hunt, etc.
 - Develop a PowerPoint presentation to be used for presentations to the city and potential donors.

- Set up a database to keep track of donations and mailings, also potential donations/Adopt-a-Park Sponsor.
- Design a Hester Park Fund logo to use on mailings and literature related to the park. (The Task Force discussed a 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.
 - All task force members are encouraged to collect information.
 - Vicki: will submit her article to Citizen Times at a future date to request pictures from the community.
 - Kelly: Contacted the St. Cloud Times, but was told they don't have any photos on file. He'll check with one of Myron Hall's sons.
 - Joan: Contact people who worked on the WPA- Whitney Center (?).

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 2nd** 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.)