

**CITY OF HANOVER
PARK BOARD MEETING
JUNE 28, 2016 – OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Mat Boie called the Park Board meeting of June 28, 2016 to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Chair Mat Boie, Dee Zajicek, Tom Gleason, Abby Peterson, Abby Strehlow, Council Liaison Jim Zajicek, and City Accountant/Deputy Clerk Elizabeth Lindrud. Guests present were Council Member John Vajda, Council Member Ken Warpula, Joe and Karen Kaul, Stephanie Gleason, Martin and Vonnie Waters, Dana Arrigo, Claudia Pingree, Krysta Mitchell, Brenda and Bryan Arthur, Susie and David Noto, Mary Coons, Bob Miller, Missy Wanke, Derek Rosso and other residents.

Approval of Agenda:

Gleason requested that item f be moved before the Open Forum. Boie added a reading of Open Forum guidelines by Peterson and that Liaison Zajicek read an update on the ballfield redesign before the Open Forum.

MOTION by Peterson to approve the Agenda as amended, seconded by Gleason. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes from May 24th, 2016 Meeting

Zajicek asked to correct the repeated word ‘that’ in the minutes related to the Park Board Survey Results.

MOTION by Zajicek to approve the minutes as amended from May 24th, 2016, seconded by Gleason. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Open Forum Guidelines

Peterson gave an overview of the Open Forum guidelines, requesting that if someone would like to address the Board that they fill out the Open Forum Form, once called to speak each person may speak for 2-3 minutes.

Recap of Settlers Ballfield Redesign

Liaison Zajicek read the article that will appear in the third quarter newsletter that recaps the Settlers Ballfield redesign.

Update from Hanover Athletic Association Liaison Gleason

Gleason stated he was not able to attend the June Hanover Athletic Association meeting and contacted the Bill Rosso for an update. He stated that he was given an alternate ballfield plan, but stated he was uncertain if the Hanover Athletic Association would approve the alternate plan. This plan was also shared with Hanover Youth Ball.

Open Forum:

Dana Arrigo

Dana Arrigo stated that she is a realtor and moved to Hanover two years ago. She stated she would like the trees to be left standing because Hanover has the Historic Bridge, River Inn and has a small town feel. She would like the Park Board to have a vision, she watched as Maple Grove and Plymouth develop. Maple Grove had a plan and succeeded with a vision and a downtown area. She added that the Girl Scouts use this area and it is a great facility.

Brenda Arthur

Brenda Arthur stated that she was approached by Stephanie Gleason, and after reading the petition feels that nothing was told to the community about the tree removal and felt that the City did not want the information out. She further stated that she filled out the Park Board Survey and inquired as to why the results are being ignored. Arthur concluded by stating that the oak trees give the City character.

Krysta Mitchell

Krysta Mitchell stated that she has attended several meetings. She would like to see the Park Board evaluate what the City has and what the City needs. She further explained that two children were nearly hit by cars because of the double parking near Cardinal Circle Park. She stated the City already has great trails and would like a walkway around Cardinal Circle so that children would not have to walk in the street.

Vonnie Waters

Vonnie Waters stated she wants to save the trees, they improve air quality, nature, and the ambiance of the parks. She referred to the outpouring of response stating that people are very passionate about the trees. Unfortunately, we are to this point and there is so much head banging. She stated that if the Hanover Athletic Association takes over, the City will never get the ballfield back.

Waters explained there is an alternative for the Hanover Athletic Association to expand and revamp one of their current fields and leave the City ballfield. She requested that the Park Board review what they put out there in the survey.

Martin Waters

Martin Waters stated that the petition started at Concert in the Park. He stated that this is the best attended Park Board meeting and now the Board is trying to stop them from speaking. He explained they have never had a time limit before. He further explained that they have a written and online petition with hundreds of signatures. He stated four of the five of the Board Members are making an irreversible decision and that WCCO and KARE11 have been contacted.

Karen Kaul

Karen Kaul thanked Park Board for caring and would like the head butting to stop and to get solutions. She volunteered to start a Go Fund Me page for a new facility. She stated that at the May Council meeting Tom Therrien stated this project is for the kids. She explained that it is also for the adults and asked that everyone slow down, Hanover Youth Ball is not hosting a tournament for a few years. The trees are a valuable resource and are not replaceable. She stated that if the online comments from people outside of Hanover do not count, then the Hanover Youth Ball Members comments should not count, as some members are not Hanover residents.

Joe Kaul

Joe Kaul stated that he is the Treasurer of the Historical Society, is spearheading the Hanover 125th Celebration, was on the EDA for five years and was on the Hanover Youth Ball board for two years. He explained that he helped to get Hanover Youth Ball their non-profit status and insurance, he further explained that no one is denying the need for another field. He explained the trees are older than the City and the location of Settlers Park was chosen because of the trees. Kaul can see all sides and asks that the Board vote again or table the vote and look at all possible solutions. He added that the land is currently zoned Institutional and per City Ordinance can only be used as public land.

Stephanie Gleason

Stephanie Gleason stated that she felt Hanover citizens were not informed and that residents like to help. She did not mean to add work or stress to anyone, she just wants to save the trees. Gleason went through a presentation outlining that 71% of the 230 Park Board Survey responses stated that they felt the baseball fields in Hanover meet the community needs. She explained that she went door to door with a petition and gathered 844 signatures from adults and 185 signatures from youths (with parental permission). She stated that everyone benefits from the trees and the park is used by many people. She encouraged collaborating with the Hanover Athletic Association for an alternative site. Hanover currently has seven ballfields and 13 youth ball teams, she also suggested using surrounding community's ballfields.

Missy Wanke

Missy Wanke explained she is concerned with the park space. Everyone can come to Settlers Park and are able to bring a ball and bat or play soccer. If the trees are removed children will no longer be able to come and play. The ballfield will only be used by eight people and will make the space unusable and remove greenspace from the park. Wanke also stated she does not feel that Boie is taking this seriously.

Jamie Franzen

Boie read an email sent in by Jamie Franzen. Franzen wrote that she disagrees with the removal of the trees at Settlers Park. She spent all of her childhood traveling to baseball fields and one of the beautiful things about the Hanover complex is the playground and shade trees. She further wrote that she has two young boys who play at the playground and amongst the trees and this is her favorite park, mostly due to the environment as it is. New construction and neighborhoods are wiping out the natural beauty of Hanover.

Claudia Pingree

Claudia Pingree wanted to point out that Boie does care about the parks. Pingree then stated that Hanover has always been trying to catch up with St. Michael and Albertville as the populations have grown. She explained that Hanover is part of both the Senior Center and Library located in St. Michael. On Saturday a group from Westbridge Church, also located in St. Michael came to help her out with work around her home. They did not ask where she was from before offering to help her and said services like this help her stay in her home and stay in Hanover. Pingree explained that she had Gleason's petition on her table and the volunteers noticed it and asked if they could also sign it, since Westbridge Church uses Settlers Park for events. Pingree stated Hanover shares the park with the surrounding community.

Ken Warpula

Ken Warpula addressed the Board as a Council Member and stated that he loves Hanover because it is informal. He stated that sometimes Roberts Rules of order are needed, but the community should be open to discuss issues with one another. Warpula explained that he voted no on the ballfield redesign. He further stated that the Park Board have been put in a tough position and they are being attacked. The Board members are giving their time and doing their best for the community and deserve respect. Warpula further explained that he thinks it is great that Stephanie was able to get all the signatures, but does not know where the issue will go from here.

Unfinished Business:

Concert in the Park Update – 6/16/16

Peterson stated that around 250 people attended Concert in the Park, Mark Miller donated that trailer and she only heard positive comments about the event.

Zoomobile – 7/14/16

Gleason stated that the Zoomobile will be at Settlers Park on Thursday, July 14th at 7 p.m.. Boie will contact the Hanover Elementary School, Bankwest, and the Lions to use their signs to advertise.

Allina Bike Rodeo

Boie explained that they are still lining up a Wright County Sheriff to attend. Allina will be providing free helmets and a bike mechanic, then families can explore Hanover's bike trails. Boie stated that since it is the first year they are starting out small to see how it goes.

Park Comp Plan Update w/walk through notes

Lindrud presented the updated park inventory list with estimated costs. Lindrud explained that during the walk through the Board looked at what amenities would fit in each park, that does not mean they will be added. She further explained that the estimates were added to help guide with planning. Peterson asked if there were funds in the current budget. Lindrud explained that there currently are not and these estimates will also help guide budget decisions for the future.

Park Board Survey Results – additional article

Zajicek stated that she would like the public to see the comments that were written on the surveys. The summary that was compiled and posted on the City website does not show the meat of the results. She further explained that she wanted a survey with more than yes and no answers to solicit what the community really wanted. Zajicek stated that residents need to understand the numbers as well. One example is the question "If funds were available, is there something that should be changed with any of the Hanover Parks?" Out of the 230 total responses, there were only 44 suggestions written in. Zajicek was excited about the response rate for the hardcopy surveys, but was disappointed that the online version had a lower response. She did state that the paper version allowed people a voice and they could add additional comments. In regards to the ballfield redesign proposal, she stated the Board listened to the proposal and factual information that was presented at the time. The survey results were not in at that time.

Liaison Zajicek addressed a comment about the ballfield project in relation to the funding, he stated that it is about money, the lack of money. He explained there are not currently funds for splash pads, ballfields, a 20-acre park or the other items people would like to see. The City's focus is on road projects and a public works facility that is very much needed. If the City were to build a 20-acre complex and assess those costs to residents, Council would receive pushback by residents who want the money spent to fix roads. He further explained the ballfields will help children and every option was looked at and researched, it was not a flip decision.

MOTION by Gleason to recommend that Council look at residents input and explore any new options before the trees are cut down, seconded by Boie. **Motion carried 3 to 2.** Voting aye: Gleason, Boie, Strehlow. Voting nay: Peterson, Zajicek.

Boie clarified that the Board is not changing their original vote to approve the ballfield redesign.

New Business:

Install Volleyball Court Removable posts/net in Settlers Park

Lindrud explained that the Volleyball Court in Settlers Park does not have the correct type of sand and is underutilized. During the Park Board walk through it was discussed to have removable posts and net and replace the sand court with grass. This would allow the park to keep the amenity of the volleyball court, while also adding more usable green space to the park.

MOTION by Peterson to recommend that the removable Volleyball posts be installed, seconded by Gleason. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Reports:

Gleason

- Stated he was for the ballfield redesign, but now that he has heard the opposition he has changed his mind.

Zajicek

- Stated that she will be resigning at the end of the year.

Lindrud

- Encouraged residents to call City Hall with questions, clarified that Staff is neutral on the ball park issue and will not give out incorrect information when asked.

Adjournment:

MOTION to adjourn by Peterson to adjourn at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Strehlow. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Lindrud, Accountant/Deputy Clerk