

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE FARGO PARK DISTRICT OF
JULY 11, 2006**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Park District of the City of Fargo was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2006, at 5:30 p.m., at the Fargo Park District office at 701 Main Avenue, Fargo, North Dakota. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Joel Vettel, Barb Johnson, Ron Sorvaag, Mary Johnson and Joe Deutsch. Also present were Roger Gress, James Larson, Attorney Greg Selbo, Dave Leker, Kevin Boe, Clay Whittlesey and Carolyn Boutain.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Vettel moved and Commissioner Deutsch seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2006, regular meeting and June 27, 2006, special meeting. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of June 2006 Bills

Commissioner Sorvaag moved and Commissioner Vettel seconded a motion to approve the bills for June, 2006. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

Approve Order of Agenda

Commissioner Vettel moved and Commissioner Deutsch seconded a motion to approve the order of agenda as presented. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Maple Valley Park Amenities and Developer Agreement

Jim Hinderaker, the City Planner, presented to the board regarding the approval of the above delineated agenda item. Duane and Denise Mischell were present at the meeting as well. Mr. Hinderaker noted that the trail system would be beneficial to the park system's infrastructure. He further noted that the City will grade the park, but that the Fargo Park District will be responsible for maintaining it.

It was further noted that the development will charge a \$400.00 per lot fee to pay for the development of the park. It was noted that the Fargo Park District will pre-fund \$50,000.00 for the park and that the \$400.00 per lot will be used to reimburse the Park District for the funding.

Commissioner Vettel moved and Commissioner Sorvaag seconded a motion to approve the Maple Valley Park Amenities and Developer Agreement as presented. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of Osgood 7th Addition Amenities Plan

Jim Hinderaker again addressed the board regarding the above delineated agenda item.

Commissioner Sorvaag moved and Commissioner Deutsch seconded a motion to approve the Osgood 7th Addition Amenities Plan as presented. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

Request to Remove a Tree and Stump for the American Legion

Dave Leker presented to the board regarding a request from the American Legion to remove a tree and stump adjacent to their downtown facility. It was noted that staff is recommending that the board deny said request. A lengthy discussion then ensued on the policy of private groups benefiting from publicly funded equipment and personnel. It was noted that people had protested the use of the same in the past. However, it was noted that the American Legion had been a partner with the Park District in several ventures, most notably Jack Williams Stadium.

Commissioner Deutsch moved and Commissioner Sorvaag seconded a motion to deny the request of the American Legion to remove a tree and stump adjacent to their downtown building. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried 3-2, with Commissioners Vettel and Mary Johnson voting against.

Approve Proposed Fee Increases for Cultural Activities, Recreation and Athletic Field Usage

Carolyn Boutain addressed the board regarding the proposed fee increase of 3.5% for cultural activities. It was noted that this was to keep current with the rising cost of inflation.

Commissioner Vettel moved and Commissioner Mary Johnson seconded a motion to approve a 3.5% fee increase to the cultural activities budget as presented. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

Clay Whittlesey addressed the board regarding the proposed fee increase for recreational activities. A detailed listing of the proposed increase was attached for the board's review, but it was noted that there was basically a 3.5% across the board proposal to keep current with costs of inflation. Mr. Whittlesey noted that they use a benchmark of trying to recoup 50% of the cost of youth activities with their fees and try to recoup 110% of the cost of adult activities with their user fees.

Commissioner Vettel moved and Commissioner Mary Johnson seconded a motion to approve the recreation fee increase as presented. Upon call of the roll, the motion carried unanimously.

Dave Leker presented to the board regarding approval of a 3.5% fee increase for athletic field usage. It was noted that the Park District's cost of lights, irrigation and fertilization have been extremely high as of late.

A member of the general public, Steve Grandberg, then addressed the board. He stated that he is a member of the Fargo Slowpitch Softball Association and a volunteer for several tournaments. He expressed concerns over the \$50.00 per day per diamond fee in effect for invitational tournaments. He says it has had a detrimental effect on invitational tournaments in Fargo citing that a few years ago there were 11 and that this year there are probably only 4.

The board decided not to approve the athletic field usage increases at this time, but rather to study regionally the fees that other similar communities are charging for invitational athletic field rental. It was noted that some communities charge much higher softball fees per team for league play and are essentially absorbing the costs of the weekend invitational tournaments through the increased team fees. It was noted that Fargo potentially may consider going to such a concept by increasing team softball fees thereby being able to provide additional services for the invitational softball tournaments.

As such, no action was taken on the athletic field usage and they noted there will be no action until the staff can study the regional fees regarding the same.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:25 p.m.

Christopher M. Kennelly, Clerk