

Twin Brook Minutes May 14, 2013

Attendance:

John Leavitt	Peter Bingham
John Eldredge	Ben Bettez
Joe Loring	Christopher Bolduc
Anne Witte	Laura Neleski
Iwona Tarling	
Jackie Stowell	
Kay Fowler	
John Jennings	
Shirley Storey King	

Call to Order 6:30pm

Motion to accept the Minutes of May 14, 2013

Motion made by Anne Witte

Motion seconded by Iwona Tarling

Vote: Unanimous

Old Business:

Mowing- Christopher Bolduc gave a recap of walking areas of the park with John Leavitt. They found several areas where the mowing could be reduced. We would take a look at burning perhaps next year.

New Business:

Presentation on Disc Golf – Peter Bingham presented a Power Point Presentation on disc golf. (Which will be scanned into the electronic version) Some highlights are:

- Space allocated for course is essentially unutilized for organized activities.
 - Disc Golf provide upper and lower body conditioning with very little risk of physical injury
 - Increases concentration skills
 - Sport can be played alone or in a group
 - Great family activity
 - Interest in the game has boomed and it is an affordable sport
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- A course would provide a fun, inexpensive recreational opportunity for residents
 - Installation is easy and inexpensive
 - Course would not affect passive recreation currently in the park.

Mr. Leavitt – What is the season for Disc Golf?

A: It would be put out when spring sports start and the area is dry enough. April – October.

Ms. Tarling – On YouTube, it looks like the disk goes fast and there could be good and bad players throwing disks all over?

A: Just like in golf, there is a certain level of etiquette that is expected. The game is also played in a very visible area, so both players and walkers could see each other.

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Ms. Tarling – How do you control the playing time?

A: First come, first served

Ms. Tarling – Right now, dog walkers come from all over because they have heard that the park is dog friendly. What will stop people from coming to Twin Brook to play Disc Golf once the word gets out?

A: Although there is a little potential for that, there are so many nicer, larger courses not too far away, that it is not likely to become a destination for the activity.

Ms. Tarling – If Teenager and kids can play, do we really think they are going to pay?

A: It would be the same honor system as cross country skiing. As it is for cross country skiing we know that some people won't pay and we know that, but most will.

Mr. Leavitt – Are the discs heavier than Frisbees?

A: Yes, but just a bit.

Mr. Leavitt – It looks as though there will be a lot more activity in an already heavily trafficked area. There could be conflicts with the dog walkers.

Mr. Bingham said that all groups can coexist with just some consideration on all parts.

Ms. Witte – I like this type of sport. 'Likes passive sports, but has any other park been looked into?

A: Twin Brook is attractive because of the abundance of parking, public restrooms and open space. Initially, every park and town property had been looked at, but they all had significant draw backs.

Ms. Witte – What about the possibility of theft?

A: We are still working on the details to prevent things like that.

Ms. Witte – This is a family sport? Are we adding in one more thing to Twin Brook? Are we sure we want to do that?

A: this sport is not quite like the others at Twin Brook and could fill in a gap – it's a place close by to take the kids or the whole family and have fun.

Mr. Leavitt – How would you get families to go at the gap times? Maybe this would be better to play at Val Halla, they already monitor a course and control the fees. I'm against it. The park is already overused.

Mr. Eldredge –

1. The facility is overused
2. Golf is a social activity and this could conflict with too many of the activities already there. There is already too much chaos at the Park at times.
3. What about the fairgrounds? There is already a Frisbee community there.
4. I've been to a course where there is running and disc golf and the golfers didn't like the runners sharing the area.

Ms. Stowell – It seems as though there is enough there already. What next?

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Ms. Tarling – A family activity for the down times? There are so many events and passive times cannot be controlled. The discs are so heavy, this is not so good.

Mr. Loring - On the other side:

- It could be temporary
- It is inexpensive
- If it doesn't work, it doesn't have to go up next year.

Ms. Stowell – How does this whole decision making process work?

Mr. Bolduc – Concept to Public Services then back for revisions
 Concept with revisions to Town Manager
 Concept to Twin Brook Committee for recommendation or not
 Concept to Town Council for approval or not

 Mr. Leavitt will need a recommendation for or against to bring to the Council

Ms. Witte – I have mixed feelings; it could go as a trial, but there is so much going on at the park. 'Not so much for it.

Mr. Bolduc – We really have hashed out the pros and cons and this is the best place for a trial run. We did a great deal of thinking and researching and it seems as though it could work very well as a small course

Mr. Leavitt – From the presentation it looks as though someone is thinking about making it a bigger course already.

Mr. Bolduc – Although it is mentioned, it is not in the foreseeable future.

Vote to Recommend:

YES – Kay Fowler, Joe Loring

NO – John Leavitt, John Eldredge, Iwana Tarling, Jackie Stowell

ABSTAIN – Anne Witte

Committee votes to not to recommend Disc Golf

Other New Business:

Mr. Leavitt had met with Penny Asherman and discussed the habitat of cotton tail rabbits. Twin Brook could be a great habitat.

How is the Forest Management plan coming? A: The key person, Jay, is no longer with the company.

Mr. Leavitt could look at a free service provided by SAPPI that falls under their community service. This was met with approval from staff and committee. Mr. Leavitt spoke about the benefits of a forestry plan; removing hazards by trails, opening the canopy, creating habitat, and maybe creating revenue.

Mr. Leavitt will look into.

Ms. Fowler noticed that dogs playing in the water sometimes disrupts the fishing.

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Mr. Leavitt recapped that April Stools day was great. It was noted that a group of dog walkers also went to Val Halla and held a cleanup walk at the golf course.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion made by Mr. Eldredge

Motion seconded by Mr. Loring

Meeting adjourned at 8pm