CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Vice-chair Jerry Langsweirdt.

Attending the meeting were Vice-chair Jerry Langsweirdt, Mayor Ron Jabs, Tim Bischke, Donna Breeggemann, Willy Pauly, and Chris Schwingler.

Staff in attendance were Public Works Director Dave Bendzick, Senior Planner Joe Janish and Planner Casey MacCallum.

ADOPT AGENDA: Motion by Ron Jabs, seconded Willy Pauly, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Motion by Tim Bischke, seconded by Donna Breeggemann, to accept the March 26, 2007 regular meeting minutes as with two subtractions and one addition to the attendance. Motion unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS: there were no presentations.

OLD BUSINESS: there were two items of old business.

A. Holzer Park. During the January 22nd Parks meeting staff informed the Commission that more trees will be planted this fall, and the sprinkler needs to be replaced. At that time Public Works did not know why the weeds were returning and has since diagnosed and is ready to treat the weeds. Donna Breeggemann inquired about the location of the Rail Road Right of Way, which will not be a problem, and chair Beckman hoped to continue Holzer Park for youth when the city grows.

Community Education uses the field 18 times in April, 7 times in May, 16 times in June, and 5 times in July, for a total of 46 times over 4 months. They usually use the field in the afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30 or in the evenings from 5:30 to 8:30.

Dave Bendzick Director of Public Works attended the meeting to discuss improvements to Holzer Park. The improvements that Dave Bendzick discussed included treating the weeds, replacing the irrigation system ($25,705), repairing the fence, paving the parking lot, replacing the stands, and aggregate lime. For a total of $32,575 from the Park Equipment Improvement fund.

Bendzick also discussed the potential construction a 200’ youth ball field at the southwest corner of Holzer Park. The field’s construction will be delayed due to the construction and extension of a main trunk sewer pipe from the Waste water treatment plant.
Motion by Donna Breeggemann, second by Willy Pauly, to install the sprinkler system, aggregate lime and new bleachers, reseed the current fields at Holzer Park; and request further information when it comes available about the construction of a youth ball field. Motion unanimously approved.

B. Bike Signs and Routes. Since the creation and adoption of Jordan’s Preliminary Trail System the County has rejected all striping and signage on their roads and staff is waiting for a response from MNDOT. Staff is conducting further research and hopes to have more information at a future meeting.

Staff was directed to communicate with the County requesting intent to develop bike trails on County Roads in future road reconstruction.

NEW BUSINESS: There were four items of new business.

A. Bike Regulations. In reviewing the City Code the City Council requested the Parks and Recreation Commission review Section 72 and make any recommended changes.

Commissioners noted the requirement for bikers to lock bikes at designated bike stands and the lack of bike stands; and suggested adding bike stands in downtown and Holzer Park.

This item was informational only.

B. Skate Park Grand Opening. The City Council requested staff to approach the Park and Recreation Commission to determine the interest level in holding a Grand Opening for the skate Park. A contact for Red Bull was provided. According to Mr. Bartz Red Bull has expressed interest in conducting a grand opening.

Staff was also provided two skate shops that may also be able to assist in this type of event. The shops are located in St. Paul and Maplewood. Staff is also familiar with a skate shop in Blaine. Mr. Bartz indicated the shops or Red Bull may be able to obtain some riders to come out and use the ramps and show off their skill level.

If the Parks and Recreation Commission are interested in hosting a Grand Opening for the Skate Park staff will contact several companies to determine opportunities and begin to schedule the event with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioners expressed interest in developing the Skate Park’s Grand Opening; and instructed staff to contact potential groups to facilitate the grand opening.

There was no motion for this item.

C. Comprehensive Plan Meeting. City Staff provided a copy of the 2008 Park Chapter of the Comprehensive at the meeting. One possible date to review the Chapter is at the regular Park and Recreation Commission date of May 29, 2007.
Commissioners decide to have the Comprehensive Plan discussion at their next meeting instead of a joint meeting with the Planning Commission. Park and Recreation Commissions could attend the Planning Commission meeting if they are available.

D. Dates for Workshop with Mark Wentzell of AKA. After the Parks and Recreation Commission chose AKA’s proposal staff met with Mark Wentzell to start drafting a contract for work. During this meeting Mark Wentzell suggested starting the process with a Parks and Recreation workshop. Staff requested several dates in the beginning of May for a workshop with AKA.

The Commission requested the public meeting with Mark Wentzell on May 14, 2007 at 7:00pm for the Outdoor Aquatic Community Center Feasibility Study Kickoff with the Pool Committee.

PLANNER’S REPORT: There were three items on the Planner’s Report.

A. Accounts. As of the end of March 2007 the Park Dedication account has $540,897.43 and the Park Equipment Improvement account has $121,592.44.

B. MNDOT Rest Stop/Sawmill Trail Update. City Attorney Annette Margarit and Planner Casey MacCallum met with the Rupperts, who are the underlying owners of the MNDOT rest stop, and showed them the site. They were interested in all aspects and conditions of the site and are open to working with the City in the future.

In our final conversation the Rupperts sounded interested in developing a park and in doing so designing some historic and informational component, such as a pavilion or monument. Staff is waiting to continue discussion with the Ruperts.

Commissioners sought to designate the MNDOT rest stop for future integration into the park system

C. Mini Met Rain Garden. At the February Parks and Recreation meeting Commissioners requested an update on the Mini Met rain garden. Construction is complete and Bolton and Menk will monitor future vegetation growth.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Commissioners discussed creating a memorial to Ken Crain, a recent Parks and Recreation Member.

ADJOURN: Motion by Chris Schwinger, seconded by Donna Breeggemann, to adjourn at 8:55pm. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey MacCallum
Planner