

***Park Board Meeting***  
***MINUTES***  
***June 7, 2011 7:00pm***

**Members Present:** Alicia Hermes, Theresa Sierakowski, Sharon Van Esch, Heather Grambart

**Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** None

**A. Call to Order**

-Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm

**B. Approval of Agenda**

-Agenda was approved as is.

**C. Concerns/Questions/Requests from the public**

-Pat Merritt addressed the board requesting permission to allow the local Boy Scout troop to perform work at the Frank Woodfill Wildlife Refuge. The boy scouts would like to remove all rocks below the park sign, install a rubber mat paid for by Mr. Merritt, and replace rock to prevent weed growth. Mr. Merritt and the troop leader would supervise the project.

**MOTION** -Sharon Van Esch made a motion to recommend to the city council that the boy scouts be allowed to make the improvements to the Frank Woodfill Wildlife Refuge sign base under the supervision of Mr. Merritt.

-2<sup>nd</sup> by Alicia Hermes **MOTION CARRIED**

**D. Election of Officers**

-There was an open discussion led by Theresa regarding the three officer positions needing to be appointed and the responsibility thereof. There was unanimous agreement to the following:

Chair – Reappoint Theresa Sierakowski

Vice Chair – Alicia Hermes

Secretary – Heather Grambart

E. New Business

1. Park

A. Chalet Update

-Theresa updated the board that the chalet will need to be torn down. We had a short discussion regarding ways to raise funds to build a new chalet in the future. There was question to where a new building could be located due to the remapping of the floodway and what property is owned by the city.

-Heather informed the board that the city of Medford is nominated, along with other local cities affected by the September flooding, for the Pepsi Refresh project. She suggested we all go online and cast a vote for the area flood relief nomination.

-The Park Board requests a copy of the new flood map when available.

2. Pool

A. 2011 Season

-There was an open discussion regarding swim lesson sign-up at the school. It was agreed we would limit the time to 1 ½ hours (5:00-6:30pm) next year due to low attendance.

B. Daycare Pass

-Theresa had a daycare provider inquire about a "Daycare" season pool pass in lieu of a "Family" pass for her daycare kids. The provider mentioned it had been available in the past and would love to have it available again. The board requested Theresa follow-up on this type of pass with Amber at city hall. We feel it should be offered again if, in fact, it was available in the past with the stipulation that only kids on the daycare roster be allowed to use it under supervision of the provider and only during daycare hours.

**F. Additional Park Board concerns**

**1. Open Seats**

-We are still looking for two more persons to fill the vacant seats. It was mentioned that a male presence would be very welcome on the board. All members were asked to keep their feelers out for possible new members. Theresa will bring a copy of the letter she sent out to a few Medford residences notifying them of the opportunity.

**G. Adjournment**

**MOTION – Sharon Van Esch** mad a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm.

-2<sup>nd</sup> by Theresa Sierakowski **MOTION CARRIED**

**NEXT MEETING – JULY 5<sup>TH</sup> 7pm**

Park Board Meeting  
Minutes  
July 5, 2011 7:00pm

Members Present: Theresa Sierakowski, Alicia Hermes, Sharon Van Esch, Heather Grambart

Members Absent: None

Also Present: None

A. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 7:14pm

B. Approval of Agenda

- Agenda was approved as is.

C. Concerns/Questions/Requests from the public

- Rich Kucera addressed the board regarding money we received from FEMA. The money received from FEMA was to repair the fence around the softball field that was damaged by the fall flooding in 2010. It is for 10ft high fence to the east, and 6ft high fence to the west. The sand for the field is in, and waiting to be placed.

**MOTION-** Alicia Hermes made a motion that we go ahead and put the fence back the way it was before flood happened.

-2nd by Sharon Van Esch **MOTION CARRIED**

D. New Business

1. PARK

- A. DIAMOND ASSOCIATION (Jon Chappius)

Jon Chappius is the Head of the Medford Diamond Association. They run the 12 & under baseball league. They are currently using the fields up at the high school, but if it is too wet, or the older teams need the fields they can't play. So he has asked if they can use the field at the park. They would maintain it. They would worry about striping, fixing score board, and maintained. We as park would take care of mowing. The bleachers are still good and are ok to be placed back at the park.

**MOTION-** Alicia Hermes made motion to let Medford Diamond Association make up grades to baseball fields at their cost not ours, and be able to use the fields and we will mow as a city.

-2nd by Theresa Sierakowski **MOTION CARRIED**

- Rich Kucera addressed the concern about the whiskey barrels that are right at the park entrance that are falling apart. It is not in budget to replace them due to cost. His suggestion was to replace them using a 55 gallon plastic barrel and cutting it in half and putting it in ground. Also question was addressed regarding the ice rink, lights and building. Where was a better place...it is cheaper to have it down in the park due to the fact the rink is smaller, but less cost to flood. Also if the warming house is at the park

then children sliding can go and use it to warm up. The lights from around the ice house can then be used in the summer by the Diamond association to use for the fields. Also the Diamond association would be able to use the chalet as storage for the fields.

**MOTION-** Sharon Van Esch made a motion that we go ahead and replace with plastic barrels and use them as planters. And to move the rink shelter, lights, back down to the park area.

-2nd by Theresa Sierakowski **MOTION CARRIED**

### B. GLASS CONTAINERS

Theresa brought it to our attention that while she was at the park there were some kids playing with glass bottles that were laying in the park, and trying to throw them over the river. The sign at the front of the park states that there are to be no glass bottles in the park. The feeling was that signs need to be placed in the buildings as a reminder for those who don't stop and read the sign as they enter the park. So a sign should be replaced on the big pavilion, and also one in the smaller one in the ceiling at an angle so people can read it.

**MOTION-** Theresa Sierkowski made a motion that we place signs in the pavilion areas so people can see the rules more clearly.

-2nd by Alicia Hermes **MOTION CARRIED**

### C. DONATION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Before the floods hit in the fall of Sept. 2010. The park had received as a donation in memory of Wilma Muler 2 baby swing seats, and the bumble bee bouncer. It was brought up that her name needed to get added to the plack. Rick will get that done.

### 2. POOL

-The pool life span is stretching it's limits. With the new law that is going to be in place as of January 1, 2012, all public pools either need to have a swing chair for handicap people, or have a 0-18feet decline pool. The pool surface is falling apart, the bottom has some really large cracks, and is needing to be repaired. It is in discussion on what the cost would be to add the swing chair, how much extra staff we would need, and the trainingg each life guard would have to have to operate it. A lot is need to be discussed on how much we need to raise to come up with money for either a new pool, or to re-do the pool. Everyone to be thinking about what to do and discuss at next meeting.

### E. Old Business

#### 1. Park

The Chalet is still in the works of being removed. The foundation around the area also be removed. What do we do with that area. Thought was made that we place a stone drinking fountain in that area with a plack, or something to that effect by it remembering what was there. Money will be set aside to be able to do this.

What things had we not been able to do from previous years budget that we would like to try and carry on for next year. Would like to have some money put aside for some new charcol grills, and also the concret extension around the basketball courts.

2. Pool

A. Daycare Pass

Theresa did some checking and yes there is a daycare pass to go to pool with. It is an option if you ask for it and can only be used during daycare hours.

3. Open Seats Clarification

There is only 1 seat left on the Park and Recreation board.

F. Adjournment

**MOTION-** Sharon Van Esch mae a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm  
2nd by Alicia Hermes **MOTION CARRIED**

**NEXT MEETING - AUGUST 10, 2011 7:00pm**

Park Board Meeting  
Minutes  
August 10, 2011 7:00pm

Members Present: Theresa Sierakowski, Alicia Hermes, Sharon Van Esch, Heather Grambart

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jeanette Sanford

A. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm

B. Approval of Agenda

- Agenda was approved as is.

C. Concerns/Questions/Requests from the public

- Jeanette Sanford spoke about a problem with the playground. The system of which you talk into (walkie talkie), the one closest to the river is broke at the base and needs to be repaired. The large crawl through tunnel needs some holes or something in the bottom of it due to when it rains it pools in there and has no way of getting out. Theresa was going to talk to Rich so he can contact the equipment manufacture and see if there is a solution that can be done. (like drilling a couple holes in bottom). Also the sand diggers need to be fixed/modified, so that kids can play with them again since the flood. Her other concern was all the weeds in the volleyball court and what was being done to control them.

D. New Business

1. PARK

A. The City attorney is drawing up papers for the use of the ball field by the Diamond Association. There will be information about cost of rental and who has priority of field use. The council has not given green light yet.

B. (Rich Kuchera addressed the concern about the whiskey barrels that are right at the park entrance that are falling apart. It is not in budget to replace them due to cost. His suggestion was to replace them using the bottom portion of a 55 gallon plastic barrel)...we are also looking into concrete planters. We will discuss more at next month's meeting.

C. There is a large rock in the park and Theresa has noticed a mushroom painted on the side. Unsure of its significance, she would like Rich to paint over it.

D. Marie Sexton has been in contact with Theresa in regards to a grant that Steele County has for \$5,000.00 dollars. We have been awarded money through this grant before and she would like ideas to apply for this year's grant. Our ideas included

the following:

-A historical marker with a drinking fountain on the concrete slab of which the chalet stood. We could also ask John Gross about any historical facts that could be put on the marker.

- Planters for the flowers.
- A tar or gravel path along the right field line.

(Theresa thought there may be another grant through the S.H.I.P. program which may have funds to do something like that and was going to talk to Marie Sexton about it.)

- Bridge over the river

E. Chalet is in Process of being taken down by Hagen Excavation.

## 2. POOL

A. Lift Chairs are going to have to be installed by next summer. Waiting to hear on what the cost is going to be.

B. Fund Raising ideas for the pool

- Root beer float and Car wash day
- Concert in the park
- Silent Auction
- Carnival day
- Putting an ad in the paper about how you can make a tax donation for the purpose of a new pool and getting it known to others in community.
- Making people aware there are Tax deductible donation options within the community like M.A.R.C (Medford Area Recreation Committee), Park Endowment fund, and Straight River Park fund.

## 3. Open Seats Clarification

There is only 1 seat left on the Park Board. We have asked Jeanette Sanford if she would like to be on, and she has said yes. Theresa will ask the board to approve at the next city council meeting.

F. Adjournment

**MOTION-** Sharon Van Esch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm  
2nd by Alicia Hermes. **MOTION CARRIED**

**NEXT MEETING - September 6, 2011 7:00pm**

## Park Board Meeting Minutes September 6, 2011 7:00pm

Members Present: Theresa Sierakowski, Alicia Hermes, Sharon Van Esch, Heather Grambart, Jeanette Sanford

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Peter Connor, Pat Merriot

### A. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

### B. Approval of Agenda

- Agenda was approved as is.

### C. Review & Approve August minutes

Motion: To make changes to make spelling corrections to August minutes by Jeanette. Heather 2nd to make corrections.

### D. Welcome Jeannette Sanford

### E. Concerns/Questions/Requests from the public

Pat Merriot would like to Thank the park board for making the recommendation to the city council for allowing boy scouts to work on the rock base around the sign of the Frank Woodfill Refuge, and they will be beginning soon, now that school is back in session.

Pat found while doing some up keep to the park that either the DNR, or Steele county had come in with a bobcat and cleared 10-15 ft to the south of the path, and made a path down to the river. While doing this they also brought in a bunch of large rock to put on the banks to hold the sides of the walls back. After they completed there work they came through with the bobcat again and leveled it out and place grass/straw mat down. He noticed that a car must have tried to go down in that area, went through re-raked it and spared the mat back out, and staked it back down. At the park entrance there are already two steel posts and he would like to add another one where this path was made so that people can not drive vehicles down to the river due to the fact that this is a portage area where you carry your canoe down, not drive.

Sharon Van Esch makes a recommendation to the city council to install removable post at the Frank Woodfill Refuge entrance to the south, to keep cars out, but be able to be removed for up keep if necessary.

Alicia Hermes supports this idea.

All in Favor...No nays

Motion Carried

Peter Connor is going to find out more about the Frank Woodfill Refuge in relationship with the county.

### F. Procedural Discussion

a. Meeting dates

We meet the first Tuesday of every month. We have to have at least 3 people present. If we need to change the date for any reason we need to get approval from city council so it can be posted ahead of time.

b. Motions

We need to remember we are an advisory board, and we need to recommend changes or things to the city council. With suggesting a Recommendation to the council instead of motions.

G. Old Business

a. Park

- Chalet is down
- Chain link is up around ball field and looks good. The net is not up yet.
- The walkie talkie are fixed!
- Volley ball courts, North side is good, but the south side is not looking so good. It has the nice sugar sand, but what can we do to help with the appearance of the courts.
- Mushroom stamp is painted over
- Sand pits for horseshoes, and crane sandbox area needs major help with weeds and it appearance.
- Walk through September 21, 2011 @ 6:30pm to go through and see what our goals and improvements we would like to see in the park in the next 5 years.

b. Pool

The city council is in discussion about getting a movable swing chair for the pool. The major concern is that it is heavy and lifeguards may not be able to operate it on there own with the person in it. When needed the lifeguards can make a call to the city and a couple of the city workers will come and help assistant in moving the chair to the water.

The pool was built in 1981, and is in need of maker repairs as we all know. Would like to set up a joint meeting with the city council, to discuss what we would like to see happen, and our goals for the pool.

H. New Business

a. Park

- Medford diamond association, and the city attorney are working on an agreement/contract. John would like to start work before the snow flies on the fields.
- There is grant money available from the Minnesota twins, to improve baseball fields. Looking at what the grant covers and entails, but also looking at what are limits would be at the field for other events (soccer, ) can we use it as a multi use field?
- No word on if we are moving the rink down to the park.
- We as a park board need to work on our goals and views of how we want to see things for the future of the park.
- Theresa will contact Marie Sexton to find out more about the grants that are available for the park and where we are at.
- We are going to get our budget numbers for the next year so we can see

where we are at and what we can do to help bring in more revenue for the park.

I. Adjourn

Sharon makes motion to adjourn at 8:05pm

Next Meeting Tuesday, October 4th 2011 7:00pm

# City of Medford Park Board

## Minutes

November 1, 2011 7:00PM

Attendance: Theresa Sierakowski, Alicia Hermes, Sharon Van Esch, Jeanette Sanford

- A. Call to Order – 7:02pm
- B. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Motion to approve agenda - 1<sup>st</sup> by Alicia Hermes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon Van Esch
- C. Questions/Concerns/Comments from Public - NONE
- D. Replacement of Secretary role needed in Heathers absence
  - a. MOTION by Theresa Sierakowski to appoint Jeanette Sanford as the secretary. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alicia Hermes – PASSED
- E. Discussion on our Focus as an advisory board
- F. Old Business
  - a. Ice Rink
    - i. We have requested the notebook log kept by warming house attendant, from Julie Brussels, for the past few years to analyze attendance. Looking for trends of how many different people use it and when in an effort to make a decision if we need to build the ice rink this year. We will also analyze attendance between the park and old school property to see if the location played a role in attendance.
    - ii. We are concerned there is no money in the budget to pay for the maintenance costs of the ice rink and staff.
    - iii. MOTION by Jeanette Sanford to only have warming house open on weekends. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alicia Hermes - PASSED
- G. New Business
  - a. “Three year plan” for Medford parks discussion
    - i. The park board feels it is imperative we survey Medford residence to get their input on what amenities they feel we need or don’t need prior to developing a strategic plan for the parks.
    - ii. Park Board recommends that years 1 & 2 of a Three year plan be spent:
      - 1. Maintaining current park structures and amenities
      - 2. Fundraising for future renovations
      - 3. Growing community use/involvement in parks
        - a. Improve communication using local radio and The CAST
        - b. Host community events (ie. Block party)
        - c. Approach Medford School about educational opportunities that could be held using/highlighting the park
        - d. Possible development of community garden
        - e. Find use for “Jones’ green space”
- H. Motion to Adjourn @ 8:35 by Theresa Sierakowski; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeanette Sanford - PASSED

Special meeting – Tuesday, November 15 2011 7:00pm

**City of Medford**  
Park Board Meeting Minutes  
November 15, 2011

Special meeting of the Medford Park Board was called to order by Chair Theresa Sierakowski, at 7:03 p. m. Roll call showed all members present.

Special meeting agenda (November 15): Motion to approve - Sanford; support – VanEsch. Ayes all.

Special meeting minutes (November 15): Motion to approve – VanEsch; support – Hermes

Old Business

**Warming House Usage:** Chairperson Sierakowski reported on the skating rink warming house attendance for season 2010-2011. The records were incomplete and will likely not be an asset to determining whether the ice rink should be opened in 2011. The rink was opened for about two months during the period. Funding issues also played a part in keeping the warming house open. Chairperson Sierakowski reiterated a suggestion from member Sanford to have the warming house open only on weekends and school holidays. Hours of operation were discussed. Consensus was arrived at: 11:00 a. m. – 8:00 p. m. on Saturday and school holidays; and, Noon to 5:00 p. m. on Sunday. Motion by Sierakowski to approve the opening days and times as discussed. Support – VanEsch. Ayes all.

**Ice Rink Location:** VanEsch suggested leaving the ice rink location where it currently resides, for the 2011-2012 season. Sanford said leaving it where it is would be a good faith demonstration to those who funded the rink. Motion by Sanford to retain location of ice rink where it is. Support – Hermes. Ayes all.

**Community Survey:** Chairperson Sierakowski spoke to the creation of a community survey to solicit input for the kind of park and recreation programming, citizens would like to see in Medford. The process of surveying was discussed – mail or door to door were the options presented. Discussion centered on having Medford High School Social Studies or Communications students to facilitate (as a class project) the door-to-door version. The survey would be communicated through C. A. S. T., church bulletins, city website and on FaceBook (if a Medford page is authorized). The survey would be conducted in February and analyzed throughout March, with implementation of certain things for Summer, 2012. Sierakowski moved to utilize a community survey as outlined. Support – Hermes. Ayes all.

Sierakowski moved to have VanEsch contact Medford School officials to see about using high school students conduct the actual survey. Support – Hermes. Ayes all.

Motion by VanEsch to adjourn. Support by Hermes. Ayes all.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p. m.

Minutes by Peter W. Connor, City Administrator

City of Medford Park Board  
**Minutes**  
November 15, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Theresa Sierakowski, Alicia Hermes, Sharon VanEsch, Jeanette Sanford, Pete Connors

- A. Call to order – 7:01 p.m.
- B. Approval of Agenda
  - a. MOTION to approve agenda- Jeanette Sanford, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon VanEsch. PASSED.
- C. Questions/Concerns/Comments from Public – None
- D. Review/Approval of Minutes
  - a. MOTION by Theresa Sierakowski to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2011 meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alicia Hermes. PASSED.
- E. Old Business
  - a. Review of past years' warming house usage:
    - i. Last year's attendance was the only information provided. Therefore we could not compare usage by site.
    - ii. Warming house usage was 358 children under the age of 14 signed in between opening on 12/20/2010 and closing on 02/14/11. There is no data for attendees over the age of 14 as they were not required to sign in.
    - iii. Discussion was limited to the use and staffing of the warming house, not the skating rink itself.
    - iv. As part of the ongoing discussion from the last meeting, we reconsidered that the warming house should also be open during school holidays this winter, to continue to provide this park amenity to the bulk of users, while conserving funds.
    - v. Last year's warming house hours:
      - 1. Saturdays and School holidays: 12-8 p.m.
      - 2. Sundays 12-6 p.m.
    - vi. Proposed warming house hours:
      - 1. Saturdays 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
      - 2. School holidays: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
      - 3. Sundays 12-5 p.m.
    - vii. MOTION made by Theresa Sierakowski to recommend to city council the new warming house hours for this winter season. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon VanEsch. PASSED.
  - b. Review of Ice Rink location
    - i. We appreciate the benefits and drawbacks to both locations. At this time, we feel it is reasonable to leave the ice rink where it is for now. That way we should only move the rink one more time to a permanent location when implementing the comprehensive plan.

- ii. MOTION made by Jeanette Sanford to recommend to city council to leave the ice rink at the Old School location for this winter season. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alicia Hermes. PASSED.

F. New Business

a. Community Survey

- i. The Medford Park Board unanimously agrees that our goal is to build a solid foundation for the future of the Medford City Park System by involving the community. In order to accomplish this, we need to rejuvenate a strong, lasting sense of community pride in the City of Medford for current and future generations. We invite our community members to help us develop a park system with amenities, events, and funding that incorporate collaboration between the city and its citizens, businesses, civic, nonprofit and educational organizations.
- ii. MOTION by Theresa Sierakowski, to administer a community survey to help us gather information about what our citizens want to see as amenities and their thoughts on funding. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon VanEsch. PASSED.
- iii. We think the most effective survey will be door-to-door polling of our households. As a step towards building community collaboration and educational opportunities, we would like to invite Medford High School students to assist in the door-to-door survey. We feel this is a great opportunity to engage the youth in our community in the civic process and help develop tomorrow's leaders. Sharon VanEsch volunteered to contact someone at the Medford High School to propose this project.
- iv. MOTION by Theresa Sierakowski, to have Sharon VanEsch discuss this opportunity with Medford High School. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alicia Hermes. PASSED.
- v. In order maximize survey response, we will inform the community in advance of the survey. We also discussed creating a Facebook page to increase awareness & responses. This should be discussed with City Council.

- G. MOTION to adjourn by Sharon VanEsch, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alicia Hermes. PASSED.

Next meeting- Tuesday December 6 at 7:00 p.m.

City of Medford Park Board

Minutes

December 6, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Theresa Sierakowski, Sharon VanEsch, Jeanette Sanford

- A. Call to order – 7:09 p.m.
- B. Approval of Agenda
  - a. MOTION to approve agenda- Sharon VanEsch, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeanette Sanford. PASSED.
- C. Questions/Concerns/Comments from Public – None
- D. Review/Approval of Minutes
  - a. MOTION by Theresa Sierakowski to approve the amended minutes of the November 15, 2011 meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon VanEsch. PASSED.
- E. Old Business
  - a. Community Survey:
    - i. Theresa Sierakowski attended the last city council meeting & was met with unanimous approval to move forward with a community survey that will act as a guide to develop the 3-5 year comprehensive plan for the Medford Park System.
    - ii. Sharon VanEsch has been in contact with Jeff Halverson, the business teacher at Medford High School. She is happy to report that he seemed very enthusiastic about assisting with this project. The park board will continue communicating with Mr. Halverson to outline our goals for the community survey and will work with his class in guiding the survey's development. It sounds like March 2012 will be a good time for the class to conduct this survey as part of their marketing curriculum.
    - iii. We will also discuss, with Mr. Halverson, the possibility of surveying Medford Public School students, as we feel their input as current citizens & future leaders is important.
    - iv. Theresa Sierakowski will follow up with Mr. Halverson to develop plans for the survey's creation & implementation.
    - v. Jeanette Sanford volunteered to go to the classroom and work with the class to understand our goals for the survey.
    - vi. The park board hopes that the entire community becomes aware of all the amenities and opportunities the Medford Park System actually has so that these resources are appreciated, utilized, and supported.
    - vii. Currently functioning park spaces (that we would like to improve):
      - 1. Straight River Park
      - 2. Frank Woodfill Wildlife Reserve
      - 3. Central Park
      - 4. Radel Park
      - 5. Walking paths within the Oak Ridge Bluffs Addition
    - viii. Green spaces with development opportunities:
      - 1. Jones Addition green space

## 2. New water tower green space

### b. Ice Rink

- i. We were informed that the city council's decision about the ice rink. Due to a budgetary shortfall, the ice rink will not be set up this year. It was not put into the budget and there are no additional funds to draw from for its maintenance/operation. It will be reviewed for re-entry into the next fiscal year. The park board understands this regrettable, yet understandable situation. We gladly accept community input in regards to the placement of a future ice rink in town.

## F. New Business

### a. Park board positions available:

- i. Sharon VanEsch regretfully informed us of her resignation from the board. Her last meeting was December 2011. We are sad to see her go.
- ii. We now have 2 park board positions open. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our team to make an impact on the future, beauty, function and fun of our community, please contact one of the Park Board members or Medford City Hall for more information.

### b. Potential Future Bike Trail

- i. Theresa Sierakowski mentioned there are efforts to create a bike trail between Owatonna and Faribault. The bike trail is proposed to run on an exempt railroad track that runs through Medford. We are eager to learn more about this opportunity and be a partner in this endeavor. We feel this could be a wonderful addition to our parks as well as a potential for economic development, as the trail parallels our beautiful Straight River and could be attractive for tourism, along with Cabela's, the outlet mall, and nearby hotels.
- ii. Theresa Sierakowski and Jeanette Sanford expressed interest in attending the next Steele County Park Board meeting to learn more about this as well as learn more about what our neighboring park boards are doing. Jeanette Sanford also volunteered to attend a Rice County Park Board meeting to learn what they are doing to that same end.
- iii. We will also look into attending Faribault & Owatonna Park board meetings, to see what our neighbors are doing and how they do it.

### c. Improved communication

- i. Theresa discussed the social media/ Facebook communication idea with City Council. They like the idea and feel it is best if this is part of the scope of responsibility for our new city administrator when that person is hired. We look forward to utilizing new and innovative ways to engage our citizens and create more involvement.

### d. Pool

- ii. We briefly discussed the future of the pool. The entire decking needs to be replaced, and the plumbing under the decking should be replaced at the same time. Jeanette Sanford raised the idea that perhaps we could research the option to make our pool a saltwater pool. She will bring research results to the next meeting. Hopefully there will be enough information to determine if it is even a viable option.
- iii. We also discussed the possibility of a multi-use building where the pool house could also serve as a chalet/community center. Ideas are welcome as any discussion of the pool/building will become a part of the research towards our 3-5 year comprehensive plan.

G. MOTION to adjourn by Theresa Sierakowski, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sharon VanEsch. PASSED. Adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Next meeting- Tuesday January 3 at 7:00 p.m.  
Happy New Year!