ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

Public Services

Cemetery, Engineering, Parks and Public Works

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

DATE: Tuesday, March 15, 2016

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Anoka City Hall – Council Work Session Room
2015 First Avenue North, Anoka

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVE MINUTES

3. OPEN FORUM

4. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Anoka Station Park Master Plan
   b. Anoka Development Opportunities
   c. Playground Shade Options

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
   a. Castle Field Plaques
   b. Winter Recreation
      1) Rinks Update
      2) Sledding Hill
      3) Winter Trails

6. MISCELLANEOUS
   a. Anoka Boards/Commissions Appreciation Dinner - April 14

7. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

8. ADJOURNMENT

If unable to attend, please call the Parks Department at 763-576-2980.

Auxiliary aids for handicapped persons are available upon request at least 96 hours in advance. Please call the Human Resource Coordinator at 763-576-2740 to make arrangements.

CITY OF
ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

4a. Anoka Station Park Master Plan

ANOKA CITY HALL
2015 First Avenue North, Anoka, MN 55303
763-576-2700
www.ci.anoka.mn.us
Equal Opportunity Employer

Kimley»Horn

Station Park: *Concept Plan*

1.26.16 | Anoka, MN

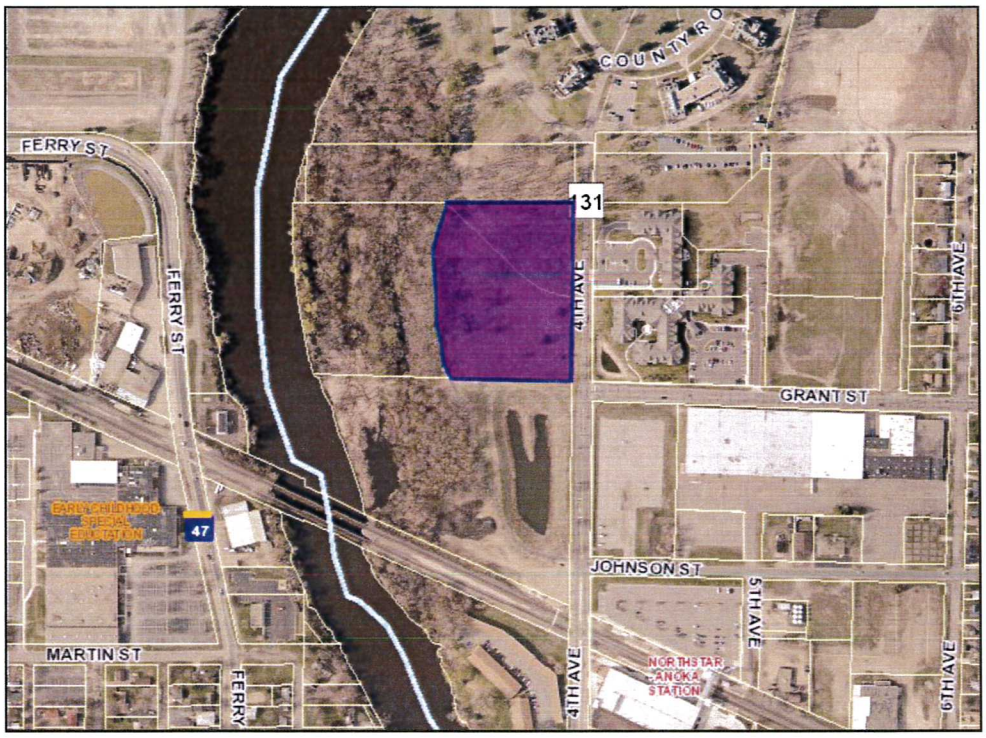
CITY OF
ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

4b. Anoka Development Opportunities

ANOKA CITY HALL
2015 First Avenue North, Anoka, MN 55303
763-576-2700
www.ci.anoka.mn.us
Equal Opportunity Employer

ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

Site 3
Rum River and 4th Avenue



PID -

06-31-24-22-0035

06-31-24-22-0018

Zoning -

Transit Oriented Development

Size (Acres) -

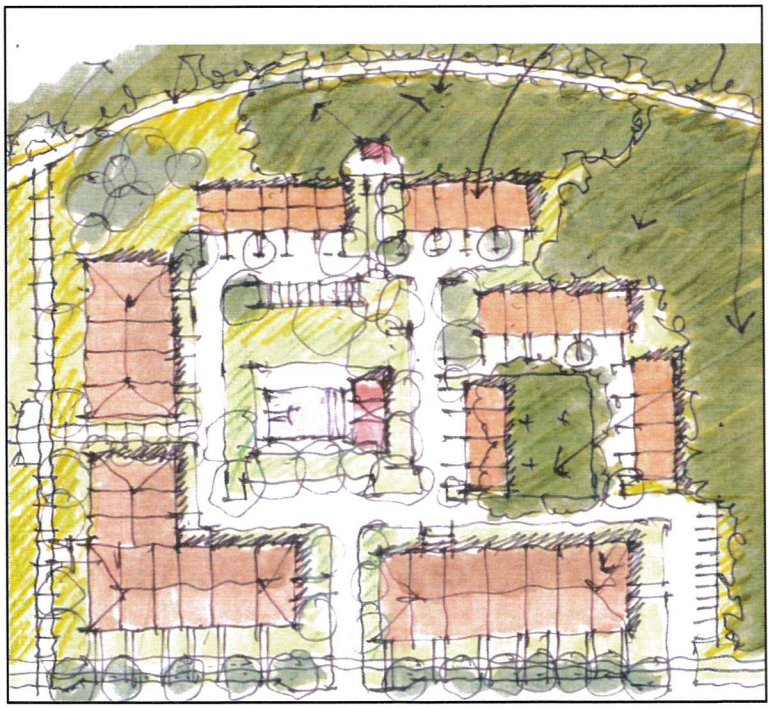
6.96

Desired Land Use -

Owner occupied condos or townhomes

Other Site Characteristics -

- Located adjacent to Rum River and in close proximity to Northstar Station
- City improvements to be completed in near future include Anoka Station Park and invasive species removal
- Utilities: Gas and sanitary sewer lines run north-south through property. Would have to be re-located or avoided.



QUESTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL:

1) Move forward with marketing the site for owner occupied condos or townhomes?

Current Owner - City of Anoka

City Contact - Chuck Darnell, 763-576-2716

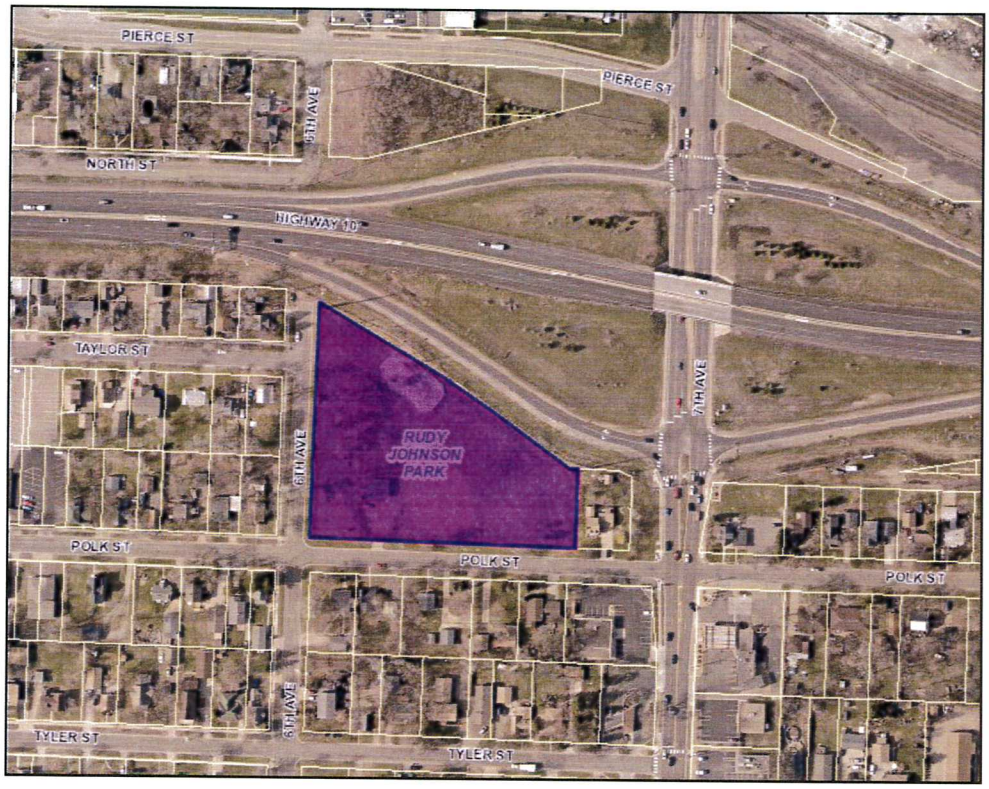
Broker Contact - None

Asking Price - Negotiable

Appraiser's Opinion of Value - $

ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

Site 12
7th Avenue and Highway 10



PID -

06-31-24-31-0142

Zoning -

R-1 Single Family

Size (Acres) -

2.81

Desired Land Use -

Office

Other Site Characteristics -

- Visibility and access from Highway 10

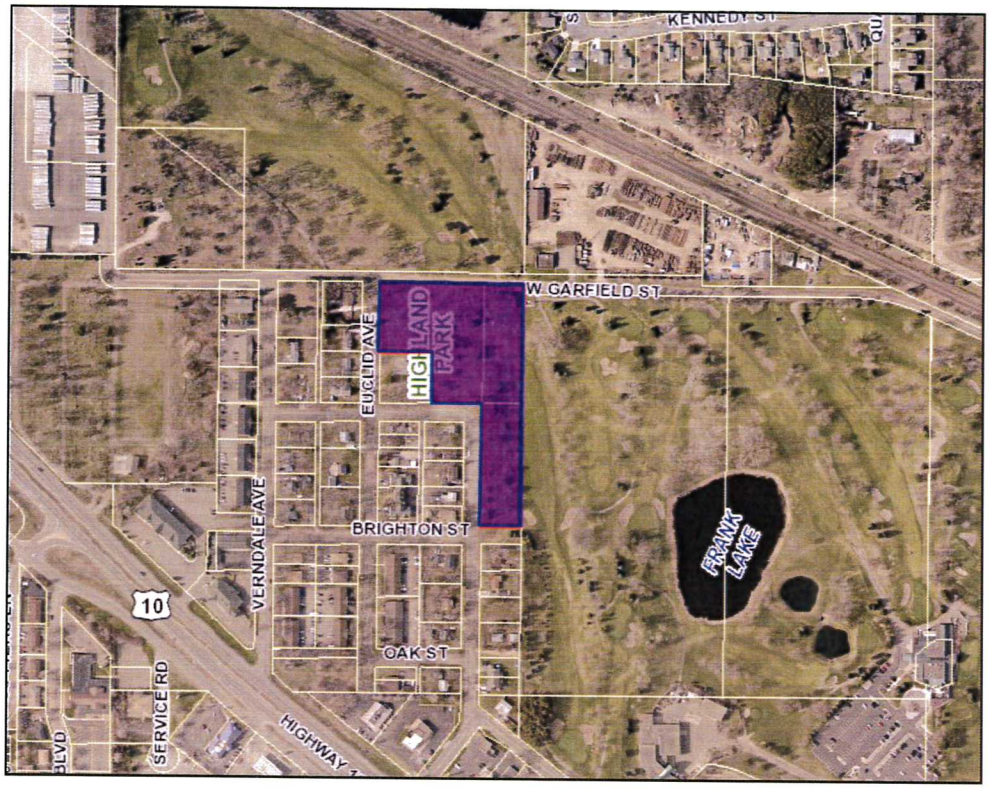
QUESTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL:

1) Any changes to the marketing of this site?
2) Should the redevelopment site include the parcel to the east on the corner of Polk Street and 7th Avenue?

Current Owner - City of Anoka	**Asking Price** - Negotiable
City Contact - Chuck Darnell, 763-576-2716	**Appraiser's Opinion of Value** - $
Broker Contact - None	

ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

Site 22
West Side of Green Haven



PID -

01-31-25-22-0001
01-31-25-22-0002
01-31-25-22-0037

Zoning -

R-1 Single Family Residential

Size (Acres) -

4.7

Desired Land Use -

Villas/Townhomes

Other Site Characteristics -

- Adjacent to Green Haven Golf Course

Concept A

Concept B

QUESTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL:

1) Any changes to the marketing of this site?

Current Owner - City of Anoka

City Contact - Chuck Darnell, 763-576-2716

Broker Contact - None

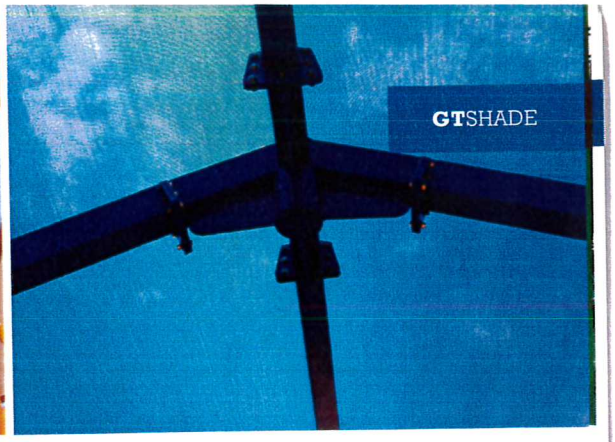
Asking Price - Negotiable

Appraiser's Opinion of Value - $

CITY OF
ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

4c. Playground Shade Options

ANOKA CITY HALL
2015 First Avenue North, Anoka, MN 55303
763-576-2700
www.ci.anoka.mn.us
Equal Opportunity Employer



A. Cantilevered

A cantilever is used as a structural element projecting from vertical supports. Our uniquely designed cantilever structures are used to provide shade over any area where only one side can be attached to the ground.

B. Waves

Waves are designed for ground level play components or small play structures for preschool children. Because of the angled fabric, this shade can be positioned to block the maximum amount of the sun's rays.

C. Sails

Sails are unique designs that will add drama and excitement to any area. Because of their distinctive shape, they are a great choice whenever you want to attract attention or make a statement. Ideal for play structures, as well as picnic or resting areas.

D. Pyramid

Our single post pyramid is the perfect solution to provide shade over small areas where footing space is limited but shade is essential. They enhance the aesthetics and appearance of the setting they are used in.

A

Single Cantilevered 10' x 20'

$9,000.00

B

Wave 20' x 20' $5,000.00

C

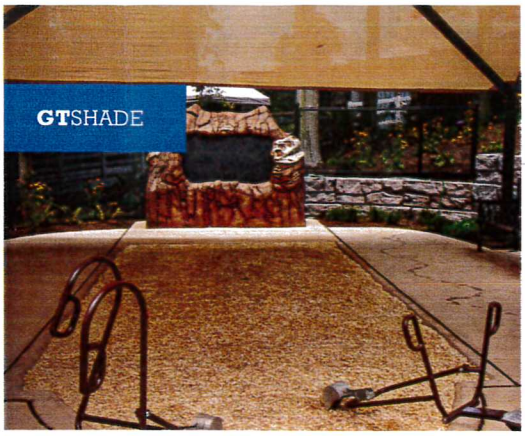
Sail 30' x 30'

$12,750.00

D

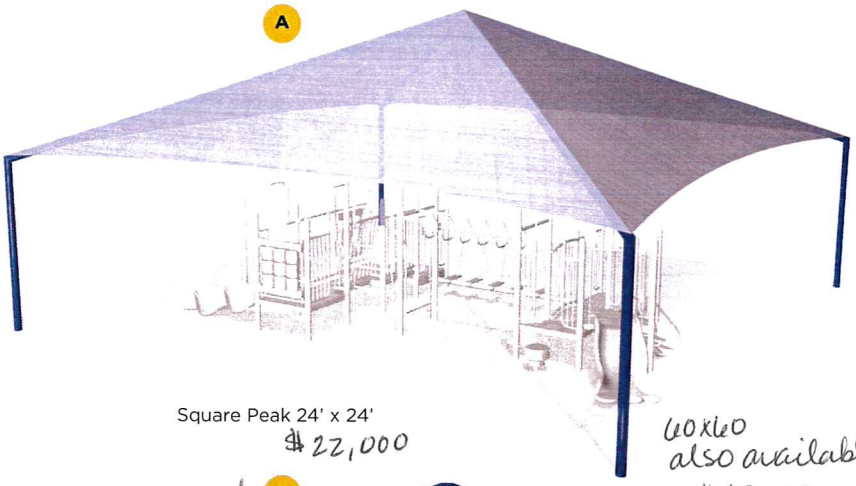
Single Post Pyramid 12' x 12'

$2300.00



Our freestanding shade structures add comfort, fun and style to any park, recreation area or playground. Shade can make a playground more comfortable. Studies have shown that a comfortable play environment encourages children to play longer and to realize more benefits from play.

A



Square Peak 24' x 24'
$22,000

60x60
also available
$42,000

B

Hexagonal 30'
$13,100.00

GTShade™

A. Square Peaked

Square structures feature a pyramidal design, with a point at the apex. They are most often used when the area to be shaded is square. They are also a great choice when the shape enhances or matches the design and roof line of existing buildings.

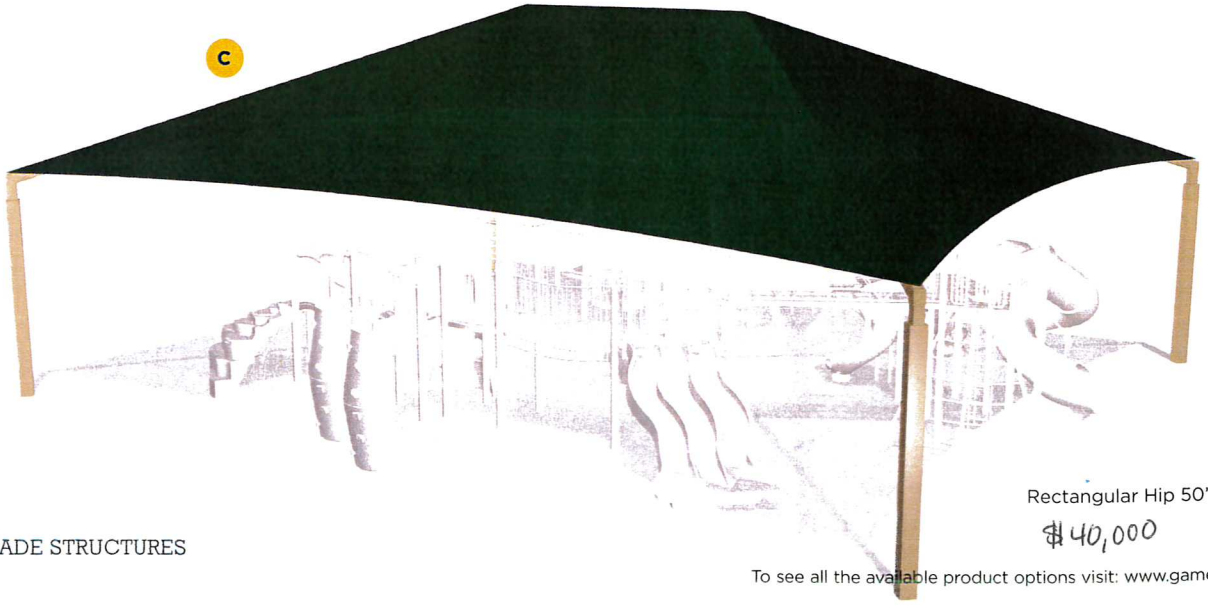
B. Hexagonal

Hexagons are used when the conventional structures are not sufficient to cover the desired area. Also, if there are obstructions such as plants, fences, or poles, the shape of the hexagonal structure allows you to cover the desired area without disrupting the existing obstructions. These shapes are also used when they enhance existing structures and design.

C. Rectangular Hip

The rectangular hip structure is one of our most popular options as it is well suited to the shape of most playground designs. It is often used to repeat the design of surrounding roof and building designs.

C



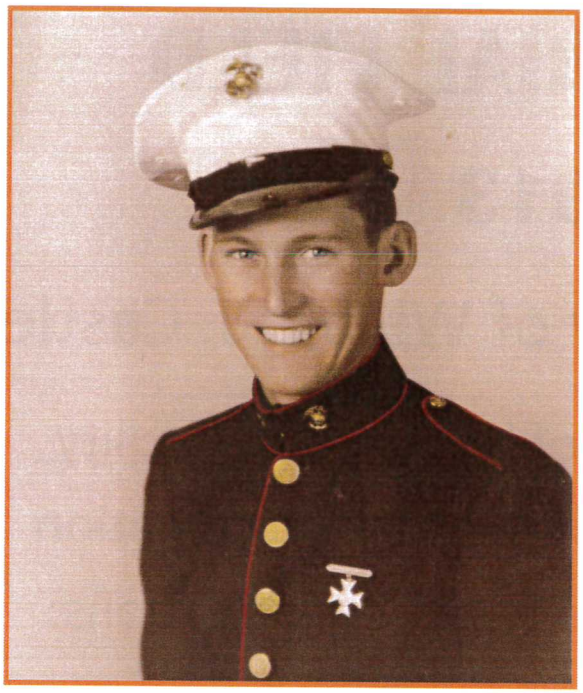
Rectangular Hip 50' x 60'
$40,000

To see all the available product options visit: www.gametime.com

CITY OF
ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

5a. Castle Field Plaques

ANOKA CITY HALL
2015 First Avenue North, Anoka, MN 55303
763-576-2700
www.ci.anoka.mn.us
Equal Opportunity Employer



WILLARD J. CASTLE

1926 - 1952

Willard "Butch" Castle, was a lifelong resident of Anoka, Corporal in the Marine Corps serving in World War II, and an outstanding athlete. He received All-Region and All-District honors in basketball while attending Anoka High School and was a notably talented baseball player. His life ended tragically at the young age of 26, during a work accident, while employed with the City of Anoka Electric and Water Utility.

The first Castle Field, previously known as Greenhaven Field, was located on the west end of Main Street and was named and dedicated in his memory in 1953. For 62 years, a mix of youth and adult teams played baseball at the original Castle Field. Willard's memory lives on through all who have played ball on the community field.

With cooperation and support from the Anoka American Legion Post #102 and Anoka-Hennepin School District 11, the City of Anoka constructed the new field. In keeping with the traditions of the original field, the new facility has a sunken infield with elevated seating. Monuments from the original facility help connect the past to the present and future.

Castle Memorial Field was rededicated on July 3, 2013.

CASTLE MEMORIAL FIELD

1953, 2013

Dedicated to the Memory of Willard J. Castle

The relocation and construction of this baseball facility would not have been possible without the coordination and support of the following community organizations:

- Edward B. Cutter Anoka American Legion Post #102
- Anoka-Hennepin School District #11
- City of Anoka

Thank you to all of the City Commission/Board members, volunteers, baseball enthusiasts, and representatives from the local baseball organizations that provided their assistance with the planning and design of the *new* Castle Memorial Field.

Special thanks to the Castle Family for allowing the new field to be named in Willard's honor continuing his legacy with community baseball.

CITY OF ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

5b. Winter Recreation

ANOKA CITY HALL
2015 First Avenue North, Anoka, MN 55303
763-576-2700
www.ci.anoka.mn.us
Equal Opportunity Employer

The City of Anoka provides you and your family with many opportunities to enjoy our Minnesota winters. Whether you skate, cross-country ski, play boot hockey, or snowshoe; Anoka has it all and is waiting for you.

TO OUR PATRONS: The City of Anoka Parks Department employees spend much time and effort to provide you the finest skating facilities possible. They take pride in their work; and, although they get wet and cold, they truly care about the safety and fun of our children and patrons in general. Come and enjoy Anoka's winter activities!

Skating. The city has many fine public rinks and open skating areas for those residents who enjoy skating. The locations and hours of availability are listed below.

Warming House Facilities. The city's warming house facilities are equipped with first aid kits, telephones, and benches to sit on. Warming houses (when open) will be supervised by the rink attendant who has the authority to enforce the rules and regulations posted in these facilities. Rink attendants are not babysitters but are responsible for overseeing rink scheduling, safety, and the general operation of the facility. Rink attendants have the authority to ask patrons to leave due to misbehavior.

Sledding. The city provides a supervised lit sliding hill with warming house at George Enloe Park. Please do not build jumps or create obstacles that could be dangerous for other sliders.

Cross Country Skiing. Cross-country skiing has become a very popular recreation activity in Anoka. This activity may be enjoyed at Green Haven Golf Course and the Anoka Nature Preserve located north of the Anoka High School. The city will be grooming double track touring and a skate ski trail at Green Haven and a multi-use trail at the Anoka Nature Preserve. You are welcome to cut your own trails and ski in any of the city's parks. For more info, www.ci.anoka.mn.us.

Snowshoeing. Snowshoeing is allowed in all parks within the city. Snow shoes are welcome on the multi-use trail groomed at the Anoka Nature Preserve.

Boot Hockey and Broomball. If you and your friends decide boot hockey or broomball are the games for you, a rink can be reserved for your game by making arrangements with the attendant on duty at the rink you wish to use. All rinks are first come first served. Sorenson Park has a ½ size rink that is perfect for broomball and boot hockey.

Hockey Program. For those interested in the hockey program in Anoka, please call Anoka Area Hockey Association at 763-427-9919, or the Anoka Ice Arena, 763-427-8163.

Group Gatherings. Groups interested in a winter get-together can make arrangements to use the warming house facilities by contacting the Public Services Department at 576-2980. There will be no charge for groups using the facility during scheduled hours or when the warming house is closed. Permits are recommended to keep the attendant informed of scheduled group activities. After-hours events for "exclusive use" may also be arranged with the office. A permit and hourly fee is required at the time of making the reservation.

PUBLIC ICE SKATING RINKS	PHONE	AMENITY
• George Enloe Park 631 Lund Blvd	712-4268	General rink & 1 lit hockey rink (full size) and lit sledding hill
• Lincoln Elementary School 540 South St	712-4195	General rink & 1 lit hockey rink (full size)
• Rick Sorenson Park 2015 State Ave	576-4660	General rink & 2 lit hockey rinks (1 full size-1half size)
• Rudy Johnson Park 605 Polk St	712-4202	General rink & 1 lit hockey rink (1/2 size)
• Wilson Elementary School 1025 Sunny Lane	712-4194	General rink & 2 lit hockey rinks (full size)

WARMING HOUSES ARE OPEN & SUPERVISED DURING THE FOLLOWING HOURS:

Regular Hours:

Monday - Friday	4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday	Noon - 9:00 p.m.

School Vacation Hours:

Daily	Noon - 9:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve / New Years Eve	Noon - 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day / New Years Day	Closed

Regular Hours

Monday – Thursday	4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday	4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday	12:00p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Sundays	12:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

School Vacation Hours:

(no change to times listed above)

MLK, Pres Day and other no school days in Jan/Feb 12:00 – 8:00pm

SKATING RINK ATTENDANCE

TOTAL PATRONS	Season Totals						
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
George Enloe Park	838	1065	2703	1827	-	2343	2629
Wilson Elementary	984	1328	2341	1375	653	1892	1441
Sorenson Park	1159	1186	1569	1465	810	1998	1742
Lincoln Elementary	249	266	434	454	-	780	708
Rudy Johnson Park	687	1213	1469	915	472	1434	1157
	3917	**5058**	**8516**	**6036**	**1935**	**8447**	**7677**

AVERAGE # OF PATRONS / DAY	Season Totals						
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
George Enloe Park	22	17	34	27	-	33	39
Wilson Elementary	22.5	33	29	23	27	35	21
Sorenson Park	24	22	20	24	34	37	26
Lincoln Elementary	14	12	7	8	-	14	11
Rudy Johnson Park	18	32	18	15	20	26	17

Season length	49 days	58 days	80 days	65 days	31 days	58 days	68 days
Opening day	30-Dec-15 E/S/R 4-Jan-16 W/L	2-Jan-15	20-Dec-13	29-Dec-12	21-Jan-12	15-Dec-10	23-Dec-09
Closing day	17-Feb-16	1-Mar-15	9-Mar-14	3-Mar-13	20-Feb-12	13-Feb-11	28-Feb-10

Notes:

Patron tracking inconsistent

All rinks closed 10 days due to unseasonably warm weather/poor ice

Linocoln opened Jan 9
Enloe sledding Dec 26
Lincoln only open W-Su

all rinks closed 7 days for extreme cold
Lincoln 12/23 - 2/17

Lincoln closed 2/24
Enloe, sledding only 12/22 - 12/28

Enloe, sledding only 2/21 - 3/5

ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

Public Services – Parks & Recreation

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF THE
ANOKA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, February 17, 2016
COUNCIL WORK SESSION ROOM OF ANOKA CITY HALL
2015 FIRST AVENUE, ANOKA MN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Anderla, Margret Kallstrom, Jennifer Shoemaker, Erik Skogquist, Dave Steinbring, Dave Throne, and Ellen Ward

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Nelson, Mary Blankenship

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Lee, City Manager and Lisa LaCasse, Public Services Administrator

GUESTS: None.

CALL TO ORDER: In Steve Nelson's absence, Erik Skogquist called the meeting to order

CORRECTION TO MINUTES: Ellen Ward requested a correction to the minutes to reflect that she abstained from approving the minutes at the last meeting. After no further discussion, **motion was made by Ward, seconded by Throne, to APPROVE THE JANUARY 20, 2016, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD WITH THE CORRECTION THAT WARD ABSTAINED FROM VOTING ON APPROVAL.**

7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM
None

NEW BUSINESS

Public Services Department Reorganization

Lee: In new position as City Manager he looked at several different options for the Public Services Department. He considered promoting from within or hiring outside. About two weeks ago the decision was made to promote Lisa LaCasse to Public Services Administrator. Lee will no longer be the liaison for the Park Board as he is passing this on to Lisa.

Park Board members congratulated Lisa on her new position.

Anderla: Are you adding anyone new on staff to pick assist with this transition?

Lee: LaCasse does plan to hire someone. LaCasse: A new hire will take over management of the Aquatic Center and some additional seasonal activities – perhaps Special Events, Concerts in the Park. Details are not worked out yet. LaCasse plans on continuing to manage the cemetery for now. There is no job description written up for this position at this time. LaCasse is still formulating a plan for the new position.

Throne: Will this be a full time position? LaCasse: Yes

Skogquist: Requested clarification of how the Public Services is divided up.

Lee: Eight years ago we combined Public Works and Parks. We do not want to change that structure as it has been working very well and efficiently. The Public Services Department includes Parks, Streets, Water & Sewer and Engineering. Lisa will handle everything with parks and administration of all other divisions.

Skogquist: It does seem that the Park dept has been able to accomplish more with the combined departments and crews working together.

LaCasse: It works extremely well in that we have the expanded talent of Jon's entire crew available to us for projects. The street crew has an entirely different set of skills than the park crew – such as operating big machinery. It is also due to smart hiring. They recently hired someone who had experience installing fencing and now we have those skills in house. We have been able to save the City a considerable amount of money by now being able to do many more projects in-house.

Lee agreed and said an example is that we were able to pave around Castle Field ourselves. If Parks and Streets were still divided, this would not have worked. The crew working together benefits the City as a whole. It makes sense to combine the departments and there is a lot of shared equipment.

LaCasse said the Polk Overlook on the Rum River Trail is another example that we were able to do because of the combined crew. Lee said it is a much more effective team and even the guys find their jobs a little more interesting with the variety.

Anderla again congratulated LaCasse and said "I am sure you will do an excellent job."

Concerts in the Park

LaCasse has included a flyer in the packet for this year's Concerts in the Park. There will be two concerts at Riverfront Park and the rest will be at George Green Park. Most of the musicians listed have their own web sites where you can go to get a sneak peek at what kind of music they play. All of this information will be published on the City's web site in the next several weeks.

Skogquist said there has been some interest from Park Board members getting involved in planning for summer concerts. In the past, the Park Board did participate in this many years ago, but has been LaCasse's responsibility for a while. If anyone is interested, maybe they could offer to plan for next summer.

LaCasse: If this goes to committee for planning, they will have to start as early as June. There is a February publication deadline for the newsletter and it takes a lot to work within the budget, listen to the musicians, etc. LaCasse can do this in 6 to 8 weeks, but having a committee head it up will change the process.

Throne: Is most of your communication with the musicians during the day?

LaCasse: Yes and it is usually emails back and forth with quick responses. LaCasse starts looking at other cities musicians and checks out musicians web sites. Steinbring recently recommended a musical group and they were way out of our budget. It is a challenge to work within the budget we have. If the Park Board wants to have a subcommittee take this on, LaCasse is fine with it but wants everyone to be aware of the process. In the meantime, LaCasse encouraged everyone to recommend any local groups that they hear and think would work well for our Concerts in the Park.

HPC Plaque for Anoka's National Register of Historic Properties

The City received a $10,000 grant to recognize the historic properties in Anoka that are on the National Register. There are 7 or 8 properties – including the bridge but the bridge has a different type of sign with more information on it. LaCasse displayed the sign for Windego Park Auditorium. City crew will install them but there is concern that some of the signs are designed for mounting on a pedestal rather than

building installation. LaCasse suggested that the Park Board Members should recommend placement. There is concern that the Windego Park does not currently have a good location for the plaque.

Steinbring asked if the Windego sign would go on a post. LaCasse responded that yes this one can be mounted to a post but 5 out of 7 are for facades of buildings.

Throne asked what the posts will be made of. LaCasse indicated that the posts are 2x2 with a mounting bracket. Throne explained his concern because his daughter was involved in a project at her college where they were installing signs. Aluminum posts were used and by the time of the dedication, they found the signs had been broken off and tossed in the nearby river.

LaCasse said vandalism is a concern. Skogquist pointed out the vandalism with the Oxcart sign. LaCasse said the signs mounted on rocks/pillars seem to have more stability than those on a post. Skogquist said also those that are in high profile locations seem to be left alone. With the development of the west Rum River trail, Windego should see more traffic making the sign less vulnerable.

Steinbring asked what the timeline is on the trail. Lee said it is on the agenda a little later in the meeting. Steinbring said putting the Windego sign down there now would make it vulnerable but if the trail goes by that would be a more visible, higher traffic area.

Skogquist asked what the other locations were for the plaques. LaCasse said she knew that the Ticknor Inn, Woodbury House and Kline Sanitarium were receiving plaques but was not sure of the others. Shoemaker said also the Shaw House and 302 Freemont. Skogquist said there are five in that area, also the old post office and Colonial Hall.

City Council Goals of 2016

Lee shared the goals that were submitted to City Council and also the Council's goals. The Council Goals that involve parks include: Riverboat – re-examine possibilities, create focus group for water recreational events, Amphitheater study/solution, and Trail west side of Rum River.

Skogquist expressed his disappointment of marketing City owned property, specifically, Rudy Johnson Park, King Park and part of Sunny Acres. A lot of areas have been marketed and Skogquist feels the Park Board has been left out of this process.

Lee responded that a document about development opportunities within the City will be put on the agenda for the next Park Board meeting. This will give the Park Board the opportunity to review before it goes to City Council. Some of the development areas are park related but King Park not included. It was just mentioned in a discussion regarding "pocket parks" being a thing of the past. The current trend is larger parks with connecting trails.

Kallstrom asked what would be done with the parks if sold. Lee responded they would be sold for development. Rudy Johnson Park is being considered for redevelopment because of its visibility from Hwy 10. Kallstrom asked if it would be developed for residential. Lee responded this particular one would be commercial because of the visibility from Hwy 10.

Skogquist said he would like to have the Park Board discuss this and discuss our role in going forward on these developments. Lee said Park Board will be invited to review and provide input before this goes to City Council.

Anderla said when these parks were established, there were community parks and neighborhood parks. If they do look to marketing Rudy Johnson Park, Anderla doesn't know how that will affect the people who live nearby. This park was established so people didn't have to cross any major roads to get to a park. If they sell Rudy Johnson Park, Anderla would like to know what park they recommend the neighbors use. Anderla said you can also see John Ward Park from Hwy 10 – are they going to sell that too. Anderla would like to see someone in Planning suggest the alternative for people so they can get to a park close to them. Lee responded that for Rudy Johnson Park, the Station Park would take its place. Anderla suggested staff work with development on this to find access to parks.

Throne said when his kids were little; they used Brisbin Park a lot. It is a concern that if you get rid of Rudy Johnson Park, families will not have a park within walking distance. Kallstrom asked what the turnover is in the neighborhood and how many kids are now moving into these neighborhoods.

Ward said she lives near Rudy Johnson Park and drives by it a lot. There is a lot of skating there but not much park usage. It is very seldom used. In a week Ward could see maybe four or five kids and doesn't think Rudy Johnson gets very much use except for skating.

Kallstrom asked again if it is possible to have some kind of study done. We need to know if it is not being used before selling.

Anderla said if the basis for selling is that you see the property from Hwy 10, what about Greenhaven. He said he doesn't know if they are making money but when they used to report to parks they were not making money. Seeing a property from Hwy 10 is not a good enough reason to make up for the loss of public parks. My kids used to use Rudy Johnson Park all the time.

Amphitheater study – Anderla remembers all of the different times we have studied this and none have ever come up good. A group took ownership to fix it up and that never happened. If they want to spend money on this, like they did the house, why don't they just come out and say so. Don't spend more money on a study. That doesn't make sense.

Lee responded that maybe study isn't the right word. City Council is looking to create a plan to save and revive the amphitheater. When we review the slides for the Riverplace Counseling Center properties, you will see the vision for this area.

Skogquist agrees with Kallstrom that it doesn't sound good to sell a park but at least we will understand the need before the plan goes ahead. In the past, parks were not well planned out but occurred organically. Lee said we should consider that when parks were developed, everyone was building neighborhood parks. Kids would walk to parks alone and stay there until it was time for dinner. No one lets their children go to the parks alone any more. What has evolved are more regional parks connected by trail ways. Park needs have changed over the last 50 years and how people use parks.

Update on Riverplace Counseling Center

Lee shared a presentation from the City Council's work session regarding a proposal to purchase Riverplace Counseling Center (Medved) properties. This includes four parcels of land on the west side of the Rum River on either side of the amphitheater. In exchange, the City has land on Hwy 10 they could relocate to. Lee said there is a bigger picture to this transaction. For decades the goal has been to make a river walk along the Rum River with a connection between the east and west sides. Lee shared the slide show presentation. There have been at least two studies done on South Ferry Street. The City purchased Carpenters Hall and the Woodbury House with this trail in mind. The next big step is purchasing the Medved space. Removing these buildings would allow this land to be used a park land with better views of the River, Main Street Bridge and downtown. It would be a better recreation area and change peoples' view of Anoka. As you enter the City you would see a green corridor, a wider pedestrian corridor and a way to get down to the lower level of the amphitheater. The artist's rendering includes re-creating a canopy top over the amphitheater. These are big picture concepts and provide a dramatic change to what is there now.

Kallstrom: Would we be using the amphitheater for music in the parks? Lee responded that is something we are considering. There were plans for an amphitheater north of City Hall but now it might make more sense to develop the old amphitheater.

Kallstrom: Concerned about the highway right behind it. Skogquist: There was a sound wall concept and if it gets to that point we can review the plan. Anderla: Have there been any changes since then? Parking was an issue. Skogquist: Let's wait until it gets to the point before getting into this discussion.

Lee: Keep in mind there is a lot of Anoka History on the west side of the Rum River. The trail could provide interaction with historic information. The plan also includes some outside funding sources such as grants, etc. The next step is to acquire the Medved property and that is the key to make this vision come true. Council gave staff the okay to move forward.

Throne: Everyone I have talked to likes this idea of opening up the river. I have a couple of concerns. 1. How do you get to the amphitheater without moving a lot of dirt and cutting into the hill? Lee responded that Kimley Horn took an initial look at this and they can get an 8% grade to move up the bluff. It is steep but we have streets steeper than that. 8% is allowed as long as you have a landing. It is not clear if it will meet ADA standards but we can have two options. The upper level viewing and lower level viewing. We could also add a zig zag to the trail.

Throne: My other concern is the light on the stone house is so bright and it is dangerous when you drive. It hits you and if buildings are cleared that will be worse. LaCasse said if this development happens we might not need this spotlight which is in place to deter vandalism. LaCasse and Lee discussed there are shields that could be used to fix this on a short term basis.

Anderla asked if the new Medved facility includes housing. Lee responded yes. Skogquist asked about water access. Lee said staff is working with the City of Ramsey to extend water to this site. Other possibilities are requesting to run water through Village Bank property or access water service from the other side of Hwy 10.

Kallstrom asked if public transportation would serve the new site. Lee did not know. Shoemaker asked what the timeline is. Lee said some agreements may be signed as soon as April 18 but the area has to be platted and rezoned. The first meeting in May is when the City will pull the trigger and start moving forward. Medved will have 180 days to complete construction in order to avoid tax penalties. The buildings will not be demolished until Medved moves into its new facility. Shoemaker: So within a year. Lee responded yes. Skogquist asked about funding. Lee said funding will be from TIFF funding and electrical utilities. Skogquist said I am sure this is high priority. Lee said it is. Lee commented that he saw Paul Pierce at the meeting last night and would be interested to hear his input on this project. Skogquist said he had told Paul Pierce about the meeting but was unable to attend himself.

Castle Field Update

LaCasse: Park Board and Castle Field Association reviewed concept plans and staff has been working with Geoff Martin and are working to determine what we can do this year with the $50,000 that is budgeted. The focus will be on finishing the necessary components which are the donor wall recognizing larger donors, paver bricks and perimeter fencing so we no longer have to install temporary fencing for larger events. We need to look at how much of the existing bitumous can be removed. The consensus was the desire to show case features (donor pavers and the monuments from the old Castle Field) near the entrance gate. The donor wall will probably be the back wall of the building. We are leaning towards a three panel design incorporating a large photo of the old field with clear panels overlaying it with the donors' name. We would like to do the fence before Memorial Day so it's in place for the high school sectional tournament.

Bonnell Field Plan

LaCasse presented an update from the last time the Park Board discussed this. She has received a request from the Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association (ARAA) to create one of the fields as a grass field instead of two skinned fields. It seems to be a need for that age group and have been asking to grass one of the fields at Enloe, but staff thinks that this location and opportunity makes sense. We can put in irrigation, grass it in, and create a mound. ARAA agreed to contribute some funding toward this – a possibly $2500. The north field on Jefferson St will be grass; the south field on Brisbin St would be skinned. The school has agreed to use John Ward Park for spring sports so the City can get in and start working on demolition of the existing fences. If this sounds agreeable, we will move forward.

Skogquist expressed concern that when this floods, the southern field was really underwater. Will it have that same flow? How is drainage going to work? Lee responded that grading will correct this and a large

storm sewer pipe will go through the center of the park. There will be a catch basis outside of the field of play. LaCasse said it should not flood the corner of 7th and Brisbin anymore – but will overflow near the center of the park. The fields should drain and function better.

After no further discussion, **motion was made by Steinbring, seconded by Throne to convert the north Bonnell softball field to a grass baseball field.**

7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Biomass Removal Update for Anoka Station Park area

A request was made to the DNR for biomass removal along Fourth Avenue north of the railroad tracks on the property west of the Rum River Trail. This first request was not approved. LaCasse said using their recommendations she has submitted a second request. This delays our ability to do any work in the low areas this year. Frozen ground is needed to work down by the river in the wetland area. As soon as we receive authorization, we plan on beginning the removals. This may be a project for Football Day as well - to remove invasive species and the cat houses. The request was submitted the end of last week and LaCasse hopes that by the next Park Board meeting we will have received authorization to proceed.

Winterfest Update

LaCasse reported on the 2016 Winterfest event. LaCasse was happy to see some park board members attended and thanked Anderla and Ward for volunteering. This second year went pretty well. In the packet is information on income/expenses, attendance information, and survey responses. There will be a follow up meeting next Friday morning with the planning group. Staff thinks it will be great to have a few members of the Park Board on this committee to help with the planning. Winterfest will grow from here and may eventually include more community wide activities such as sledding hill, pond hockey at skating rinks and broaden the scope out from Greenhaven.

The wine and beer tasting had 50 more people attend than last year. On Saturday, 270 people came – it was very well attended. We would like some participation from the Park Board on the planning committee. This started as an EDC brainchild but really makes sense to involve parks and the Park Board Members.

Kallstrom: Winterfest seems similar to St. Paul's winter carnival. I can see it getting bigger.

LaCasse said the scope is endless. Ideas like moonlight skiing, a ski race, and ice carvings has been mentioned, so the sky is the limit as to how big or grand it could be. Steinbring said it is definitely driven by the amoShoemaker said she didn't go this year but the kids enjoyed the kids' activities. Ward agreed it was very fun. Shoemaker went to the wine tasting last year and really enjoyed it. Family issues prevented her from going this year. It would be nice to see it expand to some activities in town as well. This time of year, downtown is slow.

Kallstrom suggested window painting

Shoemaker said adding activities downtown would get the retailers involved and maybe help profit the stores. People might accidently get involved if they are out shopping and encounter Winterfest. She would like it expanded from Greenhaven and coordinate between locations, possibly providing shuttles.

MISC

QCTV

LaCasse and Skogquist are on the current issue of News & Views. LaCasse indicated that it focuses on parks in Anoka and also some information on Winterfest.

Parade Ordinance

City Council directed staff to change our ordinance regarding the Halloween parade. People have been putting chairs and blankets out as early as Monday before the parade. The new ordinance will not allow anything to be set up before 4:00 am the day of the parade. There will be a public campaign to get this information out to people and signage will be out to inform people. To help the situation, Lee said they are looking at bringing in two sets of bleachers for parade spectators. One at City Hall and one at 3rd and Main on the south side. People will be able to reserve spots online for $5 or $10 to cover the cost of renting the bleachers. Street level will be reserved for limited mobility or handicap residents.

Next Meeting

Items for next meeting include Anoka Station Master Plan, playgrounds and heat solution, planning and development opportunities. LaCasse encouraged Park Board members to email her with any suggestions for agenda topics up to one week before the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further discussion, a **motion was made by Ward, seconded by Anderla, to ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

7 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa LaCasse
Public Services Administrator

Jenny Spooner
Recording/Public Services Secretary