

CITY OF HERMANTOWN

PARK BOARD

Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Meeting Time: 4:30 PM

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Gene Shaw, John Klaers, City Planner/Zoning Director

Members Absent: Councilor Brad Tafs, Ann Larson, Mike Koppy, Joe Schmitz, Tom Eng

Others Present: Scott Wollack, Hermantown Youth Soccer Association

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM. There was no quorum and no Park Board business could be conducted. Chairman Shaw advised Mr. Wollack that he would listen to his proposal but could take no additional action until a quorum of the Park Board was present.

Mr. Wollack thanked Chairman Shaw for the opportunity and proceeded to explain why he asked to appear before the Park Board at this time. Scott is the newly elected President of the Hermantown Youth Soccer Association. He provided the Board with a listing of the 2010 HYSA Board Officers with contact information.

Mr. Wollack explained the HYSA Board has a number of issues they want to discuss with the Park Board and the main issue today is their request to allow commercial signs in Stebner Park. Mr. Wollack drew a diagram of Stebner Park on the white board and showed an area on the east side of the access road where they proposed a series of up to four "billboards" the size of which had not been finalized but would be in the area of four by eight feet or larger.

Each billboard would contain a number of 2 feet by 2 feet plastic signs with the names of businesses that contribute to or sponsor the HYSA program. For \$200 to \$300 per year a business would be allowed to display their name and message on the boards along the entrance to the fields and parking lots. Mr. Wollack was hopeful this program would generate about \$8,000 per year to the HYSA program. Revenue from the HYSA pull-tab operations have declined and they were hopeful this program would provide additional needed revenue for the program.

Mr. Wollack said the HYSA Board did not want to do anything that took away from other youth sports organizations fund raising programs and therefore they did not want to do anything similar to what the youth hockey association, baseball, or softball does to raise money in Hermantown.

Chairman Shaw stated that he was an officer in the HYSA and questioned why the HYSA Board would not rather hold a tournament for the younger soccer players? They have five fields in one location with adequate parking and such a tournament would bring out lots of family and friends. They could have contract concessions and make a lot of money in a short period of time.

John Klaers questioned why HYSA would want to control the field irrigation system. This was an issue in the past and HYSA ran up a city water bill of about \$30,000 and complained about the cost. Since then the Park Board has recommended HYSA have a budget for watering and the City would operate the system consistent with their budget. All of the fields now have rain gauges and the system will not operate unless there is a need for water. It is not likely the City would relinquish control of the system because of the need to maintain water levels in all of the local water towers.

John Klaers also asked Scott about the \$63,000 that HYSA presently owes the City for Field #5 and paving of the parking lots. Scott responded that revenues were down and they needed to cover other expenses. John responded that the City had reviewed the state reports and it appears they have the revenue to meet that obligation.

Mr. Wollack was advised to put his proposal in writing and submit it to John Klaers for Board review and discussion at the March 16, 2010 regular meeting.

This informal discussion ended at 5:35 PM

Officiated by:

Transcribed by:

Gene Shaw, Chairman

John Klaers, City Planner / Zoning Director