

CITY OF MONTESANO
February Park's Board Meeting Minutes
7:00-9:00 pm Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Attendance: Alice Hutchinson, Brandon Klinger, Lori Benedict, Councilman Pat Herrington, Mayor Ron Schillinger, Dori Cooper & Chad Mittleider (Girl's Softball Association), Adam Collins & Jeremy Wintrip (Babe Ruth), Russ Burke (Assist. Public Works Director), Ryan Watkins (Parks Maintenance Staff), Mike Wincewicz (Public Works Director), Tim Trimble (School Athletic Director), Scott Martin (School Maintenance Supervisor), Becky Scott (Youth Soccer), Mark Sigler, Tom Trout & Tami Herzog (Little League Association).

Mayor Ron Schillinger welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending. He made three points:

- 1) This meeting is a user group meeting to discuss past problems, solutions and schedules. Everyone is here because they care: about their organization, facilities, the community and the kids.
- 2) The Park's Board is an advisory board, and is still searching for their mission.
- 3) In the absence of city staff to handle parks & rec issues, scheduling, facilities and user group coordination, the user group individuals will need to step up to that task for the community, and compromise on their schedules and needs and communicate with each other. To that end, a sign-up sheet with emails was signed, and everyone uses email on a regular basis to communicate. To avoid the need for endless meetings, it was suggested that email communication be used.

Beacon Park Field area is about half the size that was anticipated, but should be usable as flat green space after July, 2010. It was believed that if oriented efficiently, there could be room for 3 youth soccer fields in 2010. Other possibilities for soccer field space to replace field losses at Simpson and Beacon Grade School are VFW Park for small kids, Central Park Lions Club Park and Central Park School fields.

The 2010 Field Use schedule will be prepared by Mayor Ron Schillinger. Time and space will be allocated the same as it was by Mike Bruner back in 2009. Russ Burke (589-1134) volunteered again to administer the schedules and handle any issues or problems. The "Field Closed" sign for Vessey will be handled by the City staff. Little League & Girl's softball take care of the same @ Crait & Nelson.

Field maintenance and inventory has not been completed. Actual field and park maintenance or projects needed to be cleared and approved by City Public Works. Ryan Watkins advised that City Staff was interested in being there to help with any user-group work parties @ fields, they just need to notify him (589-2625). Vessey Field had a lot of work by the Public Works crew done in 2010, but there was a lot on the table left to do by someone.

Facility status/needs discussed:

High School gym:	No use for baseball of any sort at any time due to facility damages and failure to follow the rules.
Bowers Batting Building:	Pat Pace is in charge of scheduling, and supervision and ability to abide by use-rules is key to future usage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coach MUST be present at all times. • Players must follow each and every rule at all times.
Simpson Field:	Tee Ball would be the only use in 2010.
Old Sewer Treatment Plant (by Park'n' Ride):	The area is small, but totally fenced, and mowed every week as needed by Public Works Staff. It could be used for little people soccer or tee ball folks.
Vessey Field:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concession roof project by Babe Ruth was done in 2009. • Concession needs to be gutted and start over. • Babe Ruth would like to sell signs to raise money for field maintenance, and discussed the idea of lowering the price to \$200/year. Ron & Pat advised on both issues, the City Council would need to decide. • Babe Ruth pays for field lights, so they have first right to concession stands. • Babe Ruth & Youth soccer will coordinate on field use scheduling in the late summer and fall. • Babe Ruth has 20 to 30 kids out each year for 2 or 3 teams. Age groups are: 13, 14 and 15.
Crait Field:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City cleans up garbage regularly. • Girl's softball has the right to open concession stands for High School games. • High school has priority for field use due to mutual agreement because of team travel costs, etc. • All users were encouraged to clean up after use.
Nelson Field:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little League has done much work with many work parties to address all of the important maintenance issues, and it is currently in good shape. • City crew is working on a field fence project on the First Street side.
Beacon School Fields:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North field has been a little torn up by the construction; however, Little League is in the process of moving the Vessey Field backstop there. • The South Field is playable, but has no backstop. • It was okay to schedule use for each field for 2010.

Youth soccer was reported on by Becky Scott (364 kids, 45 teams). Becky does all of the scheduling. Fall practice begins mid July, games begin after Labor Day and run through second weekend of December. Because of the high number of teams, they end up using all of the city as well as school fields, and they coordinate field use with Scott Martin (School) and other users. Their demand is so high, that they began a Spring League Soccer program where there are no practices, but they just have games to get the kids out and have fun. They

pay for PortaPotties for field use too. Spring sign ups begin April 1, and is all done on-line. British Soccer Camp is already scheduled through Becky Scott for July 19-23, 2010.

Little League reported that their Opening Day Ceremonies happen on April 17, 2010. They begin practices on March 1. Tee Ball begins May 1, 2010. They are a registered, legal and certified non profit organization, and since the lights at Nelson Field are so bad, and the city never has any money to repair, they are beginning to research and look for grant money that they would actually apply for and seek to get the lights repaired under contract. Each year Little League makes about \$8,000 from their advertising sign program, and bring in about \$16,000 on their concessions. They send out letters to businesses, then follow up with a personal visit for the signs.

It was jointly concurred by most everyone from the user groups that the past policy of “First Come First Serve” did not work well, especially for Hyde Field. They requested that times actually be scheduled. There are 3 girls and 4 or 5 boys travel teams that use the various fields. Those teams take local kids out from the local teams, as well as use our facilities for all of the other kids on the teams, without participating either maintenance-wise or fee-wise. Most of the travel teams do not participate in local work parties or pay fees that help in the field maintenance, and because there is no field police to make sure they follow the local rules, many do not follow the rules either through ignorance or through no enforcement. It was felt that due to the overall shortage of field space in Monte in 2010, those teams be asked to practice, have games and play in other locations or towns, especially in 2010.

The various enrollments from 2009 were: Girls Softball (120); Youth Football (108); Youth Soccer (364); Little League (5-12 year olds....217).

Ron reported that the City will be pleased to advertise and provide publicity for any of the user groups’ activities or programs via the city Website, press releases and/or future quarterly newsletters. Get Ron Schillinger your write-up’s or announcements via either email (mayor@montensano.us) or drop them off for him at City Hall front desk. The deadlines for the future newsletters are: April 16 for the April 30 mailing, July 19 for the July 30 mailing; and September 17 for the September 30 mailing. The news letters go to all City residents.

Each group should get their “Field Dry” order to Russ Burke.

The next Parks Board meeting is scheduled for City Hall @ 7:00 pm, Wednesday, March 3, 2010. Mayor Schillinger will send out an announcement letter with agenda. The current Park Board would like to have better communication from the administrative side about its role and the process for decisions. The Board would appreciate a more positive attitude from the Mayor. Current members need to be talked to seriously by the Mayor about their role, and participation and objectives, since all these things have changed since the loss of staff. It used to be that staff organized and presented information to the Board, then did what the Board told staff to do. Now there is no staff!! Big Change! The idea that perhaps each user group ought to be represented by one of their membership on the Board was also set forth. “Working together to get it done!”