

**McKenna Park Centennial Celebration Planning Committee Formation**  
**March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the Women's History Club on S. Phillips Avenue**

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**Meeting Called By:**

- **Erica Beck, Senior Planner for the City Planning Office**  
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- **Susie Garry, Recreation Coordinator for City Park & Recreation Office**  
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**Why:** The dedication of McKenna Park occurred in 1908

**When:** The second weekend of August. The 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Where:** McKenna Park

**What Activities:**

General Concepts / Ideas:

- Souvenir Booklets – including history of the park with photos
- Souvenir Buttons – McKenna Centennial 1908-2008
- Helen McKenna Plaque / Marker to be located at the node of the north formal garden expansion

Details:

- August 8<sup>th</sup> (Friday)
  - Historical Walking Tours of Park & Historic District (Maybe Home Tours)
  - Dedication of the Helen McKenna Plaque / Marker
  - Formal “one-woman” Helen McKenna Performance in Garden Area
  - Static displays throughout the park of historic park photos and floral photography.
- August 9<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)
  - Historical Walking Tours of Park & Historic District (Maybe Home Tours)
  - Tennis Tournament
  - Horse-Shoe Tournament
  - Petting Zoo
  - Mother & Child Tea Party
- August 10<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)
  - Ecumenical Sunday Service
  - Historical Walking Tours of Park & Historic District (Maybe Home Tours)
  - Static displays throughout the park of historic park photos and floral photography.
  - Ice Cream Social / or Lemonade & Cookies
  - Municipal Band in the band shell

**Who:**

Planning Staff

Park & Rec Staff

BOHP

P&R Board

Neighbors

McKenna Hospital

The Women's History Club

**Next Step(s):**

- Organize a planning committee that includes volunteers & neighborhood champions.
- Establish activities for the celebration
- Establish subcommittees per activity
- Meet regularly and set-up email contact list (see sign-up sheet)

**History:**

Helen McKenna died on September 29, 1906. Prior to her death, Mrs. McKenna consulted with Edwin A. Sherman on how to formulate her will. After changing her mind on giving the section of farmland to the Congregational Church of Sioux Falls and the remaining estate to her brother, she told Sherman that her intent was to use the twenty acres as a park. She told Sherman, "I want it to be a place where mothers and their children can come and enjoy the fresh air, the sunshine and the cooling shade. I want it to be a place of rest where the Sabbath may be respected and where order and temperance may prevail."

*(See McKenna Park Historic District Brochure)*