



PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, September 10, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Public Works

Conference Room

Call to Order

Roll Call

Adopt Agenda

Approval of August 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Approval of August 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Parks & Open Space Masterplan Update

Disc Golf Request and Proposal

Other Business

Adjourn



Park & Rec - Regular

Meeting Date: 09/10/2012

SUBJECT: Approval of August 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Attachments

AugustMinutes

COON RAPIDS PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2012

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order on August 6, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. in the Public Works Conference Room.

Members Present: Commissioners Mary Lou Hecht, Mike Jacobson, Ryan McAlpine, and Neal Livermore.

Members Absent: Commissioners Tim Arntson, Gen Sand and Steven Head.

Also Present: Gregg Engle, Parks Supervisor, Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator and Steve Gatlin, Public Services Director.

1. ROLL CALL

Gregg Engle acknowledged roll call.

Brad Becker of 10920 Kumquat stated that he lives by the south end of Moor Park and it is not maintained. He commented that it is not watered. He reported that cars are there at 2 a.m. He added that there are no lights on in the night. Mr. Engle reported that the lighting is on timers. He commented that previously the lighting was discussed with residents who negotiated that the lighting would have set hours.

Mr. Becker reported that the grass used to be beautifully landscaped and now the ground is not even level. He indicated that his relatives visited and asked what happened to the park. He commented that there are tree stumps and weeds now. He commented that neighbors are in agreement that the park is in poor condition. Mr. Engle stated that this area is to the east of the old hockey rink.

Mr. Becker provided pictures. Mr. Engle stated that three years ago they reduced the park maintenance and cut back on spraying for weeds.

Mr. Becker reported that a neighbor who lives by 109th complains that the small pine trees are not watered. He listed off other neighbor's complaints that the park looks bad, concrete is coming out of the ground, there are large branches, a lack of watering the grass and pine trees, cars are parked until the middle of the night and there is no lighting. He reported that on this side of the park there is no signage about keeping the park clean and that golf playing is not allowed. He commented that on the 4th of July it was difficult to navigate across the park as the ground was uneven and unsafe. He stated that cars park on the park land as the lot is full. He explained that people are not cleaning up after their pets. Mr. Engle stated that a dog station was put up in Moor Park and it was lit on fire. He stated that by the playground they need to mow twice.

Mr. Becker commented that maintenance staff mows over the top of the tree branches. Mr. Engle offered to contact Mr. Becker and stop by to tour the problem areas.

Commissioner Jacobson supported Mr. Becker in calling the police when there are issues.

Mr. Engle asked how Mr. Becker enjoys the park. Mr. Becker stated that it used to be beautiful and now it has gone downhill.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 6, 2012 AGENDA

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HECHT, TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 6, 2012 AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 9, 2012 MINUTES

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, TO APPROVE THE JULY 9, 2012 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Parks, Trails and Master Plan Update.

Mr. Engel noted that Brauer & Associates is present to discuss the mapping of their findings thus far in the master plan update. This mapping is to enhance the fluid discussion with the Parks Commission. The mapping is based on staff, public open house, survey, taskforce, and Commission feedback.

Jason Amberg of Brauer & Associates stated that they have named the key, larger parks cornerstone parks and the smaller parks are referred to as neighborhood parks. He added that Sand Creek will receive a major overhaul and there is a potential community center park near the ice arena. He suggested that the Community Center Park would be the cornerstone park instead of Pheasant Ridge Park, which is a more passive area. He mentioned that Crooked Lake Park would have improved access and circulation, improvement to the beach, improved tennis court, addition of a splash pad and a skate park. This would improve the northern area of the city. He noted that at Sand Creek there is a skate park and a splash pad is proposed at Al Flynn Park. He explained that the display boards are to give ideas to date. He commented that Lions Coon Creek Park would have improved shelters as this is a premium park. He stated that for Sand Creek there are several ideas to improve the layout, lighting and ground pipes. He stated that at Al Flynn they would improve tennis courts, replace playground amenities and add a splash pad. He added that Pheasant Ridge would remain a mostly passive park with updated trails, new e playground equipment and improved park entry features.

Mr. Gatlin confirmed that there will be three cornerstone parks with tennis courts. Mr. Amberg stated that additional tennis courts will continue to be available in some neighborhood parks.

Mr. Gunderson stated that the philosophy now for tennis is that they focus on a smaller court for the age 10 and under. He cautioned removing too many tennis courts as he believes the sport may start growing with the new focus. Mr. Engle stated that they could bring the number of tennis court locations down to eight total.

Commissioner McAlpine confirmed that having a tennis court with four courts in one location is favorable versus a smaller number of courts.

Commissioner Jacobson asked about Crooked Lake as he sees the tennis courts being used frequently. Commissioner Livermore commented that the tennis courts at Riverview could be removed.

Commissioner McAlpine inquired whether Northdale has tennis courts as there are other parks with courts in this area.

Commissioner McAlpine suggested tabling the idea of deciding which specific courts to eliminate for the time being.

Mr. Amberg suggested keeping tennis courts at Crooked Lake, and Sand Creek and remove them from Riverview. Mr. Gunderson offered to look at the summer log to see where tennis courts are in use.

Commissioner Livermore suggested looking at the neighborhood parks that have tennis courts. Mr. Gunderson added that the college also has tennis courts.

Mr. Amberg suggested keeping the tennis courts at Kennedy. Mr. Livermore stated that removing the courts at Acorn and Alder were discussed previously.

Mr. Amberg suggested keeping the double courts at Alder if one is considered. Mr. Engle stated that this had work done on it a few years ago.

Commissioner Livermore stated that the list of courts can be determined at a later date as it is a budgetary issue.

Mr. Gatlin confirmed that a splash pad would be located north and south. Mr. Amberg commented that this is a good balance if the Community Center is developed.

Commissioner Livermore suggested adding a splash pad at Lions Park as a lot of moms groups use this park. He suggested that this would be a nice balance of locations.

Mr. Amberg asked about trail connections. He suggested a connection from Prospect Park to the Mississippi River trail. He added that funding to replace some areas of missing sidewalk may be obtained through safe connections for schools. He added that a connection is missing in Al Flynn. He suggested improving pedestrian crossings by Pheasant Ridge and Vineyards.

Mr. Gatlin stated that the Engineering Department looked at the missing sidewalks. He stated that around 19,600 linear feet or four miles along both sides of Coon Rapids Boulevard are missing. He stated that Northdale Boulevard is also missing sidewalk. He recommended adding this improvement. He noted that this is 2.2 million dollars in sidewalk that is missing. He asked for Commission approval to add this to the plans. He commented that this will take a long time to address.

Commissioner McAlpine noted that on the west side of Egret going to the park where it looks like there is a natural easement the street has to be crossed twice as there is missing trail. He stated that adding trail here would mean only needing to cross a busy street once. He suggested using the easement to create a trail. He added that this has been identified as a priority area.

Commissioner Livermore suggested creating a no parking area from Foley to Coon Rapids Boulevard. Commissioner McAlpine asked about adding a trail connection by LL Jacob as it is missing in this area.

Mr. Amberg explained that beyond the critical connections they were asked to address safety issues at the neighborhood meetings. This includes straightening curves and removing some tree lines. Mr. Engle stated that trimming back tree lines has been addressed.

Mr. Amberg stated that working with Anoka to further the connection of the Mississippi Trail is a goal. He added that Legacy Funding may be available to address this.

Commissioner McAlpine reported that going east over the bridge covering East River Road there is no trail connection. He added that the bridge does not have a sidewalk. Commissioner Livermore confirmed that this is by the rental storage area.

Mr. Amberg reviewed which areas would receive varying level of improvements. He confirmed the higher level parks would be Riverwind, Delta, Peppermint Stick, Trackside, Woodcrest and Mason Park. He reviewed mid-level improvements with some amenity updates would include Wildwood, Vineyards, Woodview, and Towerview Parks. He reviewed low level of improvements includes accessibility to the park or within the park. Mr. Engle stated that he is in support of the assessment of what is needed.

Commissioner Livermore asked about the costs for redevelopment. Mr. Amberg stated that a full park redevelopment may be \$200-400,000.

Commissioner Jacobson asked what amenities will be put in for the major designs. Mr. Amberg recommended addressing the needs of individual neighborhoods when making this decision.

Mr. Gunderson added that Little League plays on grass fields at neighborhood parks. Mr. Engle stated that Moor Park is an example. He stated that hockey needs to be considered.

Mr. Amberg stated that this is a long range plan. He added that they will look at the types of facilities that would fit in each park and assign dollar amounts for each area as a proposal. Mr. Engle stated that he is finding the plan very well rounded as the amenities will be spread through the community. He stated that many trails are needed which will take time.

Consensus of the Commission is that they are in agreement to support the plans they are reviewing.

Mr. Gunderson stated that he has learned this community is very bikable and the county roads have comfortably sized shoulders to ride on. He suggested that options for family biking needs to be addressed. He added that striping would help with this. Commissioner Livermore agreed. He suggested that corner accesses needs to be lined up more.

Commissioner Jacobson asked if bike trails need to be separate from sidewalks. Commissioner Livermore stated that the width of the sidewalk needs to be considered for safety.

Commissioner Jacobson asked if the master plan differentiates a sidewalk from a trail. Mr. Gatlin stated that it will be a trail sidewalk, which would be five to six feet wide.

Mr. Gunderson stated that the fields are not ADA accessible. Mr. Amberg stated that this should be evaluated. He added that this is not necessarily expensive.

Commissioner McAlpine asked about location of hockey rinks. He asked about reducing the number of hockey rinks and making the remaining rinks more successful. Mr. Gunderson stated that Sand Creek and Thorpe are well used. He added that they could reduce from seven down to four rinks.

Commissioner Jacobson suggested that like tennis, hockey can be viewed as a destination that is driven to. Mr. Gunderson stated that Wintercrest hockey rink does not get used.

Commissioner McAlpine suggested considering another refrigerated rink in another area of the city if there are a good number of users. Mr. Gatlin stated that for the cost he

would not see another location being successful with this. He recommended consideration of a second refrigerated rink in the same location.

Commissioner McAlpine noted that rugby and lacrosse are growing sports. He asked if this should be considered in the plans. Mr. Gunderson explained that lacrosse uses Sand Creek and they use the two football fields. He stated that girls lacrosse at the high school has a successful program. He reported that there is not a feeder program yet so more growth is anticipated for lacrosse. He stated that Minnesota is eighth nationally in the number of players for this.

Mr. Amberg requested that additional questions should be emailed to himself or Ryan. He reviewed that they will look further at the trails and sidewalks and will look at adding dollar figures. Mr. Gatlin stated that he would like another review with the Commission in September before a final draft report is done.

B. Commission Question on Dog Park.

Mr. Gatlin stated that he met with Anoka County Park staff and discussed a site located by the compost site, south of the archery range. He noted that off 133rd by the compost area there is a lot of acreage being considered for use as a dog park. He reported that the City Council adopted a different paving ordinance. He stated that bituminous milling could be used for the area as it uses recycled materials at no cost. He explained that they would use hog fencing which is cheaper than chain link. He stated they would join the County in creating the park along with Andover and Oak Park who is showing an interest in it. He added that this would be a spring and summer project. He reviewed that the center of the park would be mowed, a chipped trail would go in and some of the trees would be thinned out. There will be a shady area for park users. He reported that he hears there is a need for areas for both small and big dogs. He explained that water will not be provided as it is known to spread diseases. He stated that a maintenance agreement is being designed. They will share trail maintenance.

Mr. Gatlin reviewed that concerning the dog park at Trackside Park a decision needs to be made regarding whether to keep it open until next year when the county park opens or just close the dog park down now.

Commissioner Livermore suggested addressing a residents concern by not offering on street parking. Mr. Gatlin stated that there are barking dog concerns and the hours of the park as the concern. He stated that Trackside Park is drawing people from beyond Coon Rapids and is more like a regional park.

Commissioner Livermore recommended leaving Trackside park open indefinitely until they see what the options are in the north end. He suggested reexploring the option of closing the dog park at a later date. Mr. Gunderson asked if the city wants a dog park in a residential area.

Commissioner Livermore stated that there needs to be more than one dog park in the city.

Commissioner McAlpine asked about the site of the old Cook Arena. Mr. Gatlin stated that there has been discussion with using an area by the college. He stated that on Evergreen Boulevard there is a city owned maintenance storage area with about five acres, which are available.

Commissioner Livermore asked that consideration of a dog park in this area be considered in the master plan. Mr. Gatlin stated that dog parks by nature become a regional facility.

Commissioner Livermore suggested revisiting Trakside next year and that consideration be given to a park on the south side by Evergreen Boulevard.

Commissioner Jacobson asked if the Council wants Trakside closed down now. Mr. Gatlin stated that they are looking for a recommendation on closing it now.

Commissioner Livermore inquired if any city requires permits for dog parks. Mr. Gatlin stated that they are looking for a decision about the county dog park in 60 days.

Commissioner McAlpine asked if Blaine has been contacted to go in on the dog park. He pointed out that Blaine neighbors this area. Mr. Gatlin stated that Blaine has not been approached. He reviewed that the county would like to see a seven acre dog park.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, THAT THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDS TO CITY COUNCIL TO SUPPORT THE COUNTY DOG PARK AS DESIGNED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Livermore asked about closing Trakside Park now. Commissioner Jacobson stated that there is a real grey area about how to handle this as depending on who is elected differing opinions may rule.

Commissioner Livermore suggested using the property on Evergreen Boulevard instead of Trakside Park. He suggested using contributions or permits as a way of funding the park.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HECHT, THAT THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDS TO CITY COUNCIL THAT TRACKSIDE DOG PARK SHOULD REMAIN OPEN AND REVISITED AFTER THE COUNTY DOG PARK COMES INTO EXISTENCE WITH A SECONDARY LOCATION IN THE SOUTH SECTION OF THE CITY, POSSIBLY AT THE CITY OWNED PROPERTY ON EVERGREEN BOULEVARD. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Commission Question on Electronic Reader Board at Lions Park.

Mr. Engle stated that he met with the owner and salesperson at Signcrafters. He stated that he has received an apology for the delay with a promise to install the sign board in three weeks. He reported that the proposal was in March and the original sign board completed in April. He explained that the sign board was too large and did not meet code so he rejected it. He stated that the company received a contract for new Burger King signs and has put the city behind that contract. He commented that it has been frustrating to wait. He added that the Lions are patiently waiting and would like to have a dedication ceremony. Mr. Gunderson stated that he is very excited to program the new electronic reader board. He explained that he can set up the wording in the office and then will drive over to the Park to submit the data.

Commissioner Livermore stated that the car wash is closed near Al Flynn. He asked if the city is considering purchasing this property. Mr. Gatlin stated that the city given this consideration.

Commissioner Livermore stated that Council is already getting their budget books. He asked if the Park Commission will have their budget information for next year. Mr. Gatlin stated that there is \$100,000 for trails and \$100,000 for improvements.

Mr. Gunderson asked about funding to support Riverwind on programming.

Commissioner Livermore asked about funding additional trails. He stated that the city has found revenue for street maintenance. He stated that if the referendum does not pass a means for paying for improvements needs to be identified. He asked for research to be done so that options are known. He defined that this should determine how to find the amount of money needed for Parks. He suggested creating a Plan B by finding a government finance expert to see how the city could fund this. Commissioner Jacobson stated that some cities increase sales taxes by a half percent to create funds. He stated that this will impact residents but will also raise funds by charging anyone making a purchase in the city.

Mr. Gunderson stated that a consideration would be to ask for donations to the Foundation. Mr. Gatlin stated that Council found a way to fund street improvements because residents had a perception that the streets were in disrepair. He stated that the public's perception of parks is that there is not an issue. He commented that the parks are falling apart but people are not seeing it. He explained that he is not sure how to educate the public on this.

Commissioner Jacobson stated that the footprint for neighborhood parks will be important. He explained that they could determine what amenities to take out.

Commissioner Livermore stated that the road repair is reactionary. He suggested that addressing parks is being proactive.

Mr. McAlpine asked if the teen center building is in such disrepair that it needs to be taken down. He questioned if there is another facility to address their needs. Mr. Gunderson stated that it could move into a school. He explained that a letter is being drafted regarding this.

Commissioner Livermore suggested creating a list of amenities to close in the next year due to budgetary issues and present it where the community can be aware. Mr. Gatlin stated that \$50,000 had been cut from the budget three years ago.

Commissioner Livermore suggested finding a way to show residents what the newer parks look like in comparison to their neighborhood park. Commissioner Jacobson suggested showing before and after pictures.

Mr. Gunderson stated that next month they will discuss disc golf.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregg Engle
Parks Supervisor



Park & Rec - Regular

Meeting Date: 09/10/2012

Subject: Parks & Open Space Masterplan Update

From: Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

INFORMATION:

Old Business

Jason Amberg of Brauer & Associates will give a presentation on the updated Parks, Recreation, and Trail Masterplan. The presentation will include general cost estimates for completing the plan. Brauer & Associates is seeking Commission input on prioritizing the plan based on costs and budget.



Park & Rec - Regular

Meeting Date: 09/10/2012

Subject: Disc Golf Request and Proposal

From: Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator

INFORMATION:

New Business

At the closing of last months meeting each Commission member was given information on a proposed Disc Golf course in Coon Rapids. Dan Schnabel, a Coon Rapids Resident, developed the proposal and will be at the meeting to discuss with the Commission. His proposal is to put the course in the Wintercrest/Woodcrest park wooded area.
