

COON RAPIDS PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2013

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order on November 7, 2013 at 6:38 P.M. in the Public Works Conference Room.

Members Present: Chair Tim Arntson (arrived at 6:46 p.m.), Commissioners John Angell, Ryan McAlpine (arrived at 6:42 p.m.), Gen Sand, and Neal Livermore.

Members Absent: Commissioner Mike Jacobson.

Also Present: Gregg Engle, Parks Supervisor, and Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator.

1. ROLL CALL

Parks Supervisor Gregg Engle acknowledged roll call.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sand Creek Trail

Parks Superintendent Gregg Engle stated that beginning on Monday the Sand Creek Trail stabilization program will continue near Olive Street. He advised that the bid has been awarded and he met with the contractor the previous day. He noted that the contractor will begin with bank reestablishment and boulder placement. He advised that the work is about one mile down from Lions Park, closer to Foley Boulevard and Sand Creek Elementary School.

B. Winter Operations

Recreation Coordinator Ryan Gunderson stated that the warming house job position has been posted and the City received 11 applications for the four warming houses. He advised that interviews will take place in about one week and then training would begin for the season.

Parks Superintendent Gregg Engle stated that leafing was not done and staff has begun work on the hockey boards to prepare for the season.

Commissioner McAlpine arrived.

Parks Superintendent Gregg Engle noted that the intention is to have everything open by Christmas.

Recreation Coordinator Ryan Gunderson advised that he had moved back to the ice arena and the position has been posted for the ice arena manager. He noted that he would continue to assist in that location and hoped to hire a part-time administrative assistant. He advised that the part-time learn to skate program will become more separate as a part-time position rather than funneling that program through the management and advised of themed events which the arena will host each month.

He also stated that this following Tuesday night he will attend a meeting regarding the upcoming 50th anniversary of Snow Flake Days and advised of ice skating and sledding events that could take place.

Chairman Arntson arrived.

3. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2013 AGENDA

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SAND, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ANGELL, TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 7, 2013 AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2013 MINUTES

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SAND, TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 7, 2013 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Recreation Coordinator Ryan Gunderson advised that the referendum passed the previous night and the Park Commission will now have \$17,100,000 to spend on the parks and trails improvements.

Chairman Arntson advised of resident calls he received and noted that he explained that the City does have the Master Parks and Trails Plan but nothing is yet set in stone.

Commissioner Livermore advised of a fundraising event that took place to send 5,000 to 10,000 mailings to young families.

Parks Superintendent Gregg Engle referenced an email from Public Works Director Tim Himmer regarding the previously proposed phasing plan, noting that the direction was to use the plan to prioritize the parks. The email stated that staff should be following the phasing plan, noting that there would be opportunity for parks to jump up the list. He noted that the email also suggested developing a list that would be used to obtain public input, including the Coon Rapids Athletic Association (CRAA). He referenced the Parks and Trails Master Plan and believed that plan identified the priority of the Commission,

noting again that staff believes that Peppermint Stick Park should be the first project. He advised that additional projects could begin in conjunction with the Sand Creek projects, as the public input process for Sand Creek will be lengthy. It was confirmed that the first tier of the project would be approximately five years, at which time the remaining referendum funds will be available.

Recreation Coordinator Ryan Gunderson advised of all of the different stakeholders and the issues that would need to be determined with Sand Creek Park. He explained that Sand Creek is more a community park compared to a neighborhood park which has different stakeholders.

Chairman Arntson stated that he would like to have a workshop with the Little League and then CRAA in order to obtain their input. He stated that he likes the plan that was developed but believed that more review should be done. He referenced parking and believed that the two organizations should be brought in to discuss that matter as he would like to review the estimates for parking space needed.

Recreation Coordinator Ryan Gunderson stated why parking is spread out in the concept. He explained that a huge parking lot would need a much larger run-off pond. He noted that another discussion item would be whether or not to include a splash pad, or whether that would be a better option in another location.

Commissioner Livermore noted that the first priority for a splash pad should be Lions Park.

Chairman Arntson did not believe the splash pad should be included in this plan as the sports will be the focus. He noted that those items could be discussed at a later date and believed that the focus should be on work that could begin.

Commissioner Livermore referenced the plan for spending money and did not believe that some residents will be happy that work will not begin on four specific neighborhood parks for at least five years. He did not believe that the residents expected that the work would not be done in the next five to seven years.

Recreation Coordinator Ryan Gunderson noted that the City can only take on so much at one time as to not overload the engineering department. He also explained that if everything were completed at once they would all come due for replacement at similar dates.

Commissioner Livermore stated that perhaps some of the trail improvements scheduled for tier one should be delayed to complete additional neighborhood park improvements.

Commissioner McAlpine stated that he would be in favor of moving up one neighborhood park into tier one, noting that the decision regarding the future budget would need to be considered.

Commissioner Angell agreed that some of the trail improvements could be delayed and a neighborhood park or two could move forward.

Parks Superintendent Gregg Engle advised that the staff is attempting to schedule parking lot and trail improvements with City road improvements to obtain cost savings.

Commissioner Sand noted that usage of the park would need to be considered as well for the parks before adding elaborate trails.

Chairman Arntson stated that he would like to know the Council's plans for the building before a decision is made on the priority for Riverwind Park.

The Commission further discussed the options for Sand Creek.

Commissioner Livermore confirmed that the next steps would be to speak with little league and CRAA and then involve the public.

Commissioner Sand was unsure if the Fourth of July event would fit into the new plan.

Recreation Coordinator Ryan Gunderson noted that the plan was developed to still incorporate the event. He noted that staff is still determining whether the Sand Creek work could be completed within one year or whether the project would need to be phased over two to three years. He confirmed that CRAA has already seen the concept for Sand Creek and was able to provide input.

Commissioner Livermore confirmed that the concept for Sand Creek is almost ready for public involvement.

It was the consensus of the Commission to move Riverwind Park to tier one if possible.

Commissioner Livermore advised of grant funds that were awarded to the City from the DNR regarding the trail at Wilderness; noting that an agreement and matching funds would be necessary to receive the funds.

Commissioner McAlpine referenced the concept for Riverview and it was determined that the Commission will review that concept at the next meeting to further discuss options.

Recreation Coordinator Ryan Gunderson confirmed that Peppermint Stick Park would be first choice for neighborhood general fund projects.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Vacant Commission Position

Recreation Coordinator Ryan Gunderson noted that the position was posted and applications are due by December 4th.

Parks Superintendent Gregg Engle suggested possible recognition of Mary Lou Hecht in possibly January. He noted that the Council is also planning some type of recognition.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Gunderson
Recreation Coordinator