

COON RAPIDS PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order on December 8, 2014 at 6:32 p.m. in the Public Works Conference Room.

Members Present: Chair Tim Arntson, Commissioners John Angell, Mike Jacobson, Ryan McAlpine, and Gen Sand

Members Absent: Commissioner Neal Livermore

Also Present: Gregg Engel, Parks Supervisor

ROLL CALL

Parks Supervisor Gregg Engel acknowledged the roll call.

1. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2014 AGENDA

Chair Arntson asked that three items be added under Other Business. The items are Commission Dinner, Balfany Lots, and New Park Commission member.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SAND, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JACOBSON, TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 8, 2014 AGENDA AS REVISED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JACOBSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 13, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED. COMMISSIONERS SAND, ANGELL ABSTAINED.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Trail Projects Update

Parks Supervisor Engel reviewed Wilderness Trail – Plans, specifications and permitting are currently wrapping up, and expected to be complete by early 2015. The project will be bid during February/March with construction expected to begin late April/early May. Construction will be complete by late June 2015 or early July 2015.

85th Avenue Trail – Preliminary plans have been submitted to Anoka County for review. Construction is anticipated late summer or fall of 2015.

Coon Rapids Boulevard Trail – The City recently submitted for a TAP Grant from the Metropolitan Council to reconstruct the trail from the Coon Rapids/Anoka border to Egret Boulevard, and then along Egret to the Coon Rapids Dam regional park. If the City is successful in receiving grant funding, construction would not be able to take place until 2017 or 2018. However, if the grant funding does not come through, construction of the trail from the City of Anoka to Hanson Boulevard using City funds is anticipated late 2015 or early 2016.

112th Avenue Trail (Moor Park to Sand Creek Park) – Preliminary scoping and data collection is complete. An informational meeting was held on November 25, 2014 to get feedback from area residents. Reaction to the proposed trail was generally negative from residents that live along the proposed corridor, however very positive from those within the general project area, as well as from younger residents nearby. Staff will seek direction from Council on the next steps. Construction (if it were to occur) would take place in 2016. Commissioner Angell stated he attended the meeting and there were approximately six people speaking in opposition to the 112th Avenue Trail. The grant monies dictate the location of the trail. Chair Arntson asked if an option would be to widen the street. Commissioner Angell asked how much of the cost would be paid by the grant and Mr. Engel stated he believes 50%.

Commissioner Jacobson asked about the trail under Main Street near Avocet and is there a section that needs to be obtained before the trail can be completed. Mr. Engel stated he will research and report back to the Commission. Commissioner Jacobson will also speak with Karen _____ to find out the status. Mr. Engel's understanding is once the trail is in it will be the City's responsibility to maintain.

Mr. Engel provided a list of trail maintenance priorities. Epiphany is a high priority. There is \$100,000 budgeted for trail improvements. Hoover Elementary is proposed for improvements out of the capital improvement budget. The tennis courts could be removed at Hoover. The consensus of the Commission was to keep Hoover a high priority. Chair Arntson asked if Hoover would be a possible candidate for an artificial turf to incorporate with the track. Discussions would be held with the school district regarding Hoover.

Mr. Engel stated a compromise was reached with Anoka Ramsey Community College regarding maintenance.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JACOBSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR HOOVER ELEMENTARY. MOTION PASSED.

b. Sand Creek Park Update

Park Supervisor Gregg Engel reviewed Sand Creek Park is nearing 75% completion on the plans. An open house was held on November 25, 2014 with 25 individuals signing in. With families, there were close to 50 people of all ages that attended the open house. Feedback was very positive on the park with most questions concerning the Northdale Blvd. intersection with Redwood and the proposed trail along 112th. Soil pits have been performed throughout the park. Staff will be meeting with consultants on Dec 18th to review the 75% plans. Mr. Engel showed a drawing of the most recent plan as of 11-26-14. He indicated the locations of the three playgrounds. At the meeting held, the skate board park was the biggest controversy. CRAA and the Lions are hoping to keep the current building with new roof and other improvements. WSB said a field would be compromised if the building were to remain. An estimate for the building improvements would be approximately \$30,000. Some monies could be saved if the building remained towards the new building.

Chair Arntson asked in the fields couldn't be moved further south. It may be advantageous to have CRAA and the Lions meet with the City to discuss the plan. The City is working with the organizations to document the agreements to provide fairness across the board.

Commissioner Angell stated this plan maximizes the best use of the area. Commissioner Jacobson agreed this is a good plan. Chair Arntson agreed.

Mr. Engel stated there has been discussion about the skate board park. There is a need for keeping it at Sand Creek. Discussions are being held with Anoka County regarding the entrance to Sand Creek Park. Mr. Engel reviewed the proposed construction schedule for the project. Irrigation and Lighting will be computerized.

c. Continued 2015 General Fund Projects Discussion

Parks Supervisor Engel reviewed at the October 13, 2014 meeting, the discussion of prioritizing general fund projects for 2015 and beyond was started. Some consensus emerged around starting toward the center of the City and working out toward the borders.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Recreation Updates

Parks Supervisor Engel stated Ryan Gunderson has been working on the agreements with the associations and also the fees. Approval of the fees was pulled from the Council Consent Agreement and will be reviewed at a future meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Commission Dinner – Chair Arntson and Commissioner Sand attended. Each Commission was represented. It was a good opportunity for the Commissions to talk. Each Commission has a staff member and Chair Arntson suggested the staff meet and bring back to each Commission issues involving other Commissions.

Mr. Engel asked what he and Ryan Gunderson could do for 2015 to better serve the Commission. Commissioner McAlpine stated there needs to be more collaboration between Commissions. Chair Arntson stated if staff is aware of issues that other commissions are discussing relating to parks it would be nice to know and possibly attend those other commission meetings.

Balfany Lots – There are two lots that are being sold. There is a proposed trail by those two lots. The plat would go before the Planning Commission. The Park and Recreation Commission would not see this before approved.

New Commissioner for Park and Recreation Commission – Commissioner Sand suggested Val Weaver be considered for the Park and Recreation Commission. Commissioner will contact Ms. Weaver and the Commission can appoint her.

Mr. Engel showed pictures of Riverview Park. Sunrise Park is pretty much done. Peppermint Stick Park is completed with the exception of reestablishing the turf. Boulevard Park had its turf reestablished. As more events are moved to Boulevard Park, some more amenities may need to be added.

The City is still looking for warming house attendants, which is why the warming houses have not been opened.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SAND, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Wolfe
TimeSaver Secretarial