

COON RAPIDS PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2015

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order on July 13, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Public Works Conference Room.

Members Present: Chair Tim Arntson, Commissioners Mike Jacobson, Neal Livermore, Tim Matsche, Ryan McAlpine, and Gen Sand

Members Absent: Commissioner Valerie Weaver

Also Present: Tim Himmer, Public Works Director
Ryan Gunderson, Recreation Coordinator
Dan Coyle, Kimley-Horn
Geoff Martin, Kimley-Horn
Jeff Lindstrom, CRBA

ROLL CALL

Recreation Coordinator Gunderson introduced Tim Matsche as the new Park Board Commissioner.

Chair Arntson acknowledged roll call.

1. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 13, 2015 AGENDA

Commissioner Livermore requested adding Wilderness Trail and feedback from 4th of July Event to the agenda under Other Business.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, TO APPROVE THE JULY 13, 2015 AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MCALPINE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, TO APPROVE THE JUNE 8, 2015 MEETING MINUTES WITH COMMISSIONER WEAVER PRESENT. COMMISSIONER MATSCHE ABSTAINED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2016 Parks Bond Projects.

Public Works Director Tim Himmer reviewed direction from the commission is sought in moving the 2016 parks bond projects forward to final concept and design. Mr. Dan Coyle

and Geoff Martin from Kimley-Horn were in attendance to assist with coming to concepts based on previous Commission and Staff discussions, as well as feedback from the June 22, 2015 open house. This will come before the City Council in late August.

Recreation Coordinator Gunderson stated not a lot of feedback was received from the Open House.

Concept plans were presented for the following parks:

1. Pheasant Ridge Park – Comments were it is a great park. The boardwalk will be cut back. The trail is fairly new. The neighbors did not like the idea of moving the playground. Request was to make the loop a full mile.
2. Woodcrest Park – Comments included running water restrooms. The issue of saving the existing warming house was brought up perhaps to create a public storm shelter. Maintain ball field usage possibly moving it away from the neighborhood. The question of Frisbee golf was mentioned and whether residents would need to pay to play. Commissioner Livermore stated if the building is removed he would request a larger gazebo with 5-6 picnic tables. The Frisbee golf holes could be renumbered in the future. The Frisbee golf is not included in what the consultants are working on.
3. Delta Park – No comments were received from residents regarding Delta Park.
4. Mason Park – Residents liked the plan but stated it was good the way it was and with improvements would be too much for a neighborhood park. Requested portapotties or restrooms. Access was requested to the south. Trees should not be cut down. Dan Coyle stated attended the Open House and stated for Mason Park it is a unique park with oak trees and they should be left alone. Top soil and hydro-seeding would help tremendously. It is nice to have an open area green space for soccer practice.

Public Works Director Himmer stated there are issues about not mowing parks and leaving natural areas due to City Ordinance on long grass.

Recreation Coordinator Gunderson stated the Commission had come up with a template for parks to include playground, shelter, and basketball or tennis court.

Dan Coyle reviewed each of the parks were walked by the consultant and staff.

1. Woodcrest Park – A drawing of the existing park was presented. The ag lime for the baseball field would be moved and the soccer field would be relocated. There needs to be some discussion on what to do with the open area (baseball field). The location of the playground equipment needs to be determined. Mr. Coyle provided photographs of the park. There was a comment from the Open House about providing a backstop for the ball field. Commissioner Livermore stated out of the 48 parks there is a ball field in almost all of them. Recreation Coordinator

Gunderson stated if ball fields are eliminated it will impact the league play. He stated we are at a good level on practice fields and the ball field with Ag lime should be retained. This park has football goal posts however the park has never been used for football. The posts could be removed. Chair Arntson suggested the ball field be moved further to the west to allow a space between the ball field and the open area. The trail system would change if the ball field and soccer open area remain. Mr. Coyle indicated a possible trail location on the map. The building and shelter are items to be discussed. Public Works Director Himmer asked if a skating rink would ever return to the park and the consensus of the Commission was it probably would not return. Then there is no need for a warming house. The gazebo would need to be updated. There are probably not funds in the budget to construct a new building. The current warming house needs new shingles. It could become a seasonal storage facility. There is \$1.2M for all 4 parks. Commissioner Livermore stated he would like to see the running water remain for water bottle refilling. It was noted there has been vandalism of the warming house. Mr. Coyle provided a summary – leave the open space open, remove hockey rink, leave warming shelter for now, move ag lime for ball field, soccer field moved to west, paved trail and playground in shade under the trees, parking lot was paved a year ago, and half basketball court. The need for curbing will be determined once water handling is addressed.

2. Pheasant Ridge Park – This is a great natural park. There needs to be lookouts onto the wetland. The trail connection through the wetland was removed. The playground location would not change. The asphalt trail is in good shape. There would be no new trail constructed. Mr. Coyle showed photographs of the existing park. There would be one overlook. Public Works Director Himmer stated less maintenance leaving this park more natural would be recommended. With the elimination of boardwalks some smaller boardwalks may be needed to accommodate the seasonal water level. The neighborhood had said they want as little done to the natural area of the park as possible. Commissioner Livermore stated he would like to see conceptual designs for overlooks in this park. ADA access is important. Native prairie grasses could replace some of the manicured lawn areas. Mowing around the trails 3-4 feet should continue to avoid small saplings from sprouting and causing some root problems with the trails. There is no curb access for wheelchairs from the parking lot. The basketball court would remain and be redone to the south side of the trail. A mid-block cross was discussed or should pedestrians be directed to the corner to cross.
3. Mason Park – Mr. Coyle presented photographs of the park as it exists now. It is a very quiet park with a cutoff neighborhood. Very natural park. Playground will remain where it is now. Portions of the trail were to be removed trying to maintain a figure 8. There is a tennis court and basketball court that will be removed. The ball field isn't scheduled and could be used for pick-up games. Trees would be cleared to provide more open space. Input for residents was to leave the park as it is. Don't remove trees unless necessary. Add a trail to form a loop to the existing path. A half basketball court would be constructed. A gazebo would be

- constructed where the existing tennis court/basketball court is or another area. The gazebo would be near the playground. Mr. Martin stated the open space is very nice. He could see the gazebo next to the playground. The playground equipment is good just some safety updates, curb, etc. Recreation Coordinator Gunderson suggested the gazebo be put on the south side of the playground. May need to look at changing the address of the park for those using GPS.
4. Delta Park – There are some trees around the perimeter. The hockey rink will be removed. The ball field with ag lime could be moved to the west. The playground could be moved closer to the ball field. Flipping the basketball court and playground around. The direction of the ball field should be reviewed more. The ball field is used for practices for 5-8 year olds primarily. Trails will be constructed. Mr. Himmer asked if there were other amenities that are needed in other parks within the City (bocce ball, horseshoes, etc.). These can be looked at on a request basis. Recreation Coordinator Gunderson stated the request has been made to retain adult swings in parks.

Final concept and design will come back before the Park Commission for review on August 10, 2015.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Wintercrest Score Board Donation Discussion

Recreation Coordinator reviewed a member of the Coon Rapids Baseball Association was in attendance to discuss the donation and installation of a score board on the East Field at Wintercrest. Mr. Jeff Lindstrom, CRBA noted the scoreboard has been installed. They are requesting the City assist with the cost of electrical (\$4200). Mr. Himmer has a contract written between the City and the CRBA stating responsibilities. The City is requested to provide \$2100.

Commissioner Livermore asked why the Commission is only hearing about this after the fact. Mr. Lindstrom stated he contacted Steve Wells first, then spoke with Tim Himmer and got approval. Mr. Himmer stated there does need to be a process bringing in the Park Commission earlier in these processes. CRBA handles all maintenance on the scoreboards at Wintercrest.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SAND, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MATSCHE, TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT AND TO ACCEPT DONATION FROM CRBA FOR THE SCOREBOARD AND PAY \$2110 TOWARD ELECTRICAL COST FOR THE SCOREBOARD AND WAIVING OF THE PERMIT FEE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Wilderness Trail – Commissioner Livermore asked about over seeding and Mr. Gunderson stated it was over seeded to the wrong ratio. Commissioner Livermore stated a large section of the trail is not mowable. There is not a margin on each side of the trail. The south section appears unfinished. The north section is much better.

4th of July Event – Mr. Himmer stated he has not heard yet about how the cleanup went. There were extra costs. The parade route was too short. Alternate parade routes were discussed. No parking areas need to be extended.

Sand Creek – Construction continues. Top soil was brought in. By this fall all parking and asphalt will be done. Irrigation work is beginning. The Council approved the Joint Powers Agreement and it will be going to the County for consideration for the crossing.

Recreation Coordinator Gunderson announced the Farmer's Market starts July 15, 2015.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Gunderson
Recreation Coordinator

Drafted by:
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TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.