

COON RAPIDS PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order on November 9, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Public Works Conference Room.

Members Present: Chair Tim Arntson, Commissioners Neal Livermore, Tim Matsche, and Gen Sand (arrived at 6:38 p.m.)

Members Absent: Commissioner Mike Jacobson, Ryan McAlpine and Valerie Weaver

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

ROLL CALL

Chair Arntson acknowledged roll call.

Recreation Updates: Recreation Coordinator, Ryan Gunderson

Mr. Gunderson reviewed on December 8 there will be a workshop with Council. Some items for discussion are donation policy, marketing for recreation events, and Athletic Association affiliation agreement along with facility agreements.

Commissioner Sand arrived at the meeting at 6:38 a.m.

A reminder will be sent to the Park Commissioners about the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2015 AGENDA

The order of the agenda was revised. Commissioner Sand requested the name of Boulevard Park be discussed.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SAND, TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 9, 2015 AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

MOTION BY CHAIR ARNTSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MATSCHE, TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 12, 2015 MEETING MINUTES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Aspen Park Discussion

Mr. Gunderson provided donation updates to the Aspen Park ball fields and a request for the reader board from Sand Creek to be relocated to Aspen Park. The board would be used for community and baseball events. The Cardinal Little League has done some updates to Aspen Park. There have been \$46,500 in updates done to the Park. Mr. Scott Latta representing Cardinal Little League was present at the meeting. Mr. Gunderson stated there may be other groups that would need to use Aspen Park. Mr. Latta stated they have worked with Fast Pitch in the past and the fields in the back would be available. Last year after the merger, there were 45 teams and they were short fields. They are hoping to have 50-55 teams this year. T-ball is very heavy and a lot of investment is going into the younger kids. They are all Coon Rapids school boundary teams. The population base with Anoka was too large so they are just Coon Rapids currently. Chair Arntson stated the contract would be redone. Mr. Latta stated he is in favor of an Athletic Council. He feels the more they communicate as a community it is better for the youth. Mr. Gunderson stated there is a lack of respect and communication among the Associations. The City wants to evaluate programs and numbers to evaluate field sharing. Mr. Latta stated there is storage space available at Riverview and Aspen. Mr. Latta thought the marquee board that was at Sand Creek, would help them advertise baseball events. The Commission agreed that would be a good use for the old Sand Creek sign. Mr. Latta stated he has someone that can do the concrete work but would need help with the wiring. Cardinal Little League would pay for concrete and electrical work. Mr. Engle stated he does not feel the sign is in good shape. Demars would be a source for a new board. Mr. Latta will look at that for next year.

Commissioner Livermore asked the status of updating the agreements. Mr. Gunderson stated they are being worked on. Some issues with Aspen still need to be addressed such as scheduling fields, the building, etc.

Mr. Latta stated they anticipate growth and without fields #4 and #5 last year, they were very short on fields. Mr. Gunderson stated his concerns are he has heard from others in Cardinal Little League that they don't need Aspen. He has also heard American Little League has more teams and use less fields. American is playing 7 days a week and Cardinal Little League is playing 6 days a week with Sunday being a rainday.

Commissioner Livermore stated no fields are dedicated to any specific association. Mr. Latta asked about the improvements that were made. Chair Arntson stated the improvements should not have been made until a new agreement was written. Mr. Engle stated there is mixed communication about ownership of the field. The fields are the property of the City. The previous contract is null and void since the merger. Going forward Mr. Gunderson stated he does not foresee many changes. Fast Pitch will have a field at Sand Creek with the back field with lights.

Commissioner Livermore asked how long the agreement would last and Mr. Gunderson stated the last one was signed many years ago. Mr. Gunderson stated everything will be in writing so it is clear. Mr. Latta stated the facility needed updating for safety and also to

create a premier facility since Cardinal Little League is a premier association. If further improvements are to be done, they should be cleared with the Park Commission. The facility agreement is very old. Mr. Gunderson stated other Cities do not just do projects for the associations rather they require the association to put in 50% of the project cost. The taxpayers cannot support youth sports.

Commissioner Sand stated years ago there was a President's Club for the association leaders to meet.

Mr. Gunderson stated the agreements will be completed over the winter to be in place by the spring. Mr. Latta stated they have an agreement with Anoka Ramsey.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SAND, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MATSCHE, TO ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM CARDINAL LITTLE LEAGUE AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2016 Parks Bond Projects Update

Mr. Gunderson provided a review of Mason, Pheasant Ridge, Delta and Woodcrest parks before completion and going out for bid this winter. Mr. Gunderson stated everything is moving forward with the building at Woodcrest being removed. They are looking at restroom options at Woodcrest. Pheasant Ridge park improvements would be \$228,000; Delta \$245,500; Woodcrest \$261,000 including the disc golf course; Mason \$212,500. The Pheasant Ridge Drive trail as an alternate is \$35,000. The Woodcrest Park Trail extension \$72,000. The Wedgewood Trail corridor connection is \$38,000. There is an alternate for the ADA Park \$18,500; the Pheasant Ridge trail to widen sidewalk \$35,000. Total project cost is \$1.4M, which is the same as the budget. At the retreat, the Council wants to move ahead on Boulevard Park. These plans will go to Council November 10, 2015.

B. City Council Retreat

Mr. Gunderson stated Council is pushing for City-wide customer service. They are also pushing for the Port Riverwalk. Increase in branding and marketing for Coon Rapids. They want a big event for the opening of Sand Creek. They are looking at expanding the farmer's market. Boulevard Park is important to Council but will have ramifications on the development in that area. Mr. Gunderson stated Crooked Lake and Riverview Parks need attention. It will depend on how much money is left. Boulevard would be a 2017 project with discussions starting in January 2016. The Sand Creek opening is estimated to be in spring of 2017.

C. Sand Creek Project Update

Mr. Gunderson stated he does not believe there will be any savings in rebidding the building. Mr. Engle stated there were some drainage issues between the two football fields. Staff is working to get that taken care of. There were wetland abatement issues. The skateboard park equipment will be delivered November 23 along with the playground and it will be stored at public works. The bid for the road will be coming in and that will include the stoplight.

Mr. Gunderson left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Parks Misc. Updates: Parks Superintendent Gregg Engle

Mr. Engle reviewed the skate park at Riverview has had a neighbor appear before Council with concerns. Mr. Engle stated he did sound decibel testing and the sound is not within Code. The readings were 80-85 decibels. Trees could be planted as a buffer to attempt to reduce the sound. Nothing can be done to the integrity of the skateboard structure. Staff is going to look into this further.

Mr. Engle stated soil borings have been started at the four parks in the 2016 parks bond. The portable hockey rink is installed. Winter operations turnover has begun. Warming house attendants will be interviewed. Removal of leaves has begun in the parks.

B. Al Flynn Road

Mr. Engle stated there is no plan for a road. Commissioner Livermore stated he can see the footprint of the gas station. The small house remains and everything from the house to the fire station has been leveled. Mr. Engle stated that is for staging for construction.

C. Naming of Boulevard Park

Commissioner Sand suggested there be a contest for the naming of the park.

The terms of Commissioners Arntson, Jacobson, Matsche and Sand are expiring this year. All of expressed interest in being reappointed.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVERMORE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SAND, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Coon Rapids Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

November 9, 2015

Page 5

Ryan Gunderson

Recreation Coordinator

Drafted by:

Debbie Wolfe

TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.