

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2008
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

1. Tour of Edinburgh

Lancer Catering General Manager, Dean Dutko, guided Commissioners and staff on a tour of Edinburgh USA Clubhouse and McTavish's Restaurant. The City and Lancer Catering work closely in partnership to offer the public quality golfing, dining and catering experiences. Dean provided background information on Lancer Catering and stated banquet requests continue to increase each year. One of the advantages of the many dining and meeting rooms the Clubhouse has to offer is the ability to move events and functions around in order to keep the venue as booked as possible. Marketing of the venue is accomplished through magazines and journals published throughout the Twin Cities. Dean thanked Commissioners and staff for their support of the Clubhouse, McTavish's Restaurant and Lancer Catering, and asked that he be contacted with any questions they may have.

2. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Chairperson, Tina Carstens.

Commission Members present:

Maria Boeder, At-Large
James Brekke, West
Tina Carstens, East District
Rich Gates, City Council Liaison
Mark Hanna, West District
Dean Heng, Planning Commission Liaison
Paul Hartzell, East District
Rob Jacobs, Central District
Danielle Nelson, Youth Liaison
Andrew Reinhardt, West District

Absent:

Reubenna Cooley, At-Large
Brad Giesbrecht, East District
Jim Hubert, Central District
Abdullah Kiatamba, At-Large

Staff Members present:

Jon Oyanagi, Recreation & Parks Director
Jan Ficken, Recreation Programs & Services Manager
Mary Pat Black, Parks & Facilities Manager
Barb Stewart, Secretary

Others:

Acara Weislogel, University of Minnesota student

3. **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 16, 2008 PRAC AGENDA**

Motion, Andrew Reinhardt; Second, Dean Heng, to approve the January 16, 2008 PRAC agenda.

4. **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 19, 2007 PRAC MEETING MINUTES**

Motion, Mark Hanna; Second, Andrew Reinhardt, to approve the December 19, 2007 PRAC minutes.

Director, Jon Oyanagi, introduced recently appointed Youth Liaison, Danielle Nelson. Danielle is a senior at Champlin Park High School, and a member of Alcohol Decision and the National Honor Society. Danielle learned about the PRAC through her sister and became interested in serving on the Commission as a way to make a difference in the community. Danielle will serve on the Commission through August, 2008.

PRAC Commissioners and staff introduced themselves and welcomed Danielle to the Commission.

5. OLD BUSINESS

N/A

6. NEW BUSINESS

 ELECTIONS

Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated the annual elections for RPAC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson is typically held in January. The current terms will end, and new terms begin, April 1, 2008. Chairperson, Tina Carstens opened the floor to nominations and following discussion and input from Commissioners, the following motions were brought forward:

Motion, Mark Hanna; Second, Jim Brekke to appoint Andrew Reinhardt to the position as Chairperson of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, effective April 1, 2008. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion, Tina Carstens; Second, Maria Boeder to appoint Mark Hanna to the position of Vice Chairperson of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, effective April 1, 2008. Motion unanimously approved.

Tina stated her experience in community involvement began while serving on the PRAC and she has been honored to be a part of the Commission. Tina thanked Commissioners and staff for their efforts, time, and commitment to the public.

 CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Director, Jon Oyanagi, reviewed the City's 2030 Comprehensive Plan and thanked Recreation Program & Services Manager, Jan Ficken and Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black for their contribution of information and verbiage to the goals and plans. Jon pointed out several areas specific to Recreation & Parks and highlighted the following:

- Recreational Trends - shapes what happens in the future and what direction recreation takes
- Youth Development - initiatives such as the YAC, Youth Summit and Mayors Roundtable
- Family development
- Health and wellness
- Accessibility
- Partnerships

Facilities
Neighborhood connections
Environmental issues
Technology
Economics
Children in Nature – connecting kids with the outdoors

Functional Classification System
Mini parks – pocket parks
Neighborhood parks/playgrounds
Community parks
Regional parks
Regional park reserves
Linear parks
Historic sites
Special facilities

Parkland funding mechanisms – utilizing/exploring
Parkland dedication
50 year plan – approved by the City Council
Bonding
Grants
Partnership with school district
Private donations – the Recreation & Parks Department receives a steady stream of donations and contributions that helps with the scholarship fund
General park bond issue

Future public facilities
Green building systems
Community gardens
North south linear trails
Future YMCA
Field house/artificial turf sports fields

Recreation service areas:
Youth, teens, adults, seniors, cultural arts, and community services

Jon reviewed the goals stated in the Comprehensive Plan:
Goal one - Ensure consistent and compatible land use and physical design goals structured to meet current and future community demands for parkland and public facilities.

Goal two - Ensure variety and diversity in design of public facilities, parkland and open space.

Goal three - Promote and encourage citizen interest in current recreational programs and services and strive to develop future recreational programs and services that seek to accommodate a changing population and cater to emerging recreational trends.

Goal four – Continue to cooperate, collaborate and provide appropriate levels of assistance in the development of joint public facilities in association with the Community School Program.

Goal Five – Ensure a coordinated, convenient and safe pedestrian facilities network city wide that emphasizes connectivity between residential neighborhoods, public schools, parkland and areas of open space.

Goal Six – Enrich community character and promote current and future economic development efforts by way of civic gateways and other public right-of-way enhancements at City entranceways and prominent community nodes.

Goal Seven – Maintain and monitor existing special use areas and expand upon them as appropriate.

Commissioner, Paul Hartzel, asked how often the Comprehensive Plan is produced by the City, how flexible the plan is and if Hennepin County has input into it. Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, stated the last update to the plan was made in 1980. City Council Liaison, Rich Gates, stated the City has produced several master plans that are similar to the Comprehensive Plan and that Hennepin County does have an opportunity to review it. Rich stated the plan is a visioning tool with general guidelines on what the City is planning to do, what the City will do and what the City would like to do.

Vice Chairperson, Maria Boeder, asked if the City Council uses the Comprehensive Plan to make City planning decisions. Rich stated they could, and do, use it to ask questions in determining the path the City takes in the future. Jon stated the Comprehensive Plan is an important document in justification for future projects.

Vice Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, stated he likes the Comprehensive Plan and asked that Tater Daze and National Night Out be included in it. Mary Pat stated both Tater Daze and National Night Out are included in chapter 9 as a part of the social interaction discussion.

Jon asked that Commissioners review the plan in further detail, including Chapter 8 that covers environmental protection and has a significant amount of information that is relevant to the Recreation & Parks Department. Please contact Jon with any questions they may have.

RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT WORK PLAN

Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated the Recreation & Parks Department work plan provides a look at projects and accomplishments in 2007 and a preview of initiatives and goals for 2008.

Funding for the 2008 projects has been allocated through the 2008 budget. Jon thanked Jan Ficken and Mary Pat Black for their input and details provided for the work plan. Jan asked Commissioners to read over the work plan and noted that it is a wide sweeping initiative for 2008.

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, highlighted several projects including the recent extension of the Lancer contract that will cover the next eleven years, restroom restoration at the Clubhouse, new signage for Edinburgh USA on 85th Avenue (funded jointly by Lancer and the City), replacement of two roofs, phase III of Central Park, and the upcoming grand opening of Hamilton Park (PRAC May 21, 2008 meeting will be held in the building). Mary Pat stated the Recreation & Parks Department strives to continue improving each year to make parks and recreation a quality experience for all.

Chairperson, Tina Carstens asked what the current timeline for the YMCA is. Jon stated that last week, staff met with YMCA Vice President, Anita Lancello. An architect will sketch up concept plans for several different square footages, review the market study and look at alternative locations. The process is moving forward and could take several months to complete.

WORK PLAN REVIEW

Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated Commissioners discussed the 2008 Work Plan at last month's PRAC meeting where several changes were suggested. Those changes have been made to the 2008 Work Plan as follows:

- March 19 - meeting will be held at Zanewood Recreation Center
- May 21 - meeting will be held at, and in, conjunction with the Hamilton Park Grand Opening
- June 18 – meeting will be held at the Brooklyn Park Library or a City park pavilion
- July 16 – annual park tour will be held

Jon reminded Commissioners that the Work Plan is flexible to changes, deletions, additions, etc. Jon encouraged Commissioners to contact him with their suggestions.

SUMMER PROGRAM IDEAS

Recreation & Services Manager, Jan Ficken, stated summer is the busiest time of year for the Recreation and Parks Department, incurring the most revenue and expenses. Summer plays a big role in the lives of the residents of Brooklyn Park and is a large undertaking in developing activities and programs offerings. Jan highlighted the following summer happenings:

- ◆ A new neighborhood summer recreation center located at Hamilton Park. Hamilton Park is located in a high density housing area of the City with a large number of families and children. Children will be able to walk to the park and have easy access to the day long summer activities and programs held there, Monday through Thursday. Last summer, Camp CAC was filled to capacity and the opening of Camp Hamilton next summer will help shift some of those children to the new site.
- ◆ Staff is designing programs and activities for teen programming to be held at the Community Activity Center (CAC). This change will increase a 'youth and teen friendly' environment at the CAC. In addition, staff is working with the cities of Maple Grove, Osseo, and Brooklyn Center on a teen collaborative in developing a joint marketing campaign. Jan provided an example that Brooklyn Park offered a summer teen theater several years ago and although very successful, it was difficult for one community to support it. Through this collaborative, all of the communities are banding together to offer it and the result is that a musical, Once Upon A Mattress, will be held in Osseo this summer. Jan stated this is the beauty of working together to achieve more 'bang for the buck'.

Jan stated the number one reason teens don't participate in programs and activities is because they don't know what is available in the community and cities need to research the best way to get that information out to teens. With advanced technology, teens now access information via Myspace and other communication and innovative methods. These are the best communication tools to utilize in reaching out to teens.

◆ Development of a three year partnership with Three Rivers Park District for recreation offerings at the Coon Rapids Dam. Plans are underway to offer outdoor education programs this summer via the summer recreation camps, family camp outs, preschool nature experiences, outdoor experiences for all ages, etc. Jan stated the Mississippi River and Coon Rapids Dam are great natural resources that the City can increase it's usage of through recreation programming. The Three Rivers Park District staff will design the outdoor recreation programming while the Recreation & Parks Department brings the youth to the programs.

Director, Jon Oyanagi, encouraged Commissioners to contact Jan with ideas they may have for summer programs. Commissioner, Robert Jacobs, suggested offering summer camps to a broader group of kids, such as a "Camp Hollywood". Youth and teens interested in taping, video, sound, etc., would be attracted to a camp of this kind and it could be posted on YouTube. Youth Liaison, Danielle Nelson, stated offering the teen theater is great and suggested expanding it to both the acting piece and a recording piece. This would attract both the teens interested in acting and for those teens interested in the technical side of a production.

◆ Hennepin County has contracted with the City of Brooklyn Park for services to conduct a "Youth Community Action Crew" planning project. Youth crew leaders will be recruited to interview as many of their peers as possible in an effort to provide improved services to youth and teens and ascertain where youth are connected and where the disconnections are occurring. Following the interview, they will design a pocket map depicting those locations and resources kids go to in our community. This 11 month project is a test site for Hennepin County to get out and find out what the kids are doing and how best the county can assist in planning for youth. All expenses incurred for the project are paid for with Hennepin County resources.

6. DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

N/A

7. OTHER ITEMS BY COMMISSION

◆ Calendar of Events

Director, Jon Oyanagi, provided Commissioners with the current Calendar of Events depicting all Recreation & Parks Department activities and programs offered in the January – April, 2008 Recreation & Parks brochure.

◆ Gala Event

Recreation & Services manager, Jan Ficken, invited Commissioners and staff to attend the upcoming Gala Event Fundraiser for Youth. The event will launch the youth mapping project, discuss what the coalition and youth initiatives are doing, and bring government and youth districts together to work in benefiting youth. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 8 at the Edinburgh USA Clubhouse. Admission at the door is \$20 for youth and \$45 for adults.

◆ TreeHouse Fundraiser

Recreation & Services Manager, Jan Ficken, provided Commissioners with an invitation to attend the Story of Hope program at TreeHouse on Monday, February 11, 5:30 p.m., at the Brooklyn Park TreeHouse located at 7520 Brunswick Ave. No. This fundraiser includes dinner

and one-hour informational program about TreeHouse and at-risk teens being served in our community. Please RSVP to Jan Ficken by Friday, February 8.

◆ Many Faces of Brooklyn Park

Recreation & Services Manager, Jan Ficken, invited Commissioners and staff to attend the Many Faces of Brooklyn Park event to be held Saturday, January 26, at the Community Activity Center. This event will represent the many different cultures and ethnic groups residing in Brooklyn Park.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion, Andrew Reinhardt; Second, Mark Hanna, to adjourn. Motion unanimously approved.