

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008  
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

1. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Vice Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt.

Commission Members present:

James Brekke, West  
Reubenna Cooley, At-Large  
Mark Hanna, West District  
Dean Heng, Planning Commission Liaison  
Paul Hartzell, East District  
Jim Hubert, Central District  
Rob Jacobs, Central District  
Danielle Nelson, Youth Liaison  
Andrew Reinhardt, West District  
Brian Rogers, Central District

Absent:

Maria Boeder, At-Large  
Tina Carstens, East District  
Rich Gates, City Council Liaison  
Brad Giesbrecht, East 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:

Jeff Lunde, City Councilmember

**2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 20, 2008 PRAC AGENDA**

**Motion, Mark Hanna; Second, Rob Jacobs, to approve the February 20, 2008 PRAC agenda.**

**3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 16, 2008 PRAC MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion, Jim Hubert; Second, Mark Hanna, to approve the January 16, 2008 PRAC minutes amended as follows:** motion to approve the January 16, 2008 PRAC agenda was seconded by Mark Hanna.

Commissioner, Paul Hartzell stated he enjoyed attending both the dinner, tour and PRAC meeting of December, 2007 held at Edinburgh USA Clubhouse.

#### 4. LPGA

City Councilmember, Jeff Lunde, showed a Power Point presentation relative to the LPGA, stating that having held LPGA tournaments in the past, the City is in a good position to negotiate a future tournament provided it is able to raise \$3.5 to \$7 million, has the volunteers, can garner a commitment from a major sponsor like Target along with support from local businesses, and can put together a Task Force to provide the necessary framework in hosting an LPGA tournament to present to the City Council. Discussion and questions were opened to the floor following the presentation and is summarized as follows:

Commissioner, Mark Hanna, stated he has volunteered for the LPGA in the past and has enjoyed it, has received many positive comments from other volunteers and spectators, and believes the LPGA events have provided great PR for the City.

Commissioner, Paul Hartzell asked if Councilmember Lunde is stating that the LPGA will contract for a tournament if the City raises the money; Is there a future date in mind for an LPGA event.

Councilmember Lunde, responded in the affirmative.

Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated although there are a couple of open dates right now, there is no guarantee for an event. The LPGA has a booklet that explains and spells out what the City would have to cover before discussions could move forward.

Commissioner, Jim Hubert, asked if the City can go forward with another golf tournament, such as the PGA, if the LPGA tournament does not work out; Would the tournament be televised on the golf channel.

Councilmember Lunde stated that upon City Council approval, there are a number of regional tournaments the City can host events for. The PGA would not be appropriate due to the length and distance in walking the Edinburgh course.

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, stated the tournament would be televised on the golf channel and/or networks.

Commissioner, Brian Rogers, asked if the City could schedule practice tournaments.

Councilmember Lunde responded in the affirmative stating the City could schedule practice tournaments to gauge the feasibility in holding an LPGA tournament.

Commissioner, Dean Heng, asked if Edinburgh USA can afford to lose golf time and fees over the two week time period it would take to hold an LPGA tournament.

Director Oyanagi stated that question would be addressed through the Task Force and it would be their job to look at that and decide if it is feasible.

Vice Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, stated holding an LPGA tournament is a good trade off in offsetting any possible loses in tee times. The quality of the Edinburgh Golf Course is a huge amenity to the City and putting some money into a professional golf event now can bring in good, positive PR for the City. Further, it could be argued that it would be worth it to the City to cover the cost itself.

Commissioner, James Brekke, asked what the bottom line has been in past LPGA tournaments held at Edinburgh.

Vice Chairperson Reinhardt stated womens golf has changed tremendously since the last LPGA was held at Edinburgh. The game has transcended into big money, big league and big endorsements.

Councilmember Lunde stated tonight's LPGA discussion is brought forward to gather PRAC members thoughts and ideas in moving forward to put together a LPGA Task Force to study the feasibility of an LPGA Tournament and present a plan for it to the City Council.

**Motion, Jim Hubert; Seconded, Paul Hartzell that the PRAC endorses putting together a Task Force to explore the feasibility in bringing an LPGA Tournament to the Edinburgh USA Golf Course. Motion unanimously approved.**

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### YMCA UPDATE

Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated that he and Recreations Manager, Jan Ficken, met with YMCA Vice President, Anita Lancello, on January 9 to review the Memorandum of Understanding from various cities. Discussion focused on the YMCA location and facility size. Anita offered the YMCA architect they use for facility design and he is working on designing concepts in a variety of sizes and will bring those designs back for review. The City Council and staff has decided to focus on either the central or northern areas of the City for a future YMCA location.

Commissioner, James Brekke, stated that realistically the YMCA will look at the central or northern areas of the City due to the memberships that can be captured in those areas. In addition, those areas offer room for future expansion.

Director Oyanagi stated he will be keep PRAC members updated on future developments as they occur.

### YOUTH COALITION UPDATE

Recreation Manager, Jan Ficken, reported that on January 8, 2008, Mayors Steve Lampi and Tim Willson, of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center respectively, hosted a youth roundtable discussion in the Brooklyn Park Council Chambers. The session was well attended by a variety of leaders from the surrounding communities including mayors, city managers, state legislators, local and state representatives, CLIC Commissioners, Tree House staff, Chief of Police, and representatives from local colleges.

The February 8 Gala Event for Youth, held at Edinburgh USA Clubhouse was a huge success. St. Andrews members who run the Pro-Am donated \$10,000 to assist in funding the Coalition event. Many youth, teens and adults attended the interactive event and it was great to watch all ages enjoying themselves. Jan predicts that this annual event will continue to grow with each year.

On Tuesday, February 19, a youth staff member, Matt Norris, received the Mayor's Good Citizenship Award culminating Matt's three years of youth involvement in the community.

February 21 begins the interview process training for the YOC. Youth are going out over the next 11 months to interview kids throughout the community. This interviewing process is youth-led and will attempt to tap into where the kids are accessing resources throughout the community. Following the interviewing process, design of a map will begin indicating these resource points for youth. Staff in turn will get an assessment of the youth in the community and learn about the gaps in youth resources. The last phase of the process is a strategic planning project.

Jan provided information on the Partnership Summit that brings the youth and adults together in the community to dialogue about youth oriented issues. Jan stated staff is recruiting adults interested in becoming engaged with the youth in the community and encouraged Commissioners to attend the North Hennepin Community College hosted event on Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m. Please contact Jan Ficken at 763-493-8340 with questions.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### MEADOWWOOD PARK

Director, Jon Oyanagi, informed Commissioners of an act of vandalism performed on October 14, 2007 in Meadowwood Park. Two young boys were shooting off fireworks in the park, found it was too windy to set them off and moved into a playground tunnel to set off their lighters which started the tunnel on fire. The youth were apprehended, charged and as first-time offenders, chose to participate in a mediation process. Jon met with the youth, their parents and mediation team to discuss the situation wherein a restitution plan was agreed to. The plan includes the boys putting in 106 hours each in cleaning up the parks. Jon stated the boys seem sincerely remorseful, the parents supportive and not opposed to restitution, and that this is a good solution to the boys act of vandalism. In addition, the parents will take charge of supervising the boys so there is no further cost to the City.

### 2008 PARK PROJECT UPDATE

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, updated Commissioners on the 2008 park projects. Funds for the following approved projects will come from the OSLAD fund:

- ◆ Replacement of playground equipment at Sunkist and Maitland parks.
- ◆ Rehabilitation of the Willowstone Park Activity building. The project includes installation of city sewer and water, removal of septic tank, new furnace, refurbish the interior, and replace the concrete apron around the building.
- ◆ Central Park - Phase II was completed last year and Phase III will begin this year with a new restroom building, installation of new basketball court area, asphalt trails, and new parking lot. The water pump for the well went out last year and a new well and pump will be installed in 2008.
- ◆ Zane Athletic Complex – Replace irrigation system.
- ◆ Brookdale Park – Pedestrian bridge replacement study to begin.

Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated Operation & Maintenance Director, Jon Thiel, and Parks Superintendent, Dale Reed, will attend the May PRAC meeting to update Commissioners and staff on current park projects.

### RECREATION – 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Recreation Programs & Services Manager, Jan Ficken, shared a NAP map indicating homes throughout the City that have registered for recreation programs and showed a Power Point presentation on 2007 recreation programming to the Commission. Commissioner Dean Heng, suggested showing the NAP map to the YMCA as a resource for future facility plans. Jan stated she would share this information with them.

Commissioner, Mark Hanna, stated he walks the Community Activity Center walking track three times a week which provides him an opportunity to talk with a variety of people also using the walking track. Mark stated he has heard so many positive remarks about how great the Community Activity Center staff is and how much the hockey and ice skating parents really appreciate how things operate at the center. Mark shared additional comments on 'how great a job the maintenance crew does', the 'gals in the front office are super' and 'any question I have, I get the correct answer'. Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, thanked Mark for sharing the comments and will pass those along to the maintenance and office staff.

## 🌲 STRATEGIC PLAN

Director, Jon Oyanagi, updated Commissioners on current and upcoming department projects including creating goals, researching application for Parks & Recreation Department accreditation, and developing a department strategic plan. The strategic plan would begin with a 'fast track' plan and move into development of a firmer plan over the next couple of years. Jon and staff will form a committee to design a strategic plan and asked Vice Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, and Commissioner, Reubenna Cooley, to join the committee along with several representatives throughout the community including educators, senior citizen representatives and athletic association representatives. The first meeting will be held in March with dialogue relative to the department's mission, vision and values. Groups will break off to discuss goals and bring those back to the team in May. Jon anticipates that following two or three meetings, staff will have a workable and attainable plan to access on a day-to-day basis.

## 🌲 MRPA BOARD & COMMISSION SYMPOSIUM

Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated the Recreation & Parks Department professional association is the Minnesota Recreation Parks Association (MRPA). Staff and PRAC Commissioners are included in the association and Jon encouraged Commissioners to attend the upcoming symposium to be held on Tuesday, April 22 in New Brighton. The symposium will cover how to enhance and improve boards and commissions. Commissioners Brian Rogers, Rebenna Cooley and Mark Hanna expressed their interest in attending and Jon will get the specific details of the symposium to them prior to the meeting.

## 7. DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

N/A

## 8. OTHER ITEMS BY COMMISSION

### ◆ Silver Sneakers

Director, Jon Oyanagi, handed out information on Silver Sneakers, a new senior fitness program that will be offered through the Recreation & Parks Department. This structured exercise program was negotiated with Healthway, Inc. and as a part of the agreement, Healthway, Inc. will train our fitness staff to lead the fitness sessions to be held a minimum of two days a week. In turn, all senior fitness classes would be available to Silver Sneakers. Silver Sneaker members who are members of Medica and Humana would be able to attend the classes and access the fitness and weight room at no cost. We would get a \$3 reimbursement for each time a Silver Sneakers member participates. In addition, Healthway, Inc. will provide all of the fitness equipment, training, and technical links to their data center.

Details on this win/win partnership is being worked out with the attorneys and Jon will update Commissioners when the contract is completed.

◆ Brochure Redesign

Recreation Manager, Jan Ficken, informed Commissioners to watch for the new recreation brochure redesign that will be incorporated in the next brochure.

◆ Health Fair

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, provided Commissioners with the Open House and Health Fair pamphlet and encouraged members to attend on Saturday, February 23, 2-5 p.m., at the Community Activity Center. Several activities will be actively on display including preschool, dance and music. Lookout Catering will be onsite serving food with the new community room fully decorated.

◆ March PRAC Meeting

Director, Jon Oyanagi, announced that the March PRAC meeting will be held in the Preschool Room at the Zanewood Recreation Center, 7100 Zane Avenue North.

◆ Tater Daze

Vice Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, stated there was a good turnout for the first Tater Daze meeting and people can still get involved. This is an exciting time in event planning and funding is beginning to flow in. Dates for the 2008 Tater Daze events are June 18 – 20 with the parade held on Thursday, June 19. The parade will run along the same route as last year. Andrew stated plans for the Car Show are going to be bigger and better this year with lots of good music.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion, Brian Rogers; Second, Mark Hanna, to adjourn. Motion unanimously approved.**