

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2008  
RECREATION & PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

Commission Members present:

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

Absent:

Rich Gates, City Council Liaison  
Brad Giesbrecht, At-Large

Staff Members present:

Jon Oyanagi, Recreation & Parks Director  
Mary Pat Black, Parks & Facilities Manager  
Barb Stewart, Secretary  
Steve Gulenchyn, Program Supervisor  
Michelle Margo, Program Supervisor  
Jeremy Penkert, Recreation Intern  
Jon Thiel, Operations & Maintenance Director  
Dale Reed, Parks Superintendent  
Craig Enevoldsen, Police Patrol Captain  
Jamie Verbrugge, City Manager

Others:

Dennis Benson, Resident

**2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND ATTENDEES**

Introductions of members, staff and attendees were made.

**3. APPROVAL OF MAY 21, 2008 PRAC AGENDA**

**Motion, Mark Hanna; Second, Brian Rogers, to approve the May 21, 2008 PRAC agenda. Motion unanimously approved.**

**4. APPROVAL OF APRIL 16, 2008 PRAC MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion, Jeanne Qualley; Second, Brian Rogers, to amend the April 16, 2008 minutes to include Jeanne Qualley in attendance. Motion unanimously approved.**

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### TOBACCO FREE PARKS

Director, Jon Oyanagi, provided follow up information from the April 16, 2008 RPAC meeting regarding Students Taking Action Against Tobacco (STAAT). Following that meeting the group presented their request to institute a tobacco ban within the city parks to the City Council at their May 19, 2008 meeting. Following that presentation Council Members referred the request back to the RPAC for additional information on what other cities are doing regarding this policy and exploration of the possibility of initiating a partial ban of tobacco in all city parks and facilities excluding the CAC and golf courses. The City Council's main concern in instituting a tobacco ban is the potential loss of business at the Community Activity Center and the golf courses. This item will be added to the June 18 RPAC meeting for further discussion and Jon asked that Commissioners give thought on this issue in preparation for that discussion.

Commissioner, Rob Jacobs, asked if any of the Commissioners would be interested in forming a working group to solicit other cities on their successes or failures. Jon stated the Recreation & Parks Department staff can work on this and bring the results back to the RPAC.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### PINEBROOK PARK BASKETBALL HOOPS

Brooklyn Park resident, Dennis Benson, presented a petition signed by 52 homeowners surrounding Pinebrook Park requesting the removal of the basketball hoops located in the park. Mr. Benson informed staff and Commissioners of the ongoing problems in the park and neighborhood they feel are being caused by the basketball players.

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley, asked how many of the 324 homeowners surrounding the park chose not to sign the petition. Mr. Benson stated one homeowner has expressed an interest in keeping the hoops in place.

Commissioner, Brian Rogers, asked if the homeowners have ever organized a neighborhood crime watch. Mr. Benson stated they have not but the homeowners do see a need for assistance in the park and have expressed their willingness in hiring a private firm to patrol the park.

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, stated if the basketball hoops were removed in Pinebrook Park, kids would still have the option of taking the path to Noble Sports Park to play basketball. Andrew suggested that it would be appropriate to install play structures for younger aged children to address the needs of the families in the area.

Planning Liaison, Dean Heng, stated the city parks are for all people to use and not restricted only to the neighbors surrounding those parks. Due to their very nature, parks are noisy and it is not the city's role to exclude people from using the parks.

Police Patrol Captain, Craig Enevoldsen, stated he is not sure that removing the basketball hoops will correct the issue of kids congregating in the parks. In addition, there are many contact sports kids play in the parks with no problems to the neighbors. Craig asked what specifically the homeowners are requesting to be done and if a security force is hired, who

would be delegating orders to that force. Mr. Benson stated he envisions the security force would act in the like capacity of a Fire Watch and would call 911 when a problem is observed.

Park Superintendent, Dale Reed, stated the Operations & Maintenance crew has had to replace the basketball hoop rims several times following the removal of them possibly by the homeowners. Dale suggested installing security cameras in the park. Mr. Benson stated he didn't think cameras would be a deterrent. In addition someone would have to install and monitor them. Student Liaison, Danielle Nelson, stated that teens are looking for places to hang out and they probably will continue to do so whether is a basketball hoop or not.

Following further lengthy discussion and input from staff and Commissioners, Andrew thanked Mr. Benson for attending this evenings meeting. Mr. Benson thanked staff and Commissioners for their time, stating they have been very helpful and receptive to the neighborhood residents and their concerns.

### PARK MAINTENANCE UPDATE

In 1998, the Operations and Maintenance Department was asked to give annual updates on park maintenance conditions to the Recreation & Parks Advisory Commissioners. Since that time, they have prepared an annual update for the Commissioners. Operations & Maintenance Director, Jon Thiel, stated the O&M staff attends the PAC meetings to listen and gather input from Commissioners and Recreation and Parks staff for any concerns, questions or suggestions they may have. Attending the meetings provides the O&M staff an opportunity to ensure that the system in place improves the condition of the parks.

Director Thiel handed out several informational pieces including a 2008 Annual Condition Report, 2008 Projects/Work Plan, and a draft of the city's 2009-1013 CIP. John provided an overview of the parks maintenance, capital projects, and Parks & Recreation projects. Jon stated the charts provided are essential to keeping the city's parks maintained and functioning well.

Parks Superintendent, Dale Reed provided an in-depth overview of 2008 major projects including:

- Central Park Renovation – Phase III
- 2008 Park Trail Improvement Program
- Sunkist and Maitland Parks Playground Equipment Replacement
- Willowstone Park Activity Building Rehabilitation
- Brooklyn Blvd/Zane Ave Corridor, Village Creek & Street Median Landscape Maint.
- 2008 Focus Area – District 5:
  - Environmental Nature Area
  - Eidem Homestead
  - Noble Sports Park
  - Founders, Northern Trail, Northwoods, Oak Grove, Orchard Trail, Pinebrook, Royal Oaks, Willows of Aspen, and Willowstone parks
- Turf Maintenance Program
- 2008 Trail Sealcoat Program
- 2008 Park Parking Lot Striping – Central Park (football/softball)
- General Improvement Projects for all Districts
- Play Court Rehabilitation
- Prairie Restorations at River Park

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, complimented Dale and crew for the great job they do in maintaining the city parks.

Jon reviewed the five year CIP, specifically the Recreation & Parks section with \$1,620,000 proposed in 2009. This proposal will be presented to the Finance Department and City Manager for their review. Upon their approval, the final document will be completed and brought to the City Council for their approval in September.

Student Liaison, Danielle Nelson, asked if O&M has installed bike racks in the parks. Dale stated there are currently no bike racks in the parks although O&M crews will begin installing a few each year. They are concentrating on summer program sites for starters.

Commissioner, James Brekke, stated the report looks good and asked if the pavement on the trails in Brookdale Park will be replaced. Dale stated that project was scheduled last year and put on hold because the Met Council was working on a project in the park and it would not be advantageous to make the trail repairs until that work is completed.

Commissioner, Brian Rogers, asked if a guard rail could be installed on the pedestrian bridge. Dale stated crews could install a chain link fence and he will get a quote on what the cost would be.

Jon encouraged Commissioners to read through the reports, visit the parks and to contact him if they have further questions.

#### SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS PREVIEW

Program Supervisors, Steve Gulenchyn and Michelle Margo, handed out a 2008 Summer Preview Highlights packet to Commissioners. Michelle introduced Jeremy Penkert who will be interning over the next twelve weeks. Both Steve and Michelle reported on this summer preview and highlighted the following:

##### Summer Seasonal Staff –

- Staff is securing a diverse and quality season summer staff – 120+ staff hired
- Staff goal is in making this often first time employment opportunity a positive experience
- Staff mentors volunteers of all ages

##### Summer Camps –

- Michelle Margo coordinates Summer Camps
- Summer Camp sites: CAC, Zanewood, Willowstone, Northwoods, Lakeland and Hamilton
- Registrations have far exceeded expectations

##### Active Youth Programs –

- Program offerings for Preschool (Tiny Tots, Critter Camp, Small World, Kids in Motion), Ages 4-5 (Pee Wee Sports, T-Ball/Soccer, Sports Sampler), Ages 6-8 (All Star Sports, Baseball, Soccer), Ages 9-12 (Superstars, Basketball, Soccer, Flag Football), Ages 5-18 (Sport Camps, Skateboarding, Lacrosse, Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer)

##### Teens –

- Teen Zone is held at the CAC from 1-4 p.m. and Zanewood Rec Center from 5-8 p.m.
- YOC is working with Champions for Youth – Teen Mapping Program
- Youth Summit will be held on August 23 at Zanewood Rec Center

#### Swim Lessons –

High participation program

Staff registered \$18,000 in lessons on the first day of registration, Tuesday, May 20, from 8 – 11 a.m.

Planning Liaison, Dean Heng, asked how many customers are turned away due to filled classes. Steve stated although customers may not get their first choice of time and day, we can generally get them into another class time and day. In May we started the Splash Pals Swim School for kids with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The program is designed to meet the needs of kids with ASD who want to learn to swim and need a 1 to 1 situation in a quiet pool environment.

Jenny has recently added a new program, Splash Pals, that is ADA accessible and filling up. Aquatics Coordinator, Jenny Kordon, does an excellent job in training quality staff instructors to cover all swimming levels.

Student Liaison, Danielle Nelson, asked if staff has considered offering a diving program. Steve stated the Aquatics program is primarily geared towards learning to swim although Jenny would consider a diving program if the demand for it was there. Danielle stated she will research the demand and report back with those results.

#### Active Adults –

Two new programs offered next year - Kickball and Broomball

The fitness drop in classes are successful – recreation based vs. club membership based

#### 55 & Better –

Pat Busch coordinates the senior programming

Senior trips, activities, programs, and fitness classes are offered throughout the year

#### Neighborhood Action Program –

Staff works with Police Officer, Gerry Gibbs in offering Playground in a Bag

Three neighborhood meetings have been held with over 300 residents in attendance

#### Special Events –

Spud Run, Penny Carnival, NAP programs for youth, National Night Out, Hamilton Park Grand Opening, Concerts in the Park, Softball Tourney, Tater Daze, USSSA, Coon Rapids Dam Picnic and evening concert

#### Adaptive Recreation & Inclusion –

Jen Gillard coordinates the ADA component and works directly with REACH

ADA offerings include programs and activities for all ages, youth through adults

New ADA Swim Class – Splash Pals

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley, asked if the pool is zero entry or needs lifts to adapt for ADA participants. Steve stated tot docks are used to elevate the floor.

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, thanked Steve and Michelle for their report and asked that Commissioners contact the Recreation staff with any further questions they may have.

## 🌲 ANNUAL JOINT GOAL SETTING WITH CITY COUNCIL

Director, Jon Oyanagi, reminded Commissioners that the Joint Goal Setting meeting with City Council members is scheduled for Monday, June 2, at their regularly scheduled meeting. All city Commissioners are encouraged to attend this annual meeting to discuss goals and receive feedback from City Council members. Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, will be attending and asked those RPAC members who will be attending to contact him. Commissioner, Mark Hanna, stated he has attended several of these meetings over the years and finds them informative, insightful and a good learning tool for all city Commissioners.

Following discussion and input from Commissioners, the following goals were suggested:

- Safety and Security
- Crime Prevention (work with the Police Department so all are on the 'same page')
- Increase neighborhood involvement
- Engage kids to recreate in a healthy way
- Dog Park
- Signature Park

Jon encouraged Commissioners to attend the meeting and stated the City Council gathers the suggestions, comments and input received from Commissioners and takes them into consideration when planning for the city budget.

## 🌲 PARK DAMAGE DEPOSIT

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, requested feedback and input from Commissioners regarding instituting a damage deposit for those persons and groups reserving a picnic facility or park building. The current rules, regulations and policies do not require a damage deposit and as such, the city is unable to recover the cost of damages. Mary Pat handed out copies of the City of Brooklyn Park's current policies/rules; proposed additions to the current policy; and written policies/rules in surrounding cities. Mary Pat stated there are occasions when the park pavilion, building or area(s) have been left in bad condition following a rental event. Although staff has attempted to recover the costs in restoring the facility to its original condition that has not been possible. Requiring a damage deposit would assist in accomplishing that.

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, asked how the policy would be managed, who would observe the facility both prior to and following an event, etc. Mary Pat stated the person renting the facility would be required to allow us to put a hold on their credit card and sign the rental agreement acknowledging they are responsible for all damages. If damages occur, staff would make the charge to their credit card. Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated if there were a question of who is responsible for damages, the deposit would most likely be refunded.

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley, stated the threat of losing their deposit would be a deterrent to renters who may damage property or leave the facility in disrepair.

Following further discussion and input from Commissioners, the following motion was entertained:

**Motion, Jim Hubert; Second, Paul Hartzel, to implement a damage deposit for the use of park facilities. Pavilions holding 40 (\$100); 60 (\$200); 80-150 (\$300); Park Activity Buildings (\$100). Motion unanimously approved.**

## 7. DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW



## ALLINA MEDICAL CLINIC

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black presented the plans for Phase I of a two phase construction project for the Allina Medical Clinic. The development is located at the NE corner of Noble Parkway and 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Phase II plans for construction of a hospice unit.

Based upon the tight location allowing for minimal parkland development, staff recommends accepting approximately \$44,000 in parkland dedication fees in lieu of land.

**Motion, Jim Hubert; Second, Jeanne Qualley, to accept cash in lieu of land for Phase I of the Allina Medical Clinic Development. Motion approved.**

## 8. JULY PARK TOUR DISCUSSION

Director, Jon Oyanagi, asked Commissioners to think about the upcoming annual Park Tour to be held in July. Jon asked for input and suggestions on where Commissioners would like to go and which parks they would like to tour. Jon proposed that the tour be held outside the City of Brooklyn Park in order to see some of the amenities other cities have to offer including the artificial turf and dome in Plymouth; newly remodeled CAC in Eden Prairie; a city that offers a dog park; a city that offers a Splash Pad; along with Willowstone and Pinebrook parks located in Brooklyn Park.

Following discussion and input from Commissioners, general consensus was reached to tour a few parks located in Brooklyn Park along with a few parks located outside of the city. Jon offered to put together a list of parks to include in the tour.

## 9. OTHER ITEMS BY COMMISSION

### ◆ T-Mobile

Director, Jon Oyanagi, updated Commissioners that the T-Mobile cell tower is moving forward with a public open house held on Thursday, May 15. The next step in the process is to present their proposal to the Planning Commission and upon their approval, present it to City Council members for final approval.

### ◆ Tater Daze

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, stated the next Tater Daze meeting will be held on Monday, June 2, 7 p.m. at City Hall. Commissioners Reubenna Cooley and Mark Hanna volunteer for this citywide annual event and encouraged all Commissioners to get involved.

### ◆ Habitat for Humanity

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, congratulated Planning Commission Liaison, Dean Heng, on his recent interview with Channel 12. Dean has volunteered two days a week for the last ten years for Habitat for Humanity. Brooklyn Park has received a state grant from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency that will help build 20 habitat homes constructed throughout the city. Commissioners, residents, businesses, and city staff can volunteer to help construct houses during the first annual 'Community Build' event to be held August 25-29. Please contact Dean if you are interested in volunteering.

### ◆ Eidem Homestead

Commissioner, Jim Hubert, asked if Three Rivers Park District is still interested in supervising recreational opportunities at the Eidem Homestead. Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated Three Rivers Park District staff has made the decision to put this undertaking on hold for the time

being. Staff is working on their Strategic Plan and does not expect to have that completed until next year.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion, Mark Hanna; Second, Rob Jacobs, to adjourn. Motion unanimously approved.**