

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 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
Rich Gates, City Council Liaison
Mark Hanna, At-Large
Paul Hartzell, At-Large
Dean Heng, Planning Commission Liaison
Jim Hubert, At-Large
Rob Jacobs, At-Large
Jeanne Qualley, At-Large
Andrew Reinhardt, At-Large
Brian Rogers, At-Large

Absent:

Danielle Nelson, Youth Liaison

Staff Members present:

Jon Oyanagi, Recreation & Parks Director
Mary Pat Black, Parks & Facilities Manager
Barb Stewart, Secretary

Others:

Jane Hansen, Community Services Coordinator
Brittany McFadden, Representative for Tobacco Free Parks
Derek Larson, Representative for Tobacco Free Parks
Kirkpatrick Weah, Champlin Park High School Student
Miracle Vansiea, Champlin Park High School Student
Steve Carlson, T-Mobile Representative
Gene Lotts, Resident

- 2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 18, 2008 PRAC AGENDA**

Motion, Reubenna Cooley; Second, Mark Hanna, to approve the June 18, 2008 PRAC agenda. Motion unanimously approved.

- 3. APPROVAL OF MAY 21, 2008 PRAC MEETING MINUTES**

Motion, Jeanne Qualley; Second, Jim Hubert, to amend the May 21, 2008 minutes to include with agenda item Pinebrook Park Basketball Hoops: 'Commissioner, Brian Rogers, referenced the Parks Crime Report, which was presented to the Commission at the September meeting by then Acting Police Chief Roehl which showed for the time period of September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007, up to and including the time before the May meeting, no Police calls or crimes were reported in Pinebrook Park of any significance. The need for neighborhood watch groups was identified as a possible

solution to the issue due to the lack of them in the area.’ Minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

4. OLD BUSINESS

TOBACCO FREE PARKS

The following representatives for Students Taking Action Against Tobacco (STAAT) were in attendance for this evening’s agenda item:

Jane Hansen, Community Services Coordinator
Brittany McFadden, Representative for Tobacco Free Parks
Derek Larson, Representative for Tobacco Free Parks
Kirkpatrick Weah, Champlin Park High School Student
Miracle Vansiea, Champlin Park High School Student

Director, Jon Oyanagi, provided Commissioners with a summary of the April 16, 2008, RPAC meeting, wherein the STAAT presented a proposal for instituting a Tobacco Free Parks policy within the City of Brooklyn Park. Jon highlighted the discussion points and final RPAC recommendation to institute a Tobacco Free Parks Policy.

Following that recommendation, STAAT presented the proposal to the City Council on May 19, 2008. The City Council Members have sent the proposal back to the RPAC for a more detailed recommendation of what is needed to be included in the policy. The Council Members addressed three main areas for consideration:

1 – More public input

Jon stated information was advertised in the Sun Post newspaper and requested that people contact the Recreation & Parks Department if they had comments, questions or concerns. The Recreation & Parks Department staff has received no feedback from the article. City Council Liaison, Rich Gates, stated he has received one email in support of the ban.

2 – Concerns regarding enforcement of the policy

Jon stated that per the survey results of the surrounding cities, policy enforcement is not an issue. People tend to self regulate this policy and have experienced little negative feedback on the policy.

3 – Concerns regarding possible revenue loss at the golf courses and revenue generating City facilities

Jon stated that per the survey results of the surrounding cities, some cities have banned tobacco at their revenue generating facilities and although they may find it difficult to police, it has not been an issue with participants and have not realized a drop in revenue due to a Tobacco Free policy. Other cities have excluded these areas from the policy and avoided concerns.

Jon stated those cities who have instituted a tobacco ban or policy have seen it work well within their community. Staff recommends instituting a Tobacco Free policy as approved at the April 16, 2008, RPAC meeting with the inclusion of ‘excluding golf courses, picnic pavilions, and CAC grounds’.

Lengthy discussion and input from staff and Commissioners followed with reiteration of discussion points at the April RPAC meeting including policing and

enforcement of the policy, installation and maintenance of signage, the city infringing on public rights, and exclusions to the policy.

The following highlights summarizes the discussion and input from staff and Commissioners that followed:

Commissioner Paul Hartzell stated his view that the policy may be seen as hypocritical and that the ban shouldn't be based on whether a facility is revenue generating or not. Either tobacco should be banned citywide or not banned at all.

Commissioner Rob Jacobs responded this is not a revenue issue, rather a reasonable compromise. Rob stated there is a difference between banning tobacco in parks or golf courses. While people accessing the parks are able to easily walk to their cars to smoke, people on a golf course are generally 'stuck there' for 3-4 hours with their cars parked long distances away. Jon stated that smoking is now banned in McTavish's Restaurant and if it is banned outside the clubhouse also, the public would have no where to smoke.

Commissioner Jeanne Qualley offered a possible compromise if a specific and limited area within city parks could be designated as a 'smoking area', similar to places of employment.

Commissioner Paul Hartzell asked if tonight's discussion was about a ban or a policy and what is the difference between an ordinance and a policy. City Council Liaison, Rich Gates, stated an ordinance is law while a policy is a suggestion. A ban would have to be enforced while a policy would be seen as a recommendation.

Commissioner Brian Rogers stated Jeremy Penkert did a great job on preparing the survey presented to the Commissioners in April. The survey results show there are generally little or no problems with enforcement and few if any complaints from the public. Brian stated the City Councilmembers should decide this Tobacco Free Parks policy proposal based upon the survey results rather than their personal feelings.

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, stated that his position had not changed since the April meeting. He still feels banning tobacco in the parks is not currently a law and therefore should not be adopted in Brooklyn Park until there is a statewide ban. While he is not in favor of tobacco use in general, he is opposed to government infringement upon rights of individuals. Other activities are legal and unhealthy (such as eating a Bic Mac) yet are not banned from the parks.

Following further lengthy discussion and input from all, the following motions were entertained:

Motion, Brian Rogers; Second, James Driste, to recommend banning tobacco use and adopting a Tobacco Free Park policy within the City of Brooklyn Park.

In Favor: James Driste, Rob Jacobs, Brian Rogers

Opposed: James Brekke, Reubenna Cooley, Mark Hanna, Paul Hartzell, Jim Hubert, Jeanne Qualley, Andrew Reinhardt.

Motion Failed.

Motion, Jeanne Qualley; Second, Brian Rogers, to recommend approval of a Tobacco Free Park policy within the City of Brooklyn Park including park property, recreational facilities, open space, joint city/school district space, playgrounds and athletic fields

excluding the Community Activity Center, golf courses, picnic pavilions, and other events by special permit.

In Favor: James Brekke, Rob Jacobs, Jeanne Qualley, Brian Rogers, Opposed: Reubenna Cooley, James Driste, Paul Hartzell, Jim Hubert, Andrew Reinhardt

Abstained: Mark Hanna.

Motion Failed.

Motion, James Driste; Second, Brian Rogers, to recommend going Tobacco Free within the City of Brooklyn Park including park property, recreational facilities, open space, joint city/school district space, playgrounds and athletic fields excluding the Community Activity Center, golf courses, and other events by special permit.

In Favor: James Brekke, James Driste, Brian Rogers, Mark Hanna, Rob Jacobs, Jeanne Qualley,

Opposed: Reubenna Cooley, Paul Hartzell, Jim Hubert, Andrew Reinhardt.

Motion Passed.

Motion to recommend that if the City Council approves a Tobacco Free Park policy, that they not accept the existing wording of the signage and rather, explore alternate wording to include 'requesting' and replacing 'Tobacco Free' with 'Smoke Free'.

In Favor: James Brekke, Paul Hartzell, Jim Hubert, Andrew Reinhardt

Opposed: Mark Hanna, Rob Jacobs, Jeanne Qualley, Brian Rogers

Abstained: Reubenna Cooley, James Driste

Motion Failed.

🌲 T-MOBILE FOLLOW UP (Edinbrook Park)

Director, Jon Oyanagi, handed out the T-Mobile plans and photos for the revised proposal of a communication tower located on Edinbrook Parkway. This proposal was discussed at the March 19, 2008, RPAC meeting, followed by a motion to approve construction of a T-Mobile communication tower at Edinbrook Park. The original proposal included a 90 foot structure and the new proposal increases the height to 120 feet. Increasing the height of the structure allows potential future addition of a third carrier. The new proposal also notes that the tower's location has been moved closer to Hwy. 610 as requested by Commissioners at the March meeting and Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, expressed his pleasure with this change. The skating rink light will remain where it currently is positioned as will the portable toilet enclosure and trail light.

Jon introduced T-Mobile Representative, Steve Carlson. Steve gave background information on the tower. T-Mobile will construct a 10x12 foot support building and up to a 120 foot tower, capable of potentially holding three carriers. Planning Commissioner, Dean Heng, stated the Planning Commission reviewed this proposal and sent it back to the RPAC for input on whether to restrict the tower to 90 feet in height or extend it to 120 feet. Dean asked how the additional carriers leases would be handled. Jon stated additional carriers would have to gain City Council approval, just as T-Mobile has, and the leases would be drawn up in a similar manner to T-Mobile's agreement.

Steve stated the main reason T-Mobile is building the tower is to gain communication power and the fact that they may be able to lease tower space in the future is but a small advantage to them.

Dean Heng asked what color the tower would be. Steve responded either a dark brown or cloud grey.

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley, asked if there is a concrete pad under the existing portable toilet enclosure, does the tower have guide wires, how many trees will be removed to construct the tower, and could bird landings be constructed on top of the tower. Jon stated there is an asphalt pad and it would remain in place with a new block enclosure constructed by T-Mobile. Steve stated there will be no guide wires; he does not anticipate removal of any trees and will be planting six trees on the berm; the tower is made of fiberglass and is not conducive to setting up a bird nesting platform.

Commissioner, Brian Rogers, asked what the anticipated timeline is for construction of the tower. Steve stated if it is approved by City Council, it should be completed by the end of September. A pre-construction meeting will be held to discuss the details prior to starting construction.

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

Motion, James Driste; Second, Jim Hubert, to accept the T-Mobile proposal to construct a communication tower at Edinbrook Park at a height of 120 feet and painted brown in color. Motion approved, 9 to 1.

DAMAGE DEPOSIT

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, stated that instituting a damage deposit for the rental of city picnic facilities and park buildings was previously discussed at the May 21, 2008 RPAC meeting. Staff took the feedback and input received from Commissioners at that meeting and forwarded them to the City Council at their June 16, 2008 meeting where they were approved. Currently, the city regulations and policies do not require a damage deposit to recover the cost of damages at city picnic facilities or park buildings and instituting a damage deposit policy will allow the city to recoup those charges if necessary. Mary Pat handed out the revised rules/policy and rental application and asked Commissioners to contact her if they have any questions.

City Council Liaison, Rich Gates, stated his concern with charging schools a damage deposit when they are already under economic stress to pay for rental of facilities, field trips, etc. Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated an exception to the policy can be made for school districts and it will be advertised as such on the city website. Jon asked that Commissioners keep in mind that the school districts do charge the city for rental of their facilities.

JOINT GOAL SETTING WITH CITY COUNCIL

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, stated it was his honor to speak on behalf of the RPAC at the annual Joint Goal Setting meeting with City Council members on Monday, June 2, and thanked Commissioners Mark Hanna and Brian Rogers for attending that meeting.

SPLASH PAD

Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated that staff presented the concept for a Splash Pad to the City Council Members at their June 16, 2008 meeting. Discussion included construction costs (\$450,000-\$700,000), installation, annual maintenance costs (\$11,300), and comparisons to an aquatics facility.

Council Members expressed some concerns in the timing of construction of a Splash Pad when they are looking at possible budget cuts for 2009. Mayor, Steve Lampi, asked how the

operating costs would be covered; stated his desire for a central location for construction of a Splash Pad; questioned whether OSLAD funds is capable of paying for a Splash Pad; and asked staff to take in consideration future expansion when selecting a location for a Splash Pad.

City Council Liaison, Rich Gates, stated City Council members are generally in favor of a Splash Pad but consider this the wrong time to construct one. In addition, they are not against a Zanewood location as a site but would prefer a more central location.

CATERER UPDATE

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, stated the current single caterer for the CAC is the Lookout Grill and their contract will end April, 2010. Staff reviewed the option in offering multiple caterers for the CAC and has begun the interview process. Staff prepared and sent out a RFP to eight local catering establishments and will be interviewing seven of those who responded back. There are several people on the interview panel including RPAC Commissioner James Driste, Mayor Steve Lampi, Jon Oyanagi, Mary Pat Black, Gina Gryniewski, and a senior club member. Mary Pat stated all seven caterers are good choices offering diverse menu and pricing options. The interview process is anticipated to be completed by the end of July and staff will bring this agenda item back to the RPAC with their recommendation in September.

Commissioner, Brian Rogers, asked if the caterers to be interviewed are locally or nationally based. Mary Pat responded that they are all from the local area.

5. NEW BUSINESS

JULY PARKS/FACILITIES TOUR

Director, Jon Oyanagi, reminded Commissioners that the July 16, 2008, RPAC meeting will include the annual Park Tour. The bus will depart from the CAC parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Barb at 763-493-8367 by July 11 so that she can arrange for bus transportation.

2009 FEES AND CHARGES

Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated Commissioners have received in their information packets the 2009 proposed fees and charges that staff has analyzed and prepared. The department fees and charges are reviewed annually. These proposed fees and charges will make an impact on the 2009 budget and will be presented to the City Council in the near future.

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley, asked how staff monitors the athletic association's use of the soccer fields. Jon stated the associations receive a permit and bring that with them to the soccer fields.

Motion, Rob Jacobs; Second, Paul Hartzell, to approve the proposed changes to the 2009 Recreation and Parks Department fees and charges. Motion unanimously approved.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER MEETING

Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated Commissioners have received an invitation to the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) Workshop on Wednesday, June 25, 7-9 p.m. at the CAC, Senior Center. Jon encouraged all Commissioners to attend if possible.

STRATEGIC PLAN DRAFT

Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated Commissioners have received a draft of the Recreation & Parks Department Strategic Plan in their information packet and reviewed the following:

Mission –

To provide recreation and parks that create a sense of place and sense of community

Vision –

Happy, healthy people living in harmony

Values –

Creativity; Responsibility; Capability; Collaboration; Safety; Sustainability; Integrity & Ethics; Results; Responsiveness; Innovation; Fiscal Responsibility; Respect; Caring for Others; Resourcefulness; Visionary Leadership; Flexibility; Diversity

Focus Areas and accompanying goals for each -

Youth Development; Health and Wellness; Safety, Security and Crime Prevention; Bringing Community Together; Neighborhood Livability; Economic Development; Human Development; Environmental Stewardship; Cultural Enrichment; Enjoyment!

Jon stated the Strategic Plan will drive everything the Recreation & Parks Department does and provide a guide in its every day efforts and short term goals. Jon asked for input, comments and endorsement of the plan from Commissioners. The draft will be presented to the City Council at their July 7 meeting.

Commissioner, Jim Brekke, stated this plan is a great idea and obviously a lot of work went into preparing it. Jon stated staff wanted a practical plan that can be used as a working document.

SIGNATURE ARCHITECTURAL IDEAS

Commissioner, Rob Jacobs, led a power point presentation on a vision for signature architecture in Brooklyn Park and ideas for its design. Following the presentation, dialogue ensued amongst Commissioners regarding a signature architecture.

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, thanked Rob for his presentation stating this is an opportunity to take Brooklyn Park to the next level and beyond to transform the city into the new 'Twin Cities'.

Commissioner, Brian Rogers, commended Rob on his forward vision and outstanding presentation.

Commissioner, Jim Brekke, stated the City has space to develop a signature attraction and should research further into expanding on Rob's vision and ideas.

Rob stated that last week he met with the Citizen Long-range Improvement Committee (CLIC) and received strong support for this vision for a signature attraction. In addition, Engineering Director, Gary Brown, gave his support of the vision and asked Rob to take it forward to the City Council for support and approval.

Motion, Rob Jacobs; Second, Reubenna Cooley, to accept Rob Jacobs resolution and present it to the City Council for review.

25TH CAC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, stated the City will be celebrating the Community Activity Center's 25th anniversary. The CAC opened in October, 1983 and this milestone will be celebrated at the CAC on October 12, 2008, at 1 p.m. Mary Pat asked that Commissioners watch for a 'save the date card' that will be mailed out. Mary Pat asked that those Commissioners interested in serving on the planning committee contact her directly. In the meantime, staff will keep Commissioners informed as plans for the celebration move forward.

6. DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

CVS PHARMACY

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, handed out development plans for a CVS Pharmacy to be located in the Northland Plaza where the MGM store is currently located. Staff recommends accepting cash in the amount of \$52,980 in lieu of land.

Motion, Paul Hartzell; Second, Jim Hubert, to accept cash in lieu of land for construction of the CVS Pharmacy. Motion unanimously approved.

7. OTHER ITEMS BY COMMISSION

Tater Daze

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, encouraged Commissioners to attend the Tater Daze events beginning with the annual parade on Thursday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m. A volunteer tent will be set up and Andrew invited members to stop by while enjoying the weekend events. Andrew thanked Commissioners Reubenna Cooley and Mark Hanna for their hard work and commitment to this years events.

Spud Run/Walk

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black, reminded Commissioners that there is still time to sign up for the Spud Run/Walk to be held on Saturday, June 21, check in at 7 a.m.

Brookdale Park

Commissioner, James Brekke, reported that during last weeks storm a tree fell down in Brookdale Park near the trail. James asked if Operations & Maintenance crews could remove it. Jon stated he would forward that information on to the appropriate staff.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion, Jim Hubert; Second, Paul Hartzell, to adjourn. Motion unanimously approved.