

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009 RECREATION &  
PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

Commission Members present: Ashley Anderson,  
Student Representative Matthew Cooklock,  
At-Large James Driste, At-Large Deborah  
Everson, At-Large Dean Heng, City Council  
Liaison Mark Hanna, At-Large Paul Hartzell,  
At-Large Jim Hubert, At-Large Rob Jacobs,  
At-Large Nicole Jechorek, Planning Commission  
Liaison Jeanne Qualley, At-Large Andrew  
Reinhardt, At-Large Brian Rogers, At-Large

Commission Members absent:  
James Brekke, At-Large  
Reubenna Cooley, At-Large

Staff Members present: Jon Oyanagi,  
Recreation & Parks Director Mary Pat Black,  
Parks & Facilities Manager Jan Ficken,  
Recreation & Services Manager Barb Stewart,  
Secretary

**2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 21, 2009 RPAC AGENDA Motion, Jim Driste;  
Second, Matthew Cooklock, to approve the January 21, 2009 RPAC agenda.  
Motion unanimously approved.**

**3. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 17, 2008 RPAC MEETING MINUTES Motion,  
Mark Hanna; Second, Jim Hubert, to approve the December 17, 2008  
RPAC minutes. Motion unanimously approved.**

Tour of Edinburgh USA

Lancer Catering General Manager, Dean Dutko, guided Commissioners and staff on a tour of Edinburgh USA Clubhouse and Girvan Grille. 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. Edinburgh is home to the St. Andrews Club, a private member golf club that sells an average of 250 memberships annually.

Dean asked that he be contacted with any questions Commissioners may have.

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt, introduced newly appointed Student Representative, Ashley Anderson. Ashley is a Park Center student and will serve on the RPAC through August, 2009. PRAC Commissioners and staff introduced themselves and welcomed Ashley to the Commission.

Andrew announced City Council Member, Dean Heng has been appointed to a one year term serving as the City Council Liaison to the RPAC.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

🌲ELECTIONS Director, Jon Oyanagi, stated the annual elections for RPAC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are typically held in January. The current terms will end, and new terms begin, April 1, 2009.

Commissioner, Matthew Cooklock asked what the responsibilities are for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Jon Oyanagi responded responsibilities include running the monthly RPAC meetings; presenting the annual RPAC update to the City Council; and attending the annual goal setting meeting with the City Council.

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt opened the floor to nominations and following discussion and input from Commissioners, the following motions were brought forward:

**Motion, Rob Jacobs; Second, Paul Hartzell to reappoint Andrew Reinhardt to the position as Chairperson of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, effective April 1, 2009. Motion unanimously approved.**

**Motion, Mark Hanna; Second, Andrew Reinhardt to appoint Brian Rogers to the position of Vice Chairperson of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, effective April 1, 2009. Motion unanimously approved.**

Jon stated four Commissioners terms will expire April 1, 2009; Mark Hanna, Jim Hubert, Deborah Everson and Matthew Cooklock. Deborah and Matthew will reapply and interview with the City Council for a second term. Mark has served the term limit and will be leaving the RPAC on April 1. Jim will not be reapplying for a second term.

▲ CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN Director, Jon Oyanagi provided Commissioners a brief update of the plan stating it is in the process of being adopted. Staff has submitted a draft of the plan to the Metropolitan Council in December and are awaiting their comments. The plan can be found on the city web site at: <http://citysearch.brooklynpark.org/website/comdev/planning/completedcompplan5-19-08.pdf>

▲ RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT WORK PLAN Director, Jon Oyanagi stated staff annually presents the department work plan to the RPAC for discussion.

In summer 2008, the City Council adopted the Strategic Plan for the Recreation & Parks Department. Within that plan are nine focus areas: youth development; health and wellness; safety, security and crime prevention; bring community together; neighborhood livability; economic development; human development; environmental stewardship; and cultural enrichment. Staff will finalize their plans this month for each of their specific work areas.

Jon stated the 2009 budget narrative will be released soon and includes what the department accomplished in 2008 and goals for 2009.

▲ WORK PLAN REVIEW Director, Jon Oyanagi stated staff and Commissioners have discussed the RPAC work plan for 2009 and now have a working document to guide them. The plan includes items Commissioners want to discuss and items can be added, deleted or adjusted throughout the year as Commissioners desire.

Commissioner, Matthew Cooklock asked if Commissioners will have an opportunity to attend a MRPA board meeting and Commission training this year. Jon responded in the affirmative, if one is offered.

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt asked Commissioners to encourage their neighborhood friends to apply to serve on any one of several city commissions. Jon stated the City Council has received approximately 12 applications from people interested in serving on a commission and held several interviews at their January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Andrew asked if there is a park grand opening planned for this year. Jon stated there will be a grand opening for Village Creek in June.

▲ WORK PLAN REVIEW Program and Services Manager, Jan Ficken stated the department programmers are busy planning summer activities, writing, developing, coordinating programs, and putting together the summer brochure. There is little change to the summer 2009 programs from the 2008 programs. There will be five summer camp sites this year with a new one located at Brookdale Park giving an opportunity to shift some of the Camp CAC participants to this location.

Concerts in the Park will be held at the CAC Gazebo, Eidem Homestead and throughout the community on Wednesday evenings and is free to the public. The Egg Hunt and Penny Carnival will be held at the CAC this spring/summer. Expanded focus on teen programming is underway upon approval from the City Council to hire a staff person at the Zanewood Recreation Center. This position opens the site up to the public during regular hours and will help establish the teen center this summer. In addition Camp Zanewood will be held at the rec center along with adult fitness programs.

The Eidem Homestead budget for 2009 has been reduced and although programs and activities will not be as extensive, programming will continue at the Farm and the public will have the opportunity to visit the Farm this summer.

Programmers are experimenting on designing and offering some short term recreation classes that the entire family can join in together on. For example free tennis lessons will be offered in June wherein families can learn together. The lessons will be held over a short span so as not to commit anyone to the whole summer.

Commissioner, Rob Jacobs asked if staff would be receptive to holding a discussion with the local cable channel to offer video and visual opportunities for kids. Rob's son has permission, with adult supervision, to access the station and use their equipment. Rob said use of the facility and equipment is very popular among the kids and teens and he finds the station is busy with reserved 2 hour class time slots filled. Director, Jon Oyanagi stated the teens on the coalition has approached channel 12 and are researching the opportunities available.

Student Representative, Ashley Anderson asked if transportation is provided for the youth participating in the summer camps. Jan stated it is the family's responsibility to transport children to and from the camps.

City Council Liaison, Dean Heng asked if staff has considered coordinating an art in the park program. Jan stated there has not a lot of arts resources in the community although youth do want to be involved in community art, video production, poetry, writing etc. Staff has not found a way to deliver affordable creative art opportunities or partner providers.

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley asked if there is a back up plan for programs that do not fill and what resources are in place for families who cannot afford recreation programs. Jan stated that annually the department does request Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for families in need of assistance. Staff has received a large increase in requests for that scholarship funding in 2008 and will request additional CDBG funding from the City Council in February. Jeanne suggested garnering local sponsors to supply and print the t-shirts that are provided to participants each summer in order to save on costs.

## 5. DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

▲ **Bethany Church** Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black stated the Bethany Russian Baptist Church proposal, located on 2601-2609 Brookdale Drive was previously presented and discussed at the November 19, 2008 RPAC meeting. At that meeting a motion was unanimously approved to accept \$85,850 cash in lieu of parkland.

Developer, Dennis Batty, and members of the Bethany Russian Baptist Church attended the December 17, 2008 RPAC meeting to discuss the possibility of reversing that motion and requesting that the city accept land in lieu of cash.

Mary Pat stated following that meeting, Director Jon Oyanagi, herself, RPAC Commissioners Mark Hanna and Brian Rogers met with Developer, Dennis Batty of Dennis Batty & Associates Group and members of Bethany Russian Baptist Church to reach a proposal to have the church remove the existing deer fence that runs along the perimeter of the property and reinstall it at the Eidem Homestead new community garden site. The church was agreeable to this and staff was to research the cost for having this done.

Staff received a \$9,600 quote from K Fence to install 1,280 feet of new fencing. Staff proposes that a \$7,000 parkland dedication deduction to Bethany Church if they install the deer fence at Eidem Homestead per DNR specifications.

It has recently been determined that the existing trail meanders along the perimeter of the land with a small section of it running onto the property. Staff suggests taking .25 acres of that land so that the entire trail is contained on city-owned property and/or easement. Director, Jon Oyanagi stated the city owns the property directly to the north and this proposal would continue the property line down to cover the trail portion and would be a parkland dedication credit to Bethany Church.

Commissioner, Paul Hartzell asked if Bethany Church would incur an expense to remove and reinstall the fencing. Mary Pat stated yes they would and that they are researching the possibility of a church member completing that work. The City Attorney would prepare a contract including any DNR specifications needing to be adhered to and addressing liability concerns.

Planning Commission Liaison, Nicole Jechorek asked what the city liability is if someone was injured while working on the fence. Jon stated the contract would be carefully written to address that issue.

Commissioner, Jim Hubert asked how the Church has responded to this proposal. Jon stated they are cautiously accepting it, depending on the cash credit.

Commissioner, Brian Rogers stated staff has met with both the developer and church members several times and feels this is a favorable compromise that should be acceptable to both the city and church.

Commissioner, Jim Driste asked if once money is deposited in the OSLAD fund, can it removed at a later date to install the fencing. Jon stated that it could. In addition the city will be receiving money from the rental of the garden plots at Eidem Homestead that could be used for improvements.

Mary Pat stated depending upon the tonight's decision from the RPAC, the property would be replatted and brought to the City Council for discussion and final approval on Monday, January 26. Following further discussion and input from staff and Commissioners, the following motion was brought forward:

**Motion, Paul Hartzell; Second, Jim Hubert, to recommend that the City Council accept a land donation of approximately .25 acres located at the far western portion of the property in order to absorb the existing trail encroachment and the remainder in a cash dedication \$47,921 minus \$7,000 credit if Bethany Church agrees to relocate the deer fence from the current location to the community gardens at Eidem Farm as per the specifications of the city. Motion unanimously approved.**

**🌲 Mikros Addition** Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black stated the Mikros Addition plat is located in the far western part of the City, north of Fleet Farm and east of Highway 169. Mikros would like to purchase a sliver of land currently abutting their property to enable them to expand their property. Staff recommends accepting \$949.20 in lieu of land on this 4.22 acre plat.

**Motion, Matthew Cooklock; Second, Mark Hanna, to accept cash in lieu of land for the Mikros Addition. Motion unanimously approved.**

## **6. OTHER ITEMS**

**🌲 Many Faces of Brooklyn Park** Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt stated the Many Faces of Brooklyn Park event will be held at the CAC on Saturday, January 24, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Both Andrew and Commissioner, Mark Hanna highly recommended and encouraged Commissioners to attend this culturally diverse festival. The event is highly attended and free to the public.

🌲 **Tater Daze** Commissioner, Mark Hanna stated the new Tater Daze parade route has been approved. The route will run along Oak Grove Parkway, and end at the Tater Daze Festival site making it convenient for participants to join in the Tater Daze activities offered at the site. In an effort to close some of the gaps in the parade, there will be only three areas this year where participating bands can stop and play. Tater Daze meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. at City Hall.

🌲 **Village Creek Redevelopment** City Council Liaison, Dean Heng stated the city is trying to develop the Village Creek and Huntington Pointe area to become the new 'downtown' of Brooklyn Park. Although two companies have attempted to attract developers to the Village Creek area, they have received little feedback or interest from them. The city is now considering planting grass on the site and allowing it to sit until a later time when developers can be retained. Dean asked if it was possible to turn this beautifully treed area into a temporary park site that could be used by the public rather than just letting it sit. Several possible uses of the site were shared by Commissioners and staff including holding concerts and city events, soccer games, community garden, and dog park. Director, Jon Oyanagi suggested adding this item to next month's RPAC meeting to further discuss the feasibility of ideas.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion, Jim Driste; Second, Mark Hanna, to adjourn. Motion unanimously approved.**