

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009
RECREATION & PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION

1. The Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission was called to order by Vice Chair, Brian Rogers.

Commission Members present:

James Brekke, At-Large
Reubenna Cooley, At-Large
James Driste, At-Large
Deborah Everson, At-Large
Paul Hartzell, At-Large
Dean Heng, City Council Liaison
John Holm, Planning Commission Liaison
Rob Jacobs, At-Large
Brian Rogers, At-Large
Jeanne Qualley, At-Large
Seyon Nyanwleh, At-Large

Commission Members absent:

Matthew Cooklock, At-Large
Andrew Reinhardt, At-Large
Kimberley Sundy, At-Large

Others present:

Jon Thiel, Operations & Maintenance Director
Dale Reed, Parks Superintendent
Rob Schreier, Community Development Director
Dave Hagen, Clearwire Representative

Staff Members present:

Jon Oyanagi, Recreation & Parks Director
Mary Pat Black, Parks & Facilities Manager
Jan Ficken, Recreation & Services Manager
Gina Grynewski, Program Supervisor
Barb Stewart, Secretary

Minutes are amended as follows:

Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh asked if the names of those Commissioners voting 'nay' on a motion be reflected in the RPAC minutes; Planning Commissioner, John Holm began discussion regarding the Mills Fleet Farm which was tabled for a future RPAC meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 21, 2009 RPAC AGENDA

Motion, Deborah Everson; Second, Rob Jacobs, to approve the October 21, 2009 RPAC agenda. Motion unanimously approved.

3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 RPAC MEETING MINUTES

Motion, Jeanne Qualley; Second, Rob Jacobs, to approve the September 16, 2009 RPAC minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

ENSURE BEST USE DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Director, Bob Schreier provided an update on city goal #5 Ensure Sustainable Development. Bob is captain of the Ensure Sustainable Development team which includes Jeff Holstein, Jon Watson, Cindy Sherman, Jason Aarsvold, and Mary Pat Black. Each team members heads up a task (listed below):

1 - Develop Sustainable Design Standards

As the team moves forward they want to develop more energy efficient, LEED certified buildings, both public and private.

2 – Ensure Signature Development in the 610 Corridor

As the team moves forward the City Council and City leaders continue to look at signature development along the corridor to make sure that developments going in there are multi-story buildings with good designs; denser development; quality development and developments that will provide jobs.

3 – Comprehensive Strategy to Maintain and Enhance Facilities, Infrastructure and Parks

New development affects infrastructure within the park system and maintenance of the city's park system is key when considering new buildings and developments. We currently have a good sound base and one of the better park systems within the entire metropolitan area and it is important that the City continue maintaining those systems.

4 – Redevelopment of Major Community Corridors

Teams are looking at redevelopment throughout the entire City including County Road 81; completing a light rail feasibility study; revitalizing 85th Avenue; shopping center along Brookdale Drive; light rail spur along West Broadway; and potential sites for a library and a YMCA facility.

5 – Establish Comprehensive Strategy to Reposition/Redevelop Apartments

Teams are looking at strategies to improve the city's apartment stock.

Following his update, Bob opened the floor to questions.

Council Liaison, Dean Heng stated it has been his experience that requiring developers to meet design standards restricts creativity. Bob agreed stating it is the team's intent to allow designers to be flexible in their designs.

Commissioner, James Brekke asked if the teams are looking at going green this year with building design plans. Bob stated the City has been approved for a federal energy grant that will lay out some 'going green' guidelines.

Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh asked what the committee has accomplished that citizens can point to and claim as their own; and how will the city's redevelopment efforts affect taxes placed upon homeowners.

Bob gave several examples of the committees accomplishments including the water treatment plant; upgrading of the City's bond rating which helps to sell bonds and get a lower interest

rate; work on having Hwy. 610 extended; modified how TIF funds can be paid back and used for redevelopment.

Bob stated the goal in the City's redevelopment plans is to bring in developments that will increase city taxes. For example Target Corporation is the City's largest tax base payer and without Target, homeowners would be required to pay much more in taxes.

PARK PROJECT 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 2009 Annual Park Condition Report, highlights of what was completed in 2009; Maintenance Policy; input on the CIP; and report on the City's Emerald Ash Borer problem. Parks Superintendent, Dale Reed stated each year the Operations and Maintenance department goes through the system and rates each component. Every park, building, facility is included and receives a rating. The goal is to move the rating up 1-2% each year, from red to green. Dale provided an overview of the 2009 projects and explained the condition report detail is broken down on a scorecard sheet included in the packet.

Jon discussed the CIP document included in the packet and summarized a five year plan with an \$8 million projects cost. Commissioner, James Driste stated the OSLAD Fund appears to be low and asked if money is being put into this fund. Jon stated no money is being put into the fund right now. Jon Oyanagi, Jon Thiel and Corey Kampf worked on the OSLAD fund and determined it will last approximately two years. Without additional funding it will not be possible to complete future projects.

City Council Liaison, Dean Heng asked how O&M determines the level of maintenance at a facility. Dale stated it depends upon the type of programming and use of the facility along with following the O&M policy guidelines.

Vice Chair, Brian Rogers asked if O&M crews check the Central Park bathrooms; and how O&M comes up with the field usage figures.

Dale stated Central, River and Oak Grove parks are checked every morning from Memorial Weekend through October; and field usage figures are subjective based upon staff feedback.

Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh asked if anyone whether a resident or non-resident can use the parks. Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black stated the parks are free to use for the general public. If a group wants exclusive use of a picnic shelter, building or some of the park fields, there is a permit fee. Seyon asked if BPAA pays to use the Zane Recreation Complex. Mary Pat stated BPAA pays for all of the fields they use.

Jon reviewed the Operations & Maintenance Policy stating he was asked last year for information on the policy. This year he has provided the information in an attempt to make it easier to understand.

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley asked how many staff members O&M maintains; and stated the biggest complaint she receives is the change in going to plastic waste receptacles in the park which creates an odor.

Jon stated there is 19 full time staff and up to 12 seasonal staff which is average to surrounding cities; the new waste receptacles are automated containers which help with potential back injuries and are used for ease and efficiency. Staff will look at rinsing them out or adding an odor neutralizer.

Seyon suggested a survey be completed by people actually using the parks asking how often they use the park, why they use it, etc., and then decide which parks are highly used and base the maintenance plan upon those results. Deborah stated it would be preferable to do a survey online or through Park Pages rather than have something set out at each park entrance. Seyon stated he agreed and the survey could be made available at several locations.

Dale discussed Emerald Ash Borer stating although it has not hit Brooklyn Park yet, it is only a matter of time. Emerald Ash Borer has been confirmed in St. Paul and the O&M Department is drafting a management plan. Brian asked if O&M will announce to the public when it hits and Dale responded in the affirmative. Dale recommended Commissioners to visit the www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab site for detailed information.

Jon encouraged Commissioners to read through the reports, visit the parks and to contact himself or Dale if they have further questions. Commissioner, James Brekke commended the O&M staff on the good job they do.

NORTHWOODS PARK COMMUNICATION TOWER

Director, Jon Oyanagi introduced Clearwire Representative, Dave Hagen. Dave represents Clearwire in their lease and zoning of their sites for their internet service. Clearwire's proposal includes doubling the height of the current tower located in Northwoods Park. A neighborhood meeting was held on October 20 with two neighbors attending. Questions were asked on how the tower will work and no negative comments to the tower were made. Dave is here tonight to discuss the tower and receive feedback and input from Commissioners.

Clearwire is a wireless internet provider who is proposing to install several new towers and add to existing towers within Brooklyn Park. Their representatives have approached the city to discuss placement within a variety of areas including parks. Tonight's discussion is specific to the Northwoods Park proposal. The tower area is intended to service residents in their homes and small businesses in the area. The plan includes replacing an existing light tower with a 120' tower and re-attaching the rink lights to the new tower. Clearwire will need space for the tower and an approximately 7' x 9' equipment box. The terms of the agreement will be similar to the tower recently installed at Edinbrook Park. The annual lease payment will be \$18,000 with an upfront administration fee of \$2,000 and an escrow of \$500 for repair of vandalism. The lease payment goes into the Open Space and Land Acquisition Fund.

Commissioner, Deborah Everson asked what the height is of the existing tower. Dave stated approximately 60 feet. Deborah responded she would not want this tower in a park near her and does not understand why the city is allowing it. Jon responded installing a communications tower is a service to the residents. There is a large increase in people moving from land lines to cell phones which necessitates additional communication towers. Dave stated coverage is also needed for in-building cell usage.

Commissioner, Rob Jacobs stated installing cell communication towers does not hurt anyone and it important that we support new innovations and move this project forward.

City Council Liaison, Dean Heng stated the Council Members have reviewed several tower proposals. Although the City cannot exclude companies from installing communication towers, we can direct where the towers are installed. It isn't actually the tower itself that offends people, it is the equipment box on the ground. The City Council now requires a deposit be made in the event the company disbands and leaves the tower.






Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh asked how neighbors were notified of the October 20 meeting. Jon stated a letter was sent out to all residents living within 500 feet of the park and when Clearwire requests the conditional use permit, the neighbors will once again be notified. Planning Commission Liaison, John Holm stated in addition, the neighbors will have two more opportunities to express their support or non-support of the tower.

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

Motion, Paul Hartzell; Second, Jeanne Qualley to recommend that the City Council approve the placement of the Clearwater communication tower on to the existing tower in Northwoods Park. Motion passed (7-2). Seyon Nyanwleh and Deborah Everson opposed.

SUMMER PROGRAM REPORT

Recreation & Services Manager, Jan Ficken led a power point presentation highlighting summer 2009 recreation programs:

-  SilverSneakers – Successful daytime fitness program at the Community Activity Center averaging 300 people per month attending the classes
-  Step To It – Over 400 people enrolled. Brooklyn Park won for the second year in a row. This is great public relations and media exposure for the city. Over 61 million steps were recorded in the four week period.
-  Eidem Homestead – Many events held in the summer including concerts, tours, tea parties, and open houses. It was a good summer with a new Site Coordinator on board, Rich Williams. Rich brings with him new program ideas and volunteers. Unfortunately, Rich is leaving the city, for full time employment with Three Rivers Parks District to manage Historic Murphy's Landing.
-  Music in the Parks – Very popular free family summer program. A variety of concerts were held throughout the summer including ethnic music, concerts promoting grandparents/grandchildren, and two concerts held at the Eidem Homestead.
-  Youth Sports – Approximately 1,000 kids participated this summer. One of the largest sports programs is gymnastics for children ages 3 on up through high school. This program runs year round. A preschool age class was added this year and is very popular.

- 🌲 Aquatics – Very successful program with 2,200 people registered for aquatics swimming lesson program. Excellent staff that are well trained and provide a high quality experience for participants.
- 🌲 With summer recess, the Youth Opportunities Coalition was busy engaging young people in activities. This program was merged into the larger city initiative, NAP. The neighborhood action program (NAP) works in problem neighborhoods within the community. Youth violence prevention was added this summer in an effort in reducing juvenile crime through involvement in recreation programming.
- 🌲 Youth Communications – We received good media coverage on Channel 12, Star and Tribune, Sun Post, and Park Pages this summer. Especially noted was the article in the Sunday paper about Austen Haffner and his mom, Tonya who are both involved in the Youth Opportunities Coalition work. The article was about how teens and their parents can work together.
- 🌲 Zanewood Recreation Center – Grand re-opening was held. A number of trips were held with a lot of teen involvement. Programming available for young kids-adults and new programs such as the Drum and Bugle Corps, Free Lunch Program and Girls Group were offered. Rooms can also be rented for private use.
- 🌲 New Community Garden – Opened up 80 plots this summer which brought new exposure and people out to the Eidem Homestead. All plots were rented out.
- 🌲 Dog Park – The new Dog Park at Brookdale Park successfully opened this summer and a special event was held with several companies present to give away free toys and treats for the doggies.
- 🌲 Summer Day Camps – Held at five parks this summer with 500 campers participating. Added an outdoor nature component this summer and expanded the outdoor education camps in partnership with Three Rivers Park District.
- 🌲 Inclusion Services – We saw an increased need for help with special needs children. These services take an enormous amount of time and staff to make the necessary accommodations. The most requests are due to children with autism.

🌲 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS PROPOSAL

Program Supervisor, Gina Grynewski, updated Commissioners on the schedule changes to the outdoor ice rinks for winter 2010. Gina stated the outdoor skating rink program budget has been reduced over the past three year and further reductions for 2010 include supervision of three rinks (reduced from five) during the month of December at Norwood, Central and Brookdale parks; supervised staff at Central Park from January through February; and allow NMYHA to use one skating rink at Central Park for their practices. Staff has received very few complaints about the reduction of supervised ice hours and customers were satisfied upon learning they could check out a key for the building.

Staff recommendation is to not maintain ice at College, Lakeland and Hamilton parks this year. Gina asked for feedback from Commissioners on which skating rinks to maintain through the winter 2010 skating season.

Commissioner, Paul Hartzell stated his support of the recommendation.

Vice Chair, Brian Rogers asked what the key deposit fee is and could that information be posted. Gina stated we require a \$25 key deposit and that information can be posted. City

Council Liaison, Dean Heng stated that Sunkist Park has great ice but nowhere for skaters to put their skates on. Dean asked if that has been corrected. Gina stated it has not but staff can look into setting up benches for skaters to put their skates on.

Following further discussion general consensus was met that outdoor skating rinks at College, Lakeland and Hamilton parks will be closed this year.

🌲 HENNEPIN YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM GRANT

Director, Jon Oyanagi updated Commissioners that the Twins stadium funding was approved with the condition that money is allocated for libraries and youth sports. The first deadline for applications is Monday, November 2. Future funding cycle deadlines will occur in January and July of each year. Approximately \$2 million is available for each grant cycle. Grants will be awarded in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$400,000 and those grants involving cities, schools, and multiple agencies will be given highest priority. If staff can get City Council approval at their October 26 meeting, they can prepare the applications to meet the November 2 deadline.

Grants for several projects could be applied for including:

- 1) Monroe Park - \$400,000 – Redesign the park
- 2) Zanewood Park - \$300,000 – Redevelop the athletic fields
- 3) North Hennepin Community College – \$400,000 – Redevelop the two ball fields
- 4) LVY - \$400,000 – Domed multi-use artificial turf field
- 5) Edinbrook School - \$300,000 – Irrigate a multi-use soccer field in place of the ball fields
- 6) Zanewood Park Skate Park - \$150,000 – Installation of a skate park
- 7) Zanewood Playground - \$40,000 – Replace the playground with Neos electronic play equipment
- 8) Brookland Disc Golf Course - \$12,000 – Install a disc golf course within the existing ball golf course

Commissioner, Paul Hartzell asked if this improves the chance to move the construction of an aquatics facility forward. Jon stated it could.

Commissioner, Rob Jacobs asked what is it about installing artificial turfs that constitutes them taking longer to approve and construct. Jon stated it is a matter of funding. Although we could receive \$400,000, the cost to construct the artificial turf is \$1 million and the city would have to come up with that difference in funding.

Commissioner, Jim Driste stated he has found that disc golf players are looking for 18 hole courses rather than 9 hole courses. Jon stated the Central Park course now has 9 holes for play and an additional 9 holes would provide a total of 18 holes. Jim asked how customers will pay. Research has been done where both courses exist together and examples were provided on how that happens.

Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh asked how staff selected who to work in partnership with in receiving these grants. Jon stated the funding process includes the desire to see cities and schools work together. The Recreation and Parks Department has a long standing

relationship with the school districts and they make natural longtime partners. Seyon ask how the youth sports organizations are chosen for these grants and did the Recreation & Parks Department advertise these grants. Jon stated any organization can sign on and provide the Recreation & Parks Department with a letter of support. The grant was not widely advertised because of the very short deadline we were faced with. Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black stated all of the grant application program choices would benefit all Brooklyn Park youth whether they have signed on or not.

Jon asked for input and feedback from Commissioners and staff on which projects should be applied for. Following further discussion and input from all, the following projects were suggested:

- Zanewood Park - Redevelop the athletic fields
- Edinbrook - Irrigate a multi-use soccer field in place of the ball fields
- Disc Golf - Install a disc golf course within the existing ball golf course

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

TRAIL NAMING

Director, Jon Oyanagi welcomed Commissioners to attend the Environmental Area Trail Naming Dedication for Mr. Edward Shimek on Saturday, October 24, 1 p.m. Mayor Steve Lampi will be in attendance for the dedication, cake cutting and celebration of Mr. Shimek's 88th birthday.

6. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Calendar of Events

Director, Jon Oyanagi provided Commissioners with a calendar of upcoming events for October and November, 2009.

MRPA Board & Commission Workshop

Director, Jon Oyanagi stated the MRPA is hosting a workshop for board and commission members throughout the state On Tuesday, November 10. Topics of discussion include the Economic Benefit of Parks and Recreation; What's Happening in your Communities; Today's Changing Demographics; Advocacy at the Local and State Level; and NRPA Congress 2010. Jon encouraged Commissioners to sign up to attend the workshop that will be held from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Those attending will meet at the Community Activity Center at 5:30 p.m. to carpool to Rosemount. Commissioners Seyon Nyanwleh, Brian Rogers, Matthew Cooklock and Rob Jacobs stated they will be attending the workshop. Other Commissioners can email Jon by October 22 if they wish to attend.

7. **OTHER ITEMS**

North Metro Sustainability Round Table

Director, Jon Oyanagi provided Commissioners with a flyer on the North Metro Sustainability Round Table. Jon encouraged Commissioners to attend this free workshop to be held on Monday, October 26, from 3-8 p.m. at the Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center. This workshop is for city staff and other city and community sustainability leaders and will cover new money that is available for city energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

🌲 Oak Grove Park - Bat Houses

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley asked if Jon would provide some photos of the bat houses that were put up in Oak Grove Park. Jon responded in the affirmative and will bring them to the November RPAC meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion, Seyon Nyanwleh; Second, Jeanne Qualley, to adjourn. Motion unanimously approved.