

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010
RECREATION & PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

Commission Members present:

James Brekke, At-Large
Reubenna Cooley, At-Large
Deborah Everson, At-Large
Paul Hartzell, At-Large
Rob Jacobs, At-Large
Steve Lampi, City Council Liaison
Seyon Nyanwleh, At-Large
Jeanne Qualley, At-Large
Andrew Reinhardt, At-Large
Brian Rogers, At-Large

Commission Members absent:

Matthew Cooklock, At-Large
James Driste, At-Large
Snoti Jappah, Student Representative
Kimberley Sundry, At-Large

Staff Members present:

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

Others:

Nicole Rogers, Resident

2. **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 17, 2010 RPAC AGENDA**

Motion, Jeanne Qualley; Second, Deborah Everson, to approve the February 17, 2010 RPAC agenda. Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh questioned the time limits allocated to each agenda item and asked if this was agreed upon by Commissioners. Director, Jon Oyanagi stated at last month's meeting the Commissioners and staff discussed staying on track with the agenda items. Allocating time limits to each discussion item is one way of doing this and so staff implemented that tool to help keep everyone on track. Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt stated this is just a recommendation to encourage people to stay within the time limit and help manage the RPAC meetings. Seyon stated the disadvantage in allocating time limits when discussing important items that need further time than allotted. He stated his concern that discussion would have to cease when the time limit was reached. Andrew stated that is not the intent in allocating time limits and rather they are only a suggested time limit. If further discussion is necessary regarding an agenda item, that discussion will continue no matter what time limit has been set.

3. **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 20, 2010 RPAC MEETING MINUTES**

Motion, Brian Rogers; Second, Rob Jacobs, to approve the January 20, 2010 RPAC minutes amended as follows:

Page 5, paragraph 2 to read 'alcohol is allowed in the entire park area without a permit within the four parks selected.'

Motion unanimously approved.

4. OLD BUSINESS

🌲 OFF-LEASH DOG EXERCISE AREA

Director, Jon Oyanagi stated at the January, 2010 RPAC, a recommendation was made to keep the off-leash dog exercise area a permanent amenity in Brookdale Park. This agenda item is being brought back to the RPAC this evening for additional detailed options in order to recommend a more complete description for City Council.

Jon requested that Commissioners and staff discuss and come up with an agreement on a fencing option, agreement on permit process, fees recommended, ordinance change, and a change to the rules that were previously adopted. In addition, Jon requested that discussion include a solution to the sliding hill used during the winter months.

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black presented three fencing options that came out of previous discussions by Commissioners.

The first option includes 1,767 feet of fencing at a cost of approximately \$10,000.

The second option includes 2,069 feet of fencing at a cost of approximately \$13,000.

The third option includes 2,774 feet of fencing at a cost of approximately \$19,000.

General and lengthy discussion ensued covering all three options.

Commissioner, Deborah Everson suggested having two separate areas; one for big dogs and one for small dogs. Director Oyanagi stated the third design option could contain both areas.

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley recommended approval of the first and least expensive design option. Commissioner, Rob Jacobs and Vice Chairperson, Brian Rogers recommended the third design option stating it would be well worth the money to completely fence in the dog park area. Director Oyanagi stated Home Depot is considering sponsoring a park project up to a value of \$50,000 and staff has recommended the dog park option to them.

Following further lengthy and in-depth discussion, the following motion was entertained:

Motion, Deborah Everson; Second, James Brekke to recommend the second design option to include areas for both small dogs and big dogs if funds are available through a Home Depot grant. Motion unanimously approved.

Discussion moved forward to dog park user fees. Director Oyanagi provided fee examples which surrounding cities impose with some cities charging no fee at all.

Chairperson, Brian Rogers recommended charging a fee. Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt stated he does have an issue with charging a fee.

Commissioner, Rob Jacobs asked what the distinction is between Brookdale Park being a dog park with a fee charged and other parks that are non-dog parks and do not charge a fee. Jon

stated one might argue that you pay a fee for the exclusive use of a park; in this case you have exclusive use of a park for dogs. Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley agreed stating this is the same idea as when the city charges a fee for use of the community garden or golf courses.

Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh asked for further explanation on the \$25 annual fee versus the \$3 daily fee. Jon stated a person visiting relatives in the area may want to use the park once or twice a year and would have no need to pay the \$25 annual fee in which case the \$3 daily fee option would be appropriate.

Commissioner, Reubenna Cooley asked if the licensing fee could be increased a couple of dollars rather than charging a separate user fee and asked what the licensing fee is. Jon stated there were 770 licenses issued in 2009 at a rate of \$5/each if the pet is spayed/neutered and \$15/each if the pet is not spayed/neutered. In addition state law requires that all animals are up to date on their shots.

Commissioner, Paul Hartzell recommended raising the licensing fee from \$5 to \$10 and waiving the resident fee for use of the dog park. Paul suggested promoting the dog park when pet owners register their pet and allowing them to use the dog park for free. In addition, install a donation box in the park. This would attract pet owner's attention that they should license their pets.

Jon reminded Commissioners that the Dog Park Focus Group agreed that a fee should be charged. City Council Liaison, Steve Lampi stated if additional expenses are incurred in creating and maintaining the dog park, then a fee should be initiated. The fee also provides an incentive for pet owner's to buy their license. In effect you are accomplishing the same thing if the goal is to get the pets licensed and vaccinated. The other side is how do you police the dog park to make sure people are doing that.

Following additional comments and discussion, general consensus was reached that pet owners should be charged an annual dog park user fee in addition to their license fee. The following motion was entertained:

Motion, Rob Jacobs; Second, Paul Hartzell to recommend that the use of the off-leash dog exercise area be included as a part of a pet license. The fee would be discussed at the next meeting based on research of other cities dog license fees. A pay box to be erected at a reasonable fee for daily use. Motion passed (7-2). Jeanne Qualley and Seyon Nyanwleh opposed.

RIVER PARK

Director, Jon Oyanagi stated following last month's comments and suggestions from Commissioners that one park be discussed at each meeting, River Park will be discussed this evening. Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black stated the 2010 CIP includes replacing the rest rooms, connecting to city water and sewer, and work on the northern restoration area. Future phases include replacement of the boat launch, new parking lot, new picnic pavilion, tennis court replacement and trails. A total cost of \$450,000 has been designated to this project for 2010. Mary Pat included a design concept with restroom and pavilion in the Commissioners packet. Parks Superintendent, Dale Reed stated the River Park design depicted is based upon the same lines as Central Park. Staff is asking Commissioners for their suggestions and ideas for River Park as a whole.

Commissioner, Paul Hartzell suggested constructing an amphitheater in the park. Jon agreed stating a stage area approximately the same size as the one in Central Park could be added on the east end of the new shelter. This would send the noise heading towards the river rather than the neighborhood.

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt stated it appears that the Brooklyn Park Lions emblem will remain on top of the pavilion peak and he would like to see that stay there. If it is removed, he suggested a monument or historical marker be placed in the park noting the Brooklyn Park Lions contribution to the park.

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley expressed her concern that currently big groups come out to play volleyball and she wants to make sure that green space remains available for them to continue play. Jeanne asked if the area will be turned into green space when the old buildings are removed. Mary Pat responded yes. The new shelter will remain in the current general location and the bathrooms will be constructed in the west area of the park making it more accessible to all users. Jeanne asked if staff has researched the storm water runoff. Jon stated that issue will be addressed when work on the plans begin.

BASS CREEK PARK COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

Director, Jon Oyanagi stated this Clear Wireless communication tower has been brought back to the RPAC due to a change in location. The original location was near the water storage tank. The proposed new location for the tower and support is in the area at the base of the two hills next to the wooded area. This location provides easier access to the area and can accommodate future equipment sheds for co-locators. Site plans were provided to Commissioners in their packet. Staff recommends approval of this slight modification to the location site. Following further discussion and input from Commissioners and staff, the following motion was entertained:

Motion, Reubenna Cooley; Second, Jeanne Qualley to accept and approve the location site modifications. Motion unanimously approved.

NORTHWOODS PARK COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

Director, Jon Oyanagi stated the Planning Commission previously recommended this Clear Wireless communication tower be located in the northeast location of Northwoods Park. Following that recommendation, City Council Members suggested staff research alternative locations. Following that research, seven possible location sites are presented tonight for Commissioners approval including:

- A site near 109th Avenue in the general area to the north and east corner of the football and soccer fields near the woods (2nd recommended location)
- A clearing to the east of the park shelter building (3rd recommended location)

Site plans and a list of advantages/disadvantages for seven possible location sites were provided Commissioners in their packets. Staff recommends the site near 109th Avenue in the northeast corner of the park.

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt asked if the City of Champlin would oppose the northeast corner location. Jon stated he is not sure what the City of Champlin's preference would be. Mayor Steve Lampi stated that the City of Brooklyn Park's setback rules would apply in any location that is selected and approved.

Vice Chairperson, Brian Rogers asked if it is required that the City of Champlin be notified of a communications tower being installed. Jon stated that the City of Champlin was invited to a public meeting was held in conjunction with the Planning Commission meeting. Commissioner, Rob Jacobs recommended that staff contact companies specializing in camouflaging these communication towers to lessen the aesthetic impact to the park. Jon stated that when the communication tower in Edinbrook Park was proposed such decorations were introduced. City Council Member, Dean Heng has also provided photos of cactus and trees used to camouflage a variety of towers. That recommendation was not approved but could be considered once again in this proposal.

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

Motion, Brian Rogers; Second, Paul Hartzell to accept and approve the site located in the northeast corner of the park, adjusting that location slightly to the south. Motion unanimously approved.

5. NEW BUSINESS

NORWOOD PARK PLAYGROUND PROPOSALS

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black stated the 2010 city budget has allocated approximately \$40,000 for playground equipment replacement in Norwood Park. Staff went out to several playground providers with a Request for Proposal for playground equipment to be constructed in Norwood Park and received 11 proposals back. The proposals were on display throughout the room. The existing playground equipment is designed for children ages K-12 and the new playground equipment will be located directly to the south of the existing playground. Mary Pat handed out colored stickers to Commissioners and asked that they review the designs and indicate their first, second and third choices with the colored stickers. Mary Pat asked that Commissioners keep in mind that we are looking for a different play experience to offer people and draw them to Norwood Park. In addition, Commissioners were asked to not make their choices based upon the color schemes because the colors can be interchanged on all of the design plans. Commissioners reviewed the proposals and made their choices. Mary Pat thanked Commissioners for their input and the top four plans will be presented at a Norwood Park neighborhood meeting.

STRIEFEL PARK RE-DEVELOPMENT

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black stated a public meeting was held on Tuesday, February 9 to discuss the re-development of Striefel Park. Residents within a half-mile radius to the park were notified and invited to the meeting via mail. Three staff members, Mayor Lampi, Commissioner, Brian Rogers and three residents attended the meeting. Director, Jon Oyanagi received phone calls from people who could not attend the meeting but wished to provide their input. Discussion at the meeting included:

- Residents definitely want Striefel Park to remain a park
- The park gets used by the public on a daily basis
- Two of the residents have run daycare businesses and used the park extensively. Now their grandchildren come over and use the park all of the time.
- Requested:
 - Supervised activities, game court, a small pavilion, swings, additional play equipment, an area to sit and socialize, disc golf basket, open green space to

play in or use for football or softball, picnic tables, benches, and a path to go through the park.

Mary Pat stated staff is not quite ready to move forward with this project due to a need for additional input from residents. Two crime watch co-captains reside right off the park and Mary Pat will contact them to see if they can get some surveys out to the neighborhood and possibly set up another meeting. A comment was made at the meeting that the neighborhood is changing with an increase of immigrant families and staff would like to gather their input.

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley suggested staff make it clear in the letter to residents that the construction is a reality and we want their input rather than sending out a general invite to the meeting. Jon agreed stating he came away from the meeting with the impression residents had a difficult time grasping that we did want their input. Jeanne asked if this is a 2010 project. Mary Pat stated \$40,000 has been set aside for this project in 2010. Vice Chairperson, Brian Rogers asked what \$40,000 will purchase. Mary Pat stated the playground designs reviewed tonight run anywhere from \$37,000-\$40,000.

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt asked if there is a need to replace the equipment. Parks Superintendent, Dale Reed stated the equipment is 14 years old and does need to be replaced.

Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh asked what nationality the immigrants are residing in the Striefel Park neighborhood. Mary Pat stated there was just a comment made at the meeting without mention of a particular nationality. Seyon stated he has heard descriptions regarding the city boundaries indicating a 'south or north' area of Brooklyn Park and asked where Striefel Park is located. Mary Pat stated Striefel Park is located in the southern part of the city, just south of Highway 694.

Commissioner, Reubenna Cooley suggested it would be helpful if staff would add intersection names as points of reference when RPAC discussion includes parks. Jon agreed and will direct staff to make those points of reference.

Vice Chairperson, Brian Rogers stated that staff knows the parks that are planned for construction/installation/changes/etc. for the upcoming year. Brian suggested staff attend and notify residents in close proximity to those parks during the annual National Night Out events. Mary Pat agreed that was a good idea. Seyon agreed with Brian's approach in notifying people of upcoming changes to the parks.

Jon stated that Mayor Lampi had suggested more people may have attended the Striefel Park meeting if it had been held in closer proximity to the park rather than at the Community Activity Center.

Mary Pat stated she will report back to Commissioners at the March, 2010 meeting.

5. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Chairperson, Andrew Reinhardt introduced Mayor Steve Lampi who will serve a one-year term as City Council Liaison to the RPAC.

City Council Liaison, Steve Lampi highlighted recent City Council discussions including:

▶ City Council is working on the city's Core and Strategic Planning. A thirty-five hour Core Planning meeting was held in January. Sixteen residents and fifteen elected officials and staff persons attended the meeting making for a really good representation and a positive outcome. The next step is to create an Action and Measurement team. Mayor Lampi encouraged those interested in serving on the team to contact Denise Wollenberg at 763-493-8154.

▶ City Council reviewed the city's Communications Plan.

▶ City Council reviewed the Point of Sale (POS).

6. **DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW**

N/A

7. **PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE**

N/A

8. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

 **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Parks & Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black provided Commissioners with a calendar of upcoming events for February and March, 2010.

- The Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 20 from 10 a.m. to Noon. Register early.
- The Annual Ice Show is March 26 and 27 on Rink I at the CAC Ice Arena.

9. **OTHER ITEMS BY COMMISSION**

 **RPAC Meetings**

The ASSA Motivational Spelling Bee will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at the Zanewood Recreation Center. Fifty children were selected to compete in the Spelling Bee. Seyon thanked Commissioner, Reubenna Cooley for her contribution and assistance in organizing the Spelling Bee; Rasmussen College for assisting in the event; and Recreation Supervisor, Michelle Margo for providing space for the event at the Zanewood Recreation Center. Seyon encouraged Commissioners and staff to support the children by attending the event. Seyon will update the Commission will more information as it becomes available.

 **Calendar**

Vice Chairperson, Brian Rogers shared calendars he received from his neighbor. The calendar depicts a photo of Prince Oyebo Aladetan and City Council Members taken while attending the September 21, 2009 City Council meeting. Prince Oyebo Aladetan also attended the September 16, 2009 RPAC meeting.

 **History of St. Paul and Minneapolis Parks**

Director, Jon Oyanagi invited Commissioners to check out the History of St. Paul and Minneapolis parks video he has in his office. This is a fascinating story of the foresight put into planning a park system.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion, Brian Rogers; Second, Jeanne Qualley, to adjourn. Motion unanimously approved.