

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2010  
RECREATION & PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

Commission Members present:

Matthew Cooklock, At-Large  
Deborah Everson, At-Large  
James Driste, At-Large  
Mark Hanna, At-Large  
Andrew Reinhardt, At-Large  
Steve Lampi, City Council Liaison  
Wanda Muhammad, At-Large  
Seyon Nyanwleh, At-Large  
Terry Parks, At-Large  
Jeanne Qualley, At-Large  
Brian Rogers, At-Large  
Steve Schmidt, Planning Commission Liaison

Commission Members absent:

Reubenna Cooley, At-Large  
Kimberley Sundy, At-Large  
Snoti Jappah, Student Representative

Staff Members present:

Jon Oyanagi, Recreation & Parks Director  
Jan Ficken, Recreation & Services Manager  
Mary Pat Black, Parks and Facilities Manager  
Pat Busch, Recreation Program Specialist  
Susan Gower, Eidem Homestead Coordinator

2. **APPROVAL OF RPAC May 19, 2010 AGENDA**

**Motion, Mark Hanna; Second, Seyon Nyanwleh, to approve the May 19, 2010 RPAC agenda. Motion unanimously approved.**

3. **APPROVAL OF RPAC APRIL 21, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion, Terry Parks; Second, Matthew Cooklock, to approve the April 21, 2010 RPAC minutes with the corrections as noted. Motion unanimously approved.**

**Two corrections, Steve Schmidt, Planning Commission Liaison was listed as absent and he was there and Commissioner Mark Hanna was not listed and he also was present.**

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

 **E-BIKES**

Commissioners had the opportunity before the meeting to ride electric bikes provided by the Minneapolis Electric Bicycle Company. Many commissioners took advantage of this opportunity. Director, Jon Oyanagi stated that the Three Rivers Park District, at their May 6 meeting, tabled the

agenda item of allowing the use of electronic bicycles on their trails pending further study. Some of the cities within the County had questions. Jon asked the commissioners if they wanted to approve the e-bikes or wait and see that Three Rivers Park District does.

Vice Chairperson, Matthew Cooklock stated he would side with the Three Rivers Park District in whatever their decision is.

Commissioner, Terry Parks questioned the control people have on these electronic bikes with the speed they go when walkers with dogs on leashes got in their way on the trail. Commissioner, Jim Driste echoed that same concern.

Commissioner, Mark Hanna expressed concern that if you allow electric powered bikes on trails that soon you would have scooters. The city should only allow electric powered bikes.

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley asked how many of our trails have access to the Three Rivers Park Trails. Jon Oyanagi stated there are many connections to the Three Rivers Park Trails throughout the city. Jeanne's concern was that if e-bikes are allowed on the Three Rivers Trail, there would be a risk of these electronic bikes veering off the Three Rivers Trails onto our trails.

Chairperson, Brian Rogers stated that he had checked with the city Police Department and only five citations have been issued in the past five years for motorized vehicles on trails.

**Motion, Matt Cooklock; Second, Seyon Nyanwleh, to table the discussion until Three Rivers makes a decision on what they are going to do. Motion unanimously approved.**

#### **PARK REVIEW – HAMILTON PARK**

Director, Jon Oyanagi stated commissioners were asked to visit Hamilton Park and provide input on their review of the park at tonight's meeting.

This 34 acre park includes one ballfield, soccer/football field, playground, tennis courts, parking lot, picnic shelter, trails and a park building.

Vice Chairperson, Matthew Cooklock stated he was surprised that there is such a nice warming house at the park with only a pleasure rink there. Parks and Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black stated the facility is used for summer day camp and neighborhood meetings. Commissioner, Mark Hanna asked if Matt remembered when the commission meeting was held there and that it is a really nice facility.

Chairperson, Brian Rogers stated he and Mark Hanna recently visited the park at 7 p.m. and found many people utilizing the park especially the playground. Mark stated that people really like this park. They also reported that one net was down and the net tightener was missing. Mark asked about the possibility of having disc golf installed at the park. Also stated that the users requested a little kids play area separate from the 5-12 year old kids area. It was suggested that the sign should be bigger in stating that the playground is for 5-12 year olds.

Commissioner, Deborah Everson asked if there could be more trash receptacles put out there. She also asked how much money the city had to put into the park. She stated that she would like to see trails go around the park for walking and exercise.

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley asked if the swings on the playground could be changed out.

### **PARK PROJECT UPDATE – RIVER PARK**

Director, Jon Oyanagi stated that tonight staff is requesting feedback from commissioners on the design of the new bathroom facility that will be replaced this summer. The original design plans have been changed a little with the addition of adding windows above the doors, a bigger roof, bringing the boulder walls higher on the building and the corners of the building.

Commissioner, Deborah Everson met with Dave Olds from Buetow and Associates to provide him with some of her ideas for the look of the building. Deborah stated she would like to see a steeper roof line.

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley expressed her concern with kids climbing up on the rocks at the corners of the building and on the shelter.

Commissioner, Andrew Reinhardt stated in the past he has requested that a plaque or monument be put up telling the history of the Lion's pavilion, maybe with a photo of the old pavilion, how it was made, who constructed it, etc. so to honor the members of the past Lions Club.

**Motion, Deborah Everson; Second, Jim Driste, to approve the bathroom design. Motion unanimously approved.**

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **KIDS ONLY FISHING POND**

Director, Jon Oyanagi presented the kids only fishing pond idea of Inspector Mark Bruley from the Police Department. The pond is located at 97<sup>th</sup> and Welcome Avenue, just northeast of Hwy 610 at Zane Ave exit. The pond is approximately 7 acres in size and 35 feet deep. The pond is owned by Bill Ramsey but the City maintains the trail that is currently surrounds it. Mr. Ramsey has expressed a willingness to make this a fishing pond and donate ownership of the pond to the city.

Commissioners asked many questions one being if the pond was lined. Jon stated that it does have a clay bottom liner. Storm and rain water fill the pond now. Jon stated we would have to make it handicapped assessable and that the DNR would be responsible for stocking it and the city would be responsible for aerating it if the fish need that.

Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh asked why it is only for kids.

Commissioner, Terry Parks asked that once the city owns it, who would be responsible and liable for the pond. In addition, would neighbors property values/taxes go up?

Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley stated she would like it to be for kids and senior only fishing. She thought it was a great idea.

Commissioner, Mark Hanna also thought it was a great idea, but he would want to see the pond designed with safety first priority.

Deborah Everson stated she was concerned with the storm water which would have implications for the fish, especially the salt. She also stated it would be good to make it for more than kids and that it would be great for immigrants to learn how to fish in Minnesota.

Seyon wanted to know how you would control how many people can fish there and is the purpose to teach kids how to fish? Jon stated it would be a first come first served basis and yet the purpose is to teach children how to fish.

Brian Rogers stated that parking is a problem at the site and you'd have to determine where parking lot is going to be first because that would be very important. He questioned if you would be able to consume the fish that were in the pond.

Seyon stated we should do it.

### **EIDEM HOMESTEAD UPDATE**

Recreation and Services Manager, Jan Ficken introduced Pat Busch, Program Specialist and Susan Gower, the city's new Eidem Homestead Site Coordinator. Pat presented a report on the upcoming programs and some of the new classes and uses they are exploring for the facility. Susan spoke about her background in historical programming and expressed her enthusiasm for her new job. She is delighted and hopes to instill the joy of history with all visitors to the facility and to find new ways to expand programs and reach new visitors each year.

### **JOINT GOAL SETTING WITH CITY COUNCIL**

The commission was reminded that the joint meeting with all commissions and the city council will take place Monday, June 7. Three members indicated an interest in attending – Brian Rogers, Mark Hanna, and Terry Parks.

The commission reviewed a list of identified issues and discussed whether the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission should take a lead role, partner role, or no role at all.

### **YOUTH TRANSPORTATION**

Recreation and Services Manager, Jan Ficken provided an update on the topic of youth transportation needs in the community and some of the preliminary work being done to research various ways youth could get to program sites in the community. There seems to be a lot of enthusiasm in the community amongst youth program providers to try and figure out a way kids can get to places easier. The City and Osseo School District were awarded a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center grant that does include seed money for planning and developing a circulator type route system to bring youth to program sites during the summer months. In order to implement a safe circulator bus system there is a significant planning process needed. A youth transportation committee is now set up with both adults and youth members that can assist a hired facilitator to help with the planning process. Chairperson, Rogers is serving on this committee. Tom Miller, a youth planning consultant, will be hired to help facilitate the planning process. Work will begin sometime this summer in hopes of having a program ready for summer 2011.

 **DOG PARK GRAND OPENING**

The commissioners were informed that a date has been set to celebrate the dog park grand opening on August 16 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Brookdale Park. Elvis is performing that same evening so should draw a nice crowd. Pet stores, pet groomers, vets and other related businesses will be invited as will pet rescue organizations.

 **MAPLE GROVE DOME**

Director, Jon Oyanagi informed commissioners that Maple Grove is preparing to build a sports dome at Maple Grove Senior High School. ISD #279 approved the construction at their April 20 meeting. The City of Maple Grove and ISD #279 are negotiating a joint powers agreement. This will have an artificial turf field, 380' x 225' in size. It will be like the one we saw at Plymouth, with the bubble coming down in the spring and summer months. The estimated cost is \$4.2 million. Will this lessen the need for Brooklyn Park to have a dome?

Chairperson, Brian Rogers stated that artificial turf fields are just huge. We will need to consider parking when planning this type of facility, because it can be a big problem and will add substantially to the cost.

**6. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE**

City Council Liaison, Steve Lampi updated Commissioners:

Hosting another all day Core Planning Team in May.

Hosting another Community Café here at the CAC on May 26.

The Council had a lengthy discussion on roundabouts.

The Village Creek police sub-station should be completed in July and ready for occupancy.

The City purchased a new fire truck.

The Council received information on foreclosure issues. The City is a model that other cities are looking at. Mayor Lampi was asked how many vacant homes do we have in the city and he stated about 720 now. The city has received stimulus funds but they can only be used in certain parts of the city.

**7. DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW**

N/A

 **PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE**

Planning Commission Liaison, Steve Schmidt updated commissioners:

Approved a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a computer-based commercial indoor recreation center at 7960 Brooklyn Boulevard, near Gold's Gym.

Approved a CUP for a propane tank exchange at the Walgreens located at 2024 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue on 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Approved a new Discount Tire Company building going in at the Park Place Promenade 4<sup>th</sup> addition, 5901 96<sup>th</sup> Lane North, near the new Cub Foods.

8. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

 **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Recreation and Services Manager, Jan Ficken provided commissioners with a calendar of upcoming events for June and July, 2010.

- This weekend is the first of our summer staff training sessions

9. **OTHER ITEMS BY COMMISSION**

 **Soccer Fields**

Vice Chairperson, Matthew Cooklock expressed concern that there are not enough soccer fields in Brooklyn Park, stating that an adult Minnesota Soccer group could not get any fields to plan on in Brooklyn Park. He would like staff to come back with information on how the city can get additional soccer fields. Recreation Director, Jon Oyanagi did inform Matt that the city has received Hennepin Country grants to build two new fields at Edinbrook and Zanewood schools.

 **Additional Community Garden Plot Locations**

Chairperson, Brian Rogers stated at next month's RPAC meeting he would like to see staff bring forth at least or five to six possible locations for moving the Fair Oaks garden plots to next year.

 **ASSA**

Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh expressed his thanks for Mayor Lampi's support of ASSA's work in the community with youth. He stated he has sent an e-mail to Barb asking to be put on the agenda to show a video of the work they do in Brooklyn Park. He would like to present this at next month's meeting. They have over 100 youth in the summer program and need \$8,500 to serve these youth this summer. He asked commissioners to see what they can individually, and as a commission, possibly contribute to this cause.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion, Seyon Nyanwieh; Second, Andrew Reinhardt, to adjourn. Motion unanimously approved.**