

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 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
Reubenna Cooley, 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

Commission Members absent:

Deborah Everson, At-Large
Kimberley Sundy, At-Large
Snoti Jappah, Student Representative
Steve Schmidt, Planning Commission Liaison

Staff Members present:

Jon Oyanagi, Recreation & Parks Director
Jan Ficken, Recreation & Services Manager
Mary Pat Black, Parks and Facilities Manager
Jon Thiel, Operations & Maintenance Director
Greg Hoag, Parks Superintendent
Jordan Lofgren, Summer Intern

2. **APPROVAL OF RPAC June 16, 2010 AGENDA**

Motion, Brian Rogers to switch order of new business, moving ASSA before Jewel Park review.

Second, Terry Parks, to approve the June 16, 2010 RPAC agenda with changes. Motion unanimously approved.

3. **APPROVAL OF RPAC MAY 19, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

Motion, Terry Parks; Second, Jim Driste, to approve the May 19, 2010 RPAC minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW PARKS SUPERINTENDENT**

Operations & Maintenance Director, Jon Thiel introduced Parks Superintendent, Greg Hoag who started on May 17, replacing Dale Reed. Greg will be at all commission meetings and Jon Thiel will be back up. Greg comes with 25 years of experience in recreation and parks.

5. TOUR OF EIDEM FARM

Site Coordinator, Susan Gower gave a tour of the farm starting with the house and moving out to the barns and animals.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A-MON-NUE SPORTS & SOCIAL ASSOCIATION (ASSA)

Commissioners were given a slide show presentation of what ASSA is all about. The idea was born on June 4, 2007 to support sports and civic engagement. They currently offer basketball and soccer from June through August and basketball again in December. This program is an alternative to BPAA, Recreation and Park programs and Zanewood. They also host the Tater Daze soccer tournament and a spelling program.

Chairperson, Brian Rogers asked how the group is funded. Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh responded that they receive no government money. They are funded by private citizens and are self-supportive. Brian asked if the city has been supportive. Commissioner Nyanwleh said yes, they have provided rooms and fields but have not contributed financially.

Vice Chairperson, Matthew Cooklock asked how many kids are in the program and what their growth and retention has been like. Seyon responded that they started between 25-40 kids and are currently at about 175 kids. Their biggest challenge is retaining volunteers.

PARK REVIEW – JEWELL PARK

Parks and Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black stated commissioners were asked to visit Jewell Park and provide input on their review of the park at tonight's meeting.

This 12 acre park includes a picnic pavilion, play structure, nature area and activity building. Staff has scheduled 33 building reservations and 10 pavilion reservations. The building is used for Garden Club and Girl Scout meetings throughout the school year.

Vice Chairperson, Matthew Cooklock asked if the old playground equipment was staying and, if so, for how long. Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley suggested keeping the equipment for the younger kids.

Commissioner, Mark Hanna said when he was there he spoke with a neighbor who is really impressed with the maintenance staff. He said the park is used every night and weekend. Mark stated he would like to see a sign posted stating "No proceeding beyond this point". Also some directional signs for the park on West River Road which is hard to find. Commissioner, Jeanne Qualley agreed with this suggestion. Mark also said that the neighbor he spoke with would like to help take care of the park. He will refer this information to Parks and Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black to follow up on. Mark also suggested that volunteers, possibly from the RPAC Commission, paint the building.

Jeanne Qualley stated that the picnic area is very nice and an additional bench located near the little kids area would be a great addition. She also suggested this may be a great located for a nine hole disc golf course. Jeanne asked what type of outdoor rink is in the park. Parks and Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black stated that the rink is a pleasure rink with not a lot of use during the winter months.

Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh asked what intentions are for the open space. Mary Pat Black responded that the open space is used for Frisbee, football, a soccer clinic that is run by a neighboring church, and could be used for garden plots next year.

Commissioner, Reubenna Cooley stated she really likes the open space. Reubenna asked what the cost to rent the space is. Mary Pat provided the rental rates.

Chairperson, Brian Rogers stated he thought it was a nice park in a good location for programming and suggested trying to get more use out of the building.

Commissioner, Jim Driste stated that when he was at the park he asked the people there what they would like to see. The responses were a drinking fountain and a basketball court.

JULY TOUR IDEAS

Director, Jon Oyanagi suggested the following for the July tour:

1. Minneapolis 9 hole golf course
2. River Park Restroom
3. Edinburgh Pond
4. Fields at Zanewood/Edinbrook
5. Kids Fishing Pond

Commissioner Jeanne Qualley suggested since Highway 610 is nearing completion maybe we should think about a “BP signature icon” (mashed potato with spoon), something along the lines with the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

Chairperson, Brian Rogers suggested starting at River Park, and moving on to West Mississippi River Park, the Sculpture Gardens and to Wirth Park.

Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh suggested touring the Park Center soccer field to see the finished product or tour both Zanewood and Edinbrook parks to see what has been done with the field conversion. Commissioner, Andrew Reinhardt felt seeing the completed field wasn’t really beneficial and suggested touring a field where artificial turf is being installed so commissioners could view that process. Andrew also offered to bring the ice cream.

7. OLD BUSINESS

JOINT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

On Monday, June 7, all commissions attended the City Council meeting with a great turn out from all commissions. Commissioner, Terry Parks stated that everyone who attended the meeting agreed that all commissioners need to communicate with each other possibly via a newsletter or posted information on the website. Commissioner, Mark Hanna stated that good information was shared between commissions and council. Chairperson, Brian Rogers felt it was a good experience and thought that long range improvement and planning commissioners could help the RPAC commissioners. Brian suggested more than one commission review and work together on issues.

City Council Liaison, Steve Lampi stated the joint meeting went very well. They came up with 3 key items:

1. More joint meetings. Possibly holding two per year
2. Distribute all agendas to all groups
3. Add a council agenda item entitled "Commission Liaison Report"

Mayor Lampi said the feedback was positive. He met with City Manager, Jamie Verbrugge to discuss making a list of 3-5 items for each commission to work on. Also, staff liaisons should meet regularly to discuss crossover issues. In addition, a task force should be formed to review the city commission structures.

HENNEPIN YOUTH SPORTS GRANT PROCESS

Director, Jon Oyanagi stated the soccer field contract was awarded to Peterson Companies on Tuesday, June 1. The pre-construction meeting was held today with the project scheduled to begin on Friday, June 18. Edinbrook Elementary School will be started first and should be finished by the third week in August. That leaves one year to establish turf on the field. Groundbreaking will be held on Monday, June 21 at 12:15 pm at Zanewood Elementary School. Commissioner, Mike Opat Mayor, Steve Lampie will be attending and Jon encouraged all RPAC commissioners to attend.

Commissioner, Jim Driste asked when the next Request for Proposals go out to the public. Jon stated the next proposals are due near the end of the year. Applicants receive more points for involving multiple agencies. Jim suggested developing a nine-hole disc golf course at Orchard Trail and possibly work in conjunction with Champlin Park High School.

Chairperson, Brian Rogers asked if requests for projects go out one or two times per year. Jon stated that requests go out once a year to coincide with with the city's CIP which is typically in August.

YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE UPDATE

Recreation and Services Manager, Jan Ficken introduced Summer Intern, Jordan Lofgren. Jan presented initiatives staff is working on:

1. Enhancements to Police & Recreation Department partnerships
2. Bringing staffing to the right level at Zanewood Recreation Center (ZRC) and adding four Street Outreach Workers
3. Assisting with staff training
4. Extending ZRC hours on Friday & Saturday nights
5. Replicating the Zanewood program at the Community Activity Center

A Call To Action meeting was held at the Police Department on Tuesday, June 15. The meeting was a tremendous success with over 60 people in attendance. Jan will continue to update commissioners on their progress.

City Council Liaison, Steve Lampi stated that it takes time to determine long term success in working together and pooling resources. He anticipates approximately 120 days before making a determination on how the initiative is working.

Commissioner, Wanda Muhammad asked if the city had a “Safe House” program similar to the one in Cincinnati where homes are designated Safe Houses with a sign in the windows for teens.

Commissioner, Andrew Reinhardt responded that the city does have a program for residential homes, businesses are not involved in the program. Wanda asked if the 40 assets training would be involved in a Safe House training program. Recreation & Services Manager, Jan Ficken stated that training would include city policy, work ethics, boundaries and development of a core curriculum.

Vice Chairperson, Matthew Cooklock asked if money has been provided for teen transportation needs. Matthew’s company, CH Robinson, may have assets to help develop a bus route but he would need more detailed information to present to his company.

Commissioner, Andrew Reinhardt stated that he really liked the resolution. His only addition would have been to include public/private partnerships with service groups.

Commissioner, Seyon Nyanwleh stated that the Call to Action meeting was successful and he is somewhat concerned about the overflow of kids. He suggested reaching out to the schools to work together in providing additional space for programming.

Chairperson, Brian Rogers stated that he attended a neighborhood meeting at the ZRC and that although nobody showed up for the meeting, he stated “that place is crazy”. He really liked what he saw and the volume of traffic is a good ‘problem’ to have.

Commissioner, Terry Parks expressed a council member’s concern about Minneapolis/Brooklyn Center kids using the Zanewood Recreation Center. Terry asked if it is possible to work with those cities and ask that they help contribute towards the program. Director, Jon Oyanagi stated staff currently works with the City of Brooklyn Center through the Alliance and has also contacted Minneapolis to serve as consultants. Staff can try to foster those partnerships further.

Commissioner, Reubenna Cooley asked how many youth are non-residents. Jan Ficken responded that, due to transportation issues, there are not many youth from outside Brooklyn Park who use the ZRC.

Jon Oyanagi stated that one year ago we didn’t have a full-time center and that a busy center is a great ‘problem’ to have.

8. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

City Council Liaison, Steve Lampi updated Commissioners:

Village Creek Police Station – will be opening in early August

\$2.5 Million NSP Grant for foreclosure challenges

Tater Daze coming up

New Discount Tire on Zane/Oak Grove Parkway

Proposed new Library at NHCC location, north side of 85th with construction starting 2011

Audit report ~ the city is in good shape

Approved transfer investments to new owner Ramada/Grand Rios

Recreation and Services Manager, Jan Ficken asked what the plans are for the old library building and stated the new library will provide some great opportunities for youth. Steve responded that although plans for the old library has been discussed with many ideas for its use, a final decision has not been made.

9. **DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW**

N/A

10. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

 **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

- One new program at Eidem Homestead on June 15
- Spud Run 5K this Saturday, June 19
- Matt Norris' A-List will be hosting the Mashed Potato wrestling event at Tater Daze

11. **OTHER ITEMS BY COMMISSION**

 **Brookdale Park**

Parks and Facilities Manager, Mary Pat Black stated that Brookdale Park trails will be closed for approximately 20 days for paving.

 **Elections**

Commissioner, Terry Parks stated that political signs will be going up starting Friday, June 25 and can remain posted until Sunday, November 7. The primary will be held in August which is a month earlier than typically scheduled.

 **Brooklyn Park Historical Society**

Commissioner, Andrew Reinhardt stated that the Brooklyn Historical Society has many publications available for purchase. These publications or a membership would make a great gift for Father's Day for someone in Brooklyn Park.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion, Mark Hanna; Second, Terry Parks, to adjourn. Motion unanimously approved.