

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, April 19, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

ARC, 1701 West Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Bill Pauls, Terry Kloeppe, Julia Grus, Marin Blevins, Dan Devine, Mike Jones

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Gary Ristow, Tammy Miller

Pauls called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Kloeppe, seconded by Blevins.

Minutes: The March minutes were approved on a motion from Devine, seconded by Grus.

Monthly Report: Hood commented that bad weather had prevented some mowing and other project being completed in the parks.

Blevins asked how often mowers were replaced?

Griggs said it was usually about every 10 years, depending on the hours of maintenance spent. Once a mower reaches 4,000 hours, it is usually in need of replacement.

Kloeppe asked about the Ranger's report of paintball in Dublin Park?

Griggs said some youth from another subdivision were there playing paintball. The Park Ranger took them home to their parents.

Kloeppe asked if there was a demand for paintball in the parks?

Griggs said there wasn't really, as there are two private areas nearby for paintball enthusiasts.

Blevins asked about Tons of Trucks?

Hood described the event as one of the largest of the year for the department with thousands of children coming to the Rainbow Softball Center parking lot to see a variety of trucks and vehicles. About 4,000 attended this year's event and the weather was very cold.

The March monthly report was approved on a motion from Kloeppe, seconded by Devine.

Park Dedications

Hood told Commissioners that staff is working with City Council and the City Manager's office to plan dedications in the spring. It has been difficult to confirm dates, but at this point, Garth Nature Area will be at 10 a.m. on May 12, the MKT underpasses will be on the same date at 2:30 and Douglass Pool will be on June 16. A date for the Antimi Sports Complex and Cosmo Tennis Courts is being discussed, but it may be May 15. The Gentry Building dedication that was "snowed out" on December 1 will be at 5:30 on May 8.

Commission FY'08 Budget

The Commission budget, which is coordinated through the City Clerk's office, is being discussed for Fiscal Year 2008. The budget has remained about the same for the last few years and Hood asked Commissioners if they wanted to change the amount at all. Most of the amount is budgeted for travel, registrations and dues.

Kloeppe asked about flexibility in moving amounts around if needed?

Hood said yes, to a certain point, the numbers could fluctuate.

Blevins made a motion to approve a request to retain the same budget for FY'08 as the Commission had in FY'07, seconded by Kloeppe. Motion approved.

Park Tour

Hood mentioned the park tour that is traditionally taken by Commissioners at the June meeting. This is usually the time that new members join the Commission and in the past, meetings had to be moved from downtown because of the Twilight Festival. However, now that meetings are held at the ARC, that is not a consideration anymore. Hood asked if they wanted to move the park tour to a different month. Kloppel said June was a good time because days are longer, allowing more time for the tour. Blevins added the June meeting was his first one when he joined the Commission and he appreciated learning about the parks in detail from the beginning. Commissioners agreed to keep the park tour at the June meeting.

Council Items

Hood shared these updates:

Council has authorized starting the construction of Phase I (fields A and B) of the sports complex planned on the Atkins tract. The fields will replace the American Legion fields, if the Mavericks proposal to build on that site proceeds. That issue has not been resolved completely, Hood said, but construction must start now to have new fields built by next year. The county must sign off on the master plan for the property but the City will build, maintain and operate the facility.

Money will be available for the project from the parks sales tax, a federal grant and funds from the county. Those funds will total \$1.4 million which will build the fields and road, but no concession stand, permanent restroom or paved parking lot. Those items would be part of later construction phases.

Pauls asked if the fields would be for softball and would they have grass infields?

Griggs said Field A would have a grass infield and perhaps two or three other fields. Five fields would be for softball or tee-ball, but all plans are preliminary at this point.

Devine asked when Phase II would be built?

Hood said asphalt work could be done quickly after Phase I, but funding for concessions and restrooms is unknown at this point, so it is unclear as to when those items would be completed.

Devine then asked if the Mavericks deal fell through, would these plans continue?

Hood said the American Legion has supported the Mavericks proposal, which is why the Council gave the go-ahead to proceed. If the Mavericks deal falls apart and work has already started on the Atkins property, Hood said the American Legion is aware that improvements to fields may have to wait until more funds are available.

Capital Projects Update

Griggs shared updates as follows:

Oakland Aquatic Center bathhouse: family change room is being installed, electrical systems are being upgraded, the concession stand is being renovated and the block walls are being repainted.

Douglass Pool: renovation is nearing completion with a new liner, refurbished slide and climbing wall.

Flat Branch Phase II: stormwater management project is ongoing.

MKT underpasses: concrete work nearing completion.

Louisville Park: playground equipment has been installed.

Philips Lake: not open for fishing yet because Bristol Lake Parkway which is the main access is still a private street under some construction. Once the street is complete and made public, the lake will open to fishing.

Antimi Sports Complex: work is complete.

Cosmo Tennis Courts: lights are going in.

Cosmo-Bethel: work continues on the new playground which includes reshaping of the tunnel and tires being set. A new shelter is also being built.

Garth Nature Area: A split rail fence has been installed around the leash-free area.

Lamb Shelter at Cosmo Park: ceiling has been repainted and rust removed from the shelter.

Commission Comments

Jones asked about some of the lights being out at Rainbow?

Griggs said the ground has been too soft to get the truck onto the fields to change the bulbs.

Pauls commented on the beauty of the Garth Nature Area, saying that the parking lot is almost always full.

Hood said that additional parking spaces may have to be added at some point.

Staff Comments

Hood distributed copies of the Bonne Femme Watershed plan, asking Commissioners to keep a copy of it, as their input may be sought at some point.

Public Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.