

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

4:30 p.m., Snack Bar, Bunker Hill Golf Course

PRESENT: Bob Blocker, Gary Harjehausen, Paul Hoffmann, Karen Lyness, Evelyn Nadeau and Mark Noble

ABSENT: Tom Blocklinger

OTHERS: Staff present: Pat Prevenas, Bob Fritsch and Eileen Trimble

MINUTES APPROVED;  
VOTE: It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Nadeau, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2010, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIN  
REACTION BIKE  
CLUB USE OF  
ROOSEVELT  
PARK: Acting Leisure Services Manager Pat Prevenas told commissioners that a representative of the mountain bike group that uses Roosevelt Park (without permission) wanted to talk to the commission, probably about getting a formal agreement for the area they currently use and developed trails at. The representative called Monday and canceled; they were not ready to do their presentation.

DOG PARK  
UPDATE: Mr. Prevenas said that IDOT contacted the department and said that the plan to use part of the Dodge and Locust site for a training area has been completely dropped so it is available for us to pursue as a pet park site. There are two CIP projects in the budget – \$95,000 on Terminal and \$300,000 for south side pet parks. Mr. Prevenas was directed to write a memo to the city manager regarding the status of the IDOT property and see if we can proceed with negotiations to add it as an addition to the existing pet park, and also ask for a clarification from the city manager on money available.

Commissioners mentioned some comments they have received from citizens:

- ◆ why are we charging a fee; feels like a way to have less people at Grandview site to appease neighbors on Aspen Court;
- ◆ expect better amenities since they are paying a specific fee for that park only;
- ◆ other cities that charge for pet parks have better amenities;
- ◆ are we going to offer a low income pass? Mr. Prevenas said a resident would be able to get one for half price; they would need to purchase it in the office and show proof of residency.

Commissioners asked that we put some kind of notice on the website to notify people that they could ask for assistance.

PARK DIVISION  
REPORT: Park Division Manager Bob Fritsch updated commissioners:

- ◆ showed plan for **Rockdale Park**; meant to be a passive park so it will have a courtyard with benches, annual plantings, small play structure and landscaping. There will be a lot of area with mulch to minimize turf maintenance. There is a low retaining wall in the southwest corner and we will be adding some fill and raising the area so flowers can be seen better. We will be using Purington pavers reclaimed pavers in the walkway. The plan has

been discussed with both neighbors and other than a few small issues, they liked it. The engineering estimate is \$75,000; Mr. Falb donated \$50,000 for development but has asked the city manager for more ideas because he has friends that would like to donate for development. Commissioners liked the plan but had a few questions/comments: is lighting included; will need to put up "no pets allowed" signs; can we leave out play structure and put in a rest room instead? One commissioner has a lot of people ask him for that since there are so many walkers and joggers. Mr. Fritsch said at this point we were relying on street lighting. As far as a rest room, it would cost around \$75,000 and we have rest rooms at Murphy Park that are only a block away, available from May through October. ♦ The **daffodils** have been planted at the bottom of 3rd Street and at the Locust Street connector. They were planted in pots recessed in the ground and then we will take them out and place at the greenhouse to water all winter. ♦ The **trail at IDCW** is done except for the parking lot; signage will be going up for distances, et cetera. ♦ At **Bergfeld**: doing some cleanup; changing the grade and improving access to the trail; added concrete to connect sections of sidewalk; working on some drainage issues with Medline.

RECREATION  
DIVISION  
REPORT:

Acting Leisure Services Manager Pat Prevenas informed commissioners:

- ♦ **Golf:** course opened March 17th and we had the best March since 2000.
- ♦ After school **track** has 380 students registered – record number. ♦ **Softball** has 162 teams registered which is close to 2009 numbers; we have more mixed teams than in the past. ♦ **Volleyball** does not have very big numbers.
- ♦ **City Expo** was last Tuesday. We gave out plants, et cetera; less people than in the past. ♦ Video security has been installed at McAleece concession; had two break-ins in 2009. We are trying for video security at the skate park also but it will need to be solar powered.

OTHER  
BUSINESS:

**Leisure Services Manager:** new manager Marie Ware will be at the May meeting. **Future meetings:** Commissioners asked if we could have some of the summer meetings at various department facilities. It was decided that the May meeting would be at Prescott Resource Center; June at renovated bridge complex; and July at Comiskey. **Camping reservations:** Commissioner Blocker said his wife was in line at 7:30 p.m. the night before reservations were accepted. Campground managers gave out numbers and it worked well. His wife talked to other people and they like requiring a reservation. His wife had number 12 and they didn't get their first choice of campsites but they still had pretty good sites. Commissioner Lyness said maybe next year we could alternate - take one in-person reservation, then one phone reservation, etc.

ADJOURN;  
VOTE:

It was moved by Blocker, seconded by Nadeau, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Taren Lyness  
Attest

P. E. Hoff  
Chairperson