

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

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

PRESENT: Bob Blocker, Tom Blocklinger, Paul Hoffmann, Karen Lyness, Evelyn Nadeau, Mark Noble, David Schlueter

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

MINUTES APPROVED;
VOTE: It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Blocklinger, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2010, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH HILLCREST FAMILY SERVICES FOR USE OF MURPHY PARK; VOTE: Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware informed commissioners that Hillcrest Family Services was seeking approval for their annual request to use Murphy Park for the Festival of Lights fundraiser. The agreement is the same as past years, with set-up to begin November 1st.

It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Nadeau, to approve the agreement with Hillcrest Family Services to use Murphy Park for their annual Festival of Lights fundraiser. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGETS; VOTE: C.I.P. priority list for Fiscal Year 2012 through Fiscal Year 2016 may be found as part of the original minutes.

PARK: Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware said park employees gave ideas on new 2016 projects and projects that might need to be moved up. Due to the budget crunch we had to set priorities and delete some projects so that others could be moved forward. • #8 Granger Park trail is funding from a TIF district so those funds cannot be used for anything else. • A lot of the 2016 projects are ongoing need issues like playgrounds, street trees, sidewalk, maintenance-related and keeping up what we already have. • Last year several donated park areas had development funds cut but the money for engineering was left in 2015 so those developments are now being requested in 2016. A number of these were given as part of a subdivision. Serenity Development never materialized and that was in 2014 so that left us with \$100,000 to use for other projects. • One project was moved up for safety – a shower and rest room rehabilitation for Maintenance Headquarters. During prime summer season there are 35 people working out of the shop with only 2 stools and 1 urinal and no "women only" rest room. Several staff mix chemicals as part of their job and they need proper showering area to clean off in case of a spill or chemical accident. • #103 Comiskey Park playground improvements does not have an amount yet. We are trying to create more pride in the neighborhood and hope it will lessen some of the negative perceptions of the park. We are looking at moving the young children's playground away from the basketball court and closer to the building which gets the younger kids away from the adults and teens and closer to the parking lot and rest rooms, etc. Playground safety surface may be changed to rubber instead of mulch which will make it easier to clean trash that is dropped in that

continued

area. We want to place some nice benches; have more open and visible spectator area by the basketball courts; new park sign in addition to the memorial plaque; more programming in the building and special events – bring people to the park so they can see it is not a bad place to go. Commissioner Hoffmann asked for some kind of itemized list in written form once the plans for Comiskey are more final and if funding is available. Ware will present a plan to the Commission at an upcoming meeting.

Commissioners asked: • Commissioner Nadeau asked that #59 rest rooms for Jackson Park be moved up if possible because of the high usage of that park. • Commissioner Lyness asked about #40 electronic locking devices. Manager Ware explained that they are auto locks that can lock at a certain time or staff could lock by Internet off-site so patrol would not have to physically go to the parks to lock buildings. • What about development at Usha Park? Manager Ware said the church and new bank say their private parking lots are being used a lot, especially with the cricket league going on at the park. Ms. Ware said we should probably revisit the original plan from 1999 to see if we still want all the original proposed developments – what are the needs of the area now versus the original plan?

RECREATION: For pools, #21 create family rest rooms is an amenity that is really important to people and it needs to be addressed. The project was dropped last year during the budget process due to budget constraints but we are requesting it again in FY 2016. Golf: phase 1 of the irrigation system renovation is going on now. We removed replace tee signs off the priority list and will try to fund through memorial donations, since the course has enough trees now.

It was moved by Blocker, seconded by Lyness, to approve the Park and Recreation Division C.I.P. budgets as presented by staff. The motion passed unanimously.

INTOXICATING BEVERAGES IN PARKS; VOTE:

Manager Ware explained that she was approached by the Community Oriented Police and our park patrol regarding the city ordinance which allows and/or prohibits alcoholic beverages in city parks. The current city ordinance only prohibits the consumption or use of alcohol, wine and beer with some exceptions. There is no provision for possession in a park. The COP unit and park patrol feel that adding a provision related to possession will better allow the police department and park rangers to limit possession, use, and consumption in the parks. Additional changes included a prohibition of possession, use or consumption on recreational trails, in vehicles within parks, and in parking lots associated with facilities managed by the Leisure Services Department. We worked with the Legal Department to recommend changes to the ordinance and are requesting you recommend acceptance of the changes to the City Council. Commissioner Nadeau thought there should be some type

continued

of explanation in the ordinance about why certain parks / areas are exempt so people understood the rule. Manager Ware said it would probably not be proper in the ordinance but could be explained in the memo to the City Manager and City Council.

It was moved by Schlueter, seconded by Blocklinger, to approve the changes to the city ordinance regarding intoxicating beverages in parks, and recommend acceptance to the City Council. The motion passed 6 – 1, with Blocker, Blocklinger, Hoffmann, Lyness, Noble and Schlueter voting yes; Nadeau voting no.

PARK DIVISION
REPORT:

Park Division Manager Bob Fritsch updated commissioners:

◆ Campground flooded September 22nd and parts of it are still under water; we had to close three times this year including closing early for the season and canceling the Halloween activity. We are concerned about the depth of mud; will take approximately two weeks to clean; will try to clean as much as possible this fall. ◆ Park area at Grandview/Rockdale is about 99% complete. The money came from Mark Falb and some of his friends; great addition to the neighborhood; waiting on pedestal to put electricity for lighting flags etc. ◆ working on CIP and operating budget; city is revamping the performance measures to better explain how we do things and why we do things a certain way. One of the good things with this is that we will be able to highlight the percentage of natural areas we have and percentage of ornamental landscaping.

Commissioners asked: ◆ how much did it cost to take out electricity at Miller Riverview - \$2,000 + each way when electrical boxes came out and they came out three times this year. ◆ Can we get federal aid for any of the damage – FEMA reimbursement request for damages from the July storm is in progress. ◆ Is there any way to raise electrical boxes higher – there is a CIP project requested for that in the future.

RECREATION
DIVISION
REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas updated commissioners:

◆ after school sports flag football program had 11 school sites and volleyball had 10. ◆ adult basketball has 37 teams registered – couple up from last year; adult volleyball is down from last year. ◆ Volunteers are still working at the BMX bike track at McAleece – there is a demand for it; we have 20 kids registered for a skateboard class. ◆ Sutton Pool is designed to fill when the river floods and unfortunately it had been newly painted and a few hours later it started to fill with river water. ◆ Bunker Hill irrigation project is underway - meeting with the contractor Wednesday; to be completed by the end of November; September golf rounds were down but October up from last year; the nationwide trend for golf rounds seems to be down, but Bunker is doing well; not accepting tree donations anymore because the course has enough now. Third Sunday of November is the projected closing date for the golf course.

continued

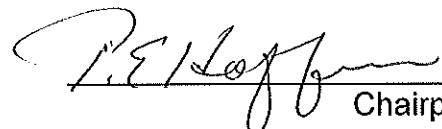
OTHER
BUSINESS:

◆ Commissioner Hoffmann asked about offering more substantial items at the **McAleece concession** stand like brats and burgers. Manager Prevenas explained that we do have a grill outside on weekends when tournaments are scheduled but have found it is not worthwhile during the week for league nights. He said maybe we could try doing the brats and burgers on the grill during the week if we have an event that will draw a good size crowd.

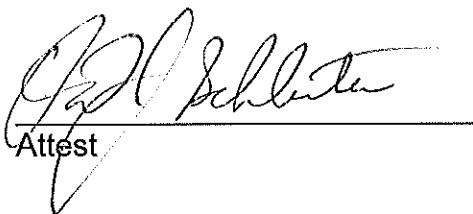
◆ Commissioner Lyness asked about the **pool concession stands** – she was at the pool a couple times this summer when it was during the middle of the day and very hot and the concession stand was closed. She asked if the contract requires them to be open certain hours or are they free to do what they want. Mr. Prevenas said it is basically the concessionaire's decision – maybe they had a hard time staffing the operation.

ADJOURN;
VOTE:

It was moved by Nadeau, seconded by Schlueter, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.



P.E. Hoffmann
Chairperson



J.D. Schlueter
Attest