

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

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

PRESENT: Bob Blocker, Tom Blocklinger, Gary Harjehausen, Karen Lyness and Mark Noble

ABSENT: Paul Hoffmann and Evelyn Nadeau

OTHERS: Staff present: Gil Spence, Bob Fritsch and Eileen Trimble

MINUTES APPROVED;
VOTE: It was moved by Noble, seconded by Lyness, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2009, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PET PARK UPDATE: Leisure Services Manager Gil Spence informed commissioners that Thermo Fisher Scientific just announced they were closing their Dubuque plant so that site would no longer be possible for a pet park. Mr. Spence asked commissioners if they wanted to move forward with the Dodge and Locust site and see if the council agrees. Mr. Spence will get soil samples done, do more investigation, contact those who gave input on this site and tell them we may go ahead with it, and check with city manager on type of fence he would want at this site. He will need to get cost estimates after doing a little more investigating; only have \$95,000 budgeted.

C.I.P. BUDGETS: C.I.P. priority list for Fiscal Year 2011 through Fiscal Year 2015 may be found as part of the original minutes. Manager Spence explained that there weren't many changes in 2011 through 2014. Some of the fiscal 2015 projects include:

- addition to forestry building that allows big equipment to fit through garage doors and allows for more storage and a west-end maintenance shop;
- extend campsite electric pedestals at Miller Riverview Park so pedestals can be flipped up when river is flooding, and not have to remove them;
- Eagle Point Park, light Trolley Line Trail is the trail going into Eagle Point and there were no funds to budget for lighting in the original project budget;
- Miller Riverview, north end rest room will answer requests from campers to have a rest room/shower building in that end of the park;
- several wooden shingle roofing projects in Eagle Point Park;
- accessible walkway to Log Cabin pavilion in Eagle Point Park;
- replace exterior fence at Veterans' Memorial Park is for west side of park, including gate;
- replace roses on Highway 20 – this starts a four-year process to buy a new variety of roses that should work better in that environment;
- replace security lights in parks starts an ongoing replacement process;
- Arboretum sign is a request for the city's contribution (\$36,000) for a new sign the Arboretum wants to buy (\$46,000 total cost);
- Roosevelt Park redevelopment.

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

continued

PARK DIVISION
REPORT:

Park Division Manager Bob Fritsch updated commissioners:

- ◆ The division just completed a comprehensive review of snow management process and city manager allotted \$130,000 to purchase more equipment so that all areas can be cleared of snow within twenty-four hours of a snow event. For smaller snowfalls, we will put three brooms on out front mowers and put cabs on them and they would be backed up by two to four 4WD pickups. For snowfalls of 4" or more, we will go out with trucks with plows and back them up with brooms. The equipment has been ordered and we should be ready for winter.
- ◆ Tree crew met with Tim Horsfield from Parking Division to discuss snow removal at ramps – our department will continue to do four ramps and any other new ones would be contracted out.
- ◆ Crew sprayed ten or eleven acres at IDCW to kill the turf and dormant seed the area with a prairie mix.

RECREATION
DIVISION
REPORT:

With the absence of Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas (NRPA Conference in Salt Lake), Gil Spence updated commissioners on the following:

- ◆ This was the best September for golf rounds since 2002 (3,800).
- ◆ There were 7 flag football sites and 9 volleyball sites for after school sports; adult basketball and volleyball teams down slightly from last year; have after school programs at Audubon, Lincoln, Fulton, Marshall and Prescott; swim lessons on Sunday afternoons, with adult lap swim following.
- ◆ The Recreation Division summer report was sent to commissioners and may be found as part of the original minutes. Summer 2009 was the lowest swim attendance in twenty years; swim lessons were up; recreation classes registrations were up; slight decline in tennis lessons; decline in participation for Uptown Recreation programs.

OTHER
BUSINESS:

- ◆ Mr. Spence told commissioners that with the ice arena going in at McAleece, the Rugby Club would be displaced. We offered relocating to Vet's field III and the Rugby Club thought the area would be big enough but may need to move the fence.
- ◆ Plan for redevelopment of Roosevelt Park would include an area for a football field, but the private organization that may be interested would have to pay for all expenses to make it happen, including parking lot, et cetera; the city would just provide the location.

ADJOURN;
VOTE:

It was moved by Harjehausen, seconded by Blocker, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.



Chairperson

Attest

