

Committee Minutes

LF092601-02

Memorial Park Improvements Recommendation

FLOODPLAIN BOUNDARY POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Floodplain Boundary Policy Committee unanimously recommended:

- 1. Continue to support the Floodplain Policy requirement that no fencing/structures be permitted in the hydraulic floodway;**
- 2. Direct the City, via the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee, to proceed with the minimal upgrades to walkways and electrical service outside of the hydraulic floodway in Memorial Park to support the Heritage Festival; and,**
- 3. Direct the Public Works Department staff to work with the Jazz & Blues and Hills Alive Festivals to identify alternate sites that would accommodate the activities and to identify the required upgrades to those sites, if any.**

MINUTES
FLOODPLAIN BOUNDARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5, 2001



MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Hanks, Ron Kroeger, Bob Wall, Stuart Wevik

STAFF PRESENT: Marcia Elkins, Keith Johnson, Rod Johnson, Jerry Munson, Randy Nelson, Sharlene Mitchell, Rich Wells, Ted Vore

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Wyss

Elkins called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and briefly reviewed the Council request for the Committee to review the proposed alternative for improvements to Memorial Park.

Wyss briefly reviewed the four design concepts noting the proposed location of structures with regard to the hydraulic floodway, relocation of the rose gardens, and walkway and electrical upgrades. Wyss commented on the existing and proposed size of the three Memorial Park festivals noting the two fee events that require fencing for paid admissions and crowd control. Wyss clarified that the issues include: types and size of events to be located in Memorial Park, whether ordinances should be amended to allow fencing in the floodway and recommended improvements for the park.

Elkins noted the bandshell alterations currently required to accommodate the Jazz & Blues and Hills Alive festivals. Noting the current budget issues, Hanks commented on the financial investment required by the City to facilitate the proposed renovations. Hanks indicated that he could not support amending the existing ordinance to permit fencing in the hydraulic floodway. Hanks then addressed the limited revenue realized by the City from the paid events and the corresponding impact on Civic Center activities during the festival weekends. Discussion followed regarding relocation of the rose gardens.

Kroeger expressed concern with financing extensive improvements to accommodate events that have no contractual responsibility to the City.

K. Johnson briefly reviewed the original park improvement proposal that included upgrading pathways and electrical service. Wyss indicated that there has been no attempt to identify alternative sites outside of Memorial Park that would accommodate the paid admission festivals. Discussion followed regarding alternative sites for the Jazz & Blues and Hills Alive festivals including the Sioux Park soccer stadium, the Fairgrounds and The Journey Museum venue site. R. Johnson commented on the parking limitations of the Sioux Park venue. K. Johnson indicated that the proposed bandshell electrical service upgrades would accommodate the current needs of the Heritage Festival.

R. Johnson indicated that if fencing is not allowed in the hydraulic floodway the Jazz & Blues and Hills Alive festivals would need to find a revenue source other than gate receipts. Discussion followed regarding the corporate sponsorship of the Sioux Falls Jazz & Blues Festival. Discussion followed regarding the festival's fiscal impact on the City, the limited financial reimbursement realized by the City from the events and the festival's financial participation in the upgrades.

Hanks voiced support for the Floodplain Policy to prohibit the location of structures within the hydraulic floodway.



Acknowledging the emotional aspect of the 1972 flood, Wall supported the restriction of fencing in the floodway. Wall suggested that the Memorial Park area might be under utilized and recommended revising the use fee for such events as the festivals. Elkins briefly outlined the numerous activities that utilize the Memorial Park area

Discussion followed regarding alternative sites outside of the floodway that could accommodate the Jazz & Blues and Hills Alive Festivals. Wyss recommended that a committee be formed to assist the two festivals in identifying alternative sites that would accommodate their activities. Discussion followed regarding parking, stage and electrical requirements at the alternative sites. Hanks recommended that the upgrades required to support the Heritage Festival outside of the hydraulic floodway be completed. Discussion followed regarding the Committee's recommendation on structures in the floodway, upgrades to Memorial Park and identification of alternative sites for the Jazz & Blues and Hills Alive Festivals.

Elkins indicated that the consultant has explored the option of constructing a berm to mitigate the flood issues at Memorial Park and determined that it is not a feasible option. Hanks commented on the need to address neighborhood impacts with the relocation of the two festivals to other areas of the community.

Elkins indicated that representatives from the festivals had requested the opportunity to meet with the Committee. She asked if the Committee would like to meet with representatives of the groups. A brief discussion followed.

Hanks moved to:

- 1. Continue to support the Floodplain Policy requirement that no fencing/structures be permitted in the hydraulic floodway;**
- 2. Direct the City, via the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee, to proceed with the minimal upgrades to walkways and electrical service outside of the hydraulic floodway in Memorial Park to support the Heritage Festival; and,**
- 3. Direct the Public Works Department staff to work with the Jazz & Blues and Hills Alive festivals to identify alternate sites that would accommodate the activities and to identify the required upgrades to those sites, if any.**

Wevik seconded the motion.

Kroeger recommended that the Country Fair Festival site at Canyon Lake Park be evaluated and if necessary the same walkway and electrical service upgrades be provided for the support of that festival. Staff indicated that they were reviewing those needs. Discussion followed regarding the size of events that could be accommodated at Canyon Lake Park and the resulting impact on area parking.

The motion to:

- 1. Continue to support the Floodplain Policy requirement that no fencing/structures be permitted in the hydraulic floodway;**
- 2. Direct the City, via the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee, to proceed with the minimal upgrades to walkways and electrical service outside of the hydraulic floodway in Memorial Park to support the Heritage Festival; and,**
- 3. Direct the Public Works Department staff to work with the Jazz & Blues and Hills Alive festivals to identify alternate sites that would accommodate the activities and to identify the required upgrades to those sites, if any.**

carried unanimously.



Hanks requested that the Committee recommendation be forwarded to the September 26, 2001 Legal & Finance Committee meeting to allow staff the opportunity to meet with the Jazz & Blues and Hills Alive Festivals regarding alternative sites.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.