

MINUTES
PARK & RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE
April 3, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mel Dreyer, Van Lindquist, Robert Schlotman, Wes Storm, Crystal Thompson, Sheri Zimmer

STAFF PRESENT: Marcia Elkins, Keith Johnson, Rod Johnson Bill Lass, Sharlene Mitchell, Lon VanDeusen

Call to Order

Zimmer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of February 6, 2001 and March 6, 2001 Minutes

Dreyer moved, Lindquist seconded and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2001 and March 6, 2001 meetings.

Financial Report / Project Update

K. Johnson reviewed the status of the Robbinsdale Park project noting that expenses incurred to date are for building permit and drainage basin fees. K. Johnson indicated that due to the favorable bid four additional bleachers were purchased. He stated that the final cost will not exceed the budgeted amount. R. Johnson indicated that the leagues would construct the bleachers as their in-kind match for the project.

K. Johnson reviewed the Memorial Park contract with Wyss Associates. In response to R. Johnson, Dreyer volunteered to participate in the design phase of the Memorial Park project.

In response to Dreyer, R. Johnson clarified that formal action by the Subcommittee is required in order to reallocate funding from the South Middle School Tennis project for use on other projects.

Canyon Lake Park Chimney

R. Johnson outlined the research work being performed on the Chimney site noting that a structural engineer has been contracted to address area stability issues. R. Johnson briefly discussed patio area improvements and shelter design. R. Johnson indicated that the conceptual design plans for the site would be presented to the Subcommittee for their review and comment.

Discussion followed regarding site development utilizing the existing infrastructure to provide a representation of the original site. Discussion followed regarding incorporating the new design of Canyon Lake Park while simulating the historic appearance of the site. Lindquist volunteered to assist in the conceptual design phase for the Canyon Lake Park Chimney site.

College Park Fencing

K. Johnson reviewed the fencing proposal for College Park recommending that the fence be placed three feet off the sidewalk for safety purposes. Discussion followed regarding the effectiveness of the fence in blocking balls from rolling into the street and the possible increase in trash accumulation. Elkins noted that while the fence will not block all balls from the street it would slow children down following the balls into the street. Schlotman voiced his support for the fencing proposal. Lindquist stated that this is a safety improvement and encouraged funding of the project. Discussion followed regarding identification of funding for the project.

Dreyer moved, Schlotman seconded and carried unanimously to authorize funding for the College Park Fencing Project safety improvement in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 from the Playground Improvements line item.

Discussion followed regarding the design and materials to be utilized in the fencing project. VanDeusen indicated that the fence installation would be a contracted project. R. Johnson indicated that three quotes would be secured for the project.

Star of the West Sports Complex

R. Johnson reviewed the parking congestion being experienced at the Sports Complex noting that parking is occurring on the internal access roads and grass areas. R. Johnson expressed concern with the ability to provide adequate emergency access to the area given the current congestion issues. R. Johnson presented a proposal to fund, from the current budget, a 70-stall parking lot expansion at an estimated cost of \$50,000 for Subcommittee review and comment.

Elkins recommended that the access roads be immediately signed for "no parking" due to safety concerns with getting emergency vehicles on-site. R. Johnson indicated that staff is reviewing the activity scheduling in an attempt to alleviate the parking situation noting that the available parking cannot support the current activity levels.

Discussion followed regarding alternative parking lot sites, traffic flow through the complex and development of a second access to the complex west of the ball fields. Dreyer indicated that the expanded parking would not resolve the issues and recommended that staff research the development of a second access. Elkins clarified that the railroad right-of-way has been identified as a future bike/pedestrian access. Elkins suggested that the Planning and Public Works staff review the Sports Complex parking and access issues and present their recommendations at the May, 2001 meeting. Elkins encouraged the Subcommittee members to contact staff with ideas and recommendations regarding resolution of the Sports Complex issues.

Amendments to the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee Bylaws

In response to Zimmer, K. Johnson provided a brief review of the proposed bylaw amendments. Discussion followed. **Lindquist moved, Storm seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee Bylaws as amended.**

Report from Park Superintendent

VanDeusen briefly reviewed the work underway to open and prepare the parks for summer activities noting the Summer Program Guide should be available in early May.

Dreyer indicated that Storybook Island has requested City assistance in mowing the park area. VanDeusen indicated that the Parks Department would review the request noting that the City currently maintains the grounds outside of the park fence. VanDeusen indicated that mowing the park would be labor intensive due to the number of obstacles. R. Johnson indicated that the City does not provide maintenance to other leased properties noting that maintenance is the responsibility of the leasee.

Discussion followed regarding the staffing needs of the Parks Department. Dreyer encouraged the Parks Department to address staffing requirements during the up-coming 2002 budget process.

K. Johnson indicated that the Robbinsdale Park project should begin this week weather permitting.

In response to Schlotman, R. Johnson indicated that design work for the Roosevelt Park pool has not been addressed at this time. Discussion followed regarding provision of umbrellas to patrons at the pool sites.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.