

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR THE
MEETING OF

January 13, 2010

Present: Jim Austin, Rhonda Buck, Bob Cook, Megan Harley, Eric Hartfield, Jerry Hopkins, Dan Lavengood, Dave Skinner, Rod Van Oeveren, Doug Wustman

Staff Present: Nancy Parent, Rebecca Rynbrandt

City Council Liaison: Rich Pastoor

Call to order of the Parks and Recreation Commission – Chairman Lavengood called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

Approval of Agenda – Motion was made by Rod Van Oeveren, seconded by Bob Cook to approve the agenda. Carried.

Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes of the November 10, 2009 Meeting - Motion was made by Megan Harley, seconded by Rod Van Oeveren to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2009 meeting. Carried.

Public Comment on Agenda Item (limit to 3 minutes) – None.

CDBG 5-Year Strategic Plan – Becky explained how Community Development Block Grant funding has supported parks and recreation services in the past and the need for inclusion in the plan for possible future funding. Park funding from CDBG funds was diminished when Parks and Recreation got their dedicated millage. The strategic plan is up for renewal. You have to be in the plan to be eligible for funding. Currently Parks and Recreation is included in the plan but at a low priority. Recall this year when CDBG-R funds became available we seized those dollars for the renovation of the senior center. Parks and Recreation will remain in the plan. Overall the CDBG program is moving from a loan program to a code enforcement program. With HUD and City Council approval we will be making changes to the plan.

Aquinas College Lease of Kimble Field – We currently have a facility use agreement with Aquinas. This means they make reservations, pay reservation fees and pay \$3,500/yr to offset minor capital. They get 30 priority dates. They are proposing to change to a lease agreement. A lease agreement can only run for three years due to state statute limitations. They basically would own the facility and be responsible for mowing, cleaning, stone dust, field paint, etc. The lease is proposed to be \$6,000 a year. We would save money on materials, and the staff normally used to maintain the facility would be redirected to other parks and recreation areas. Currently the usage of Kimble Field is about 90% by Aquinas. It is occasionally used by Pinery Park Little League or the schools, but we get very few requests for usage. The lease would be written so that schools and the Little Leagues could request usage, but Aquinas would have right of refusal if the field is already scheduled. The lease was discussed further

and questions answered. It was the consensus of the Commission to go forward with the lease.

KCSM Grant (Stepping Stones Program) – Contracted Services – This will be going before the City Council on Monday night. There was a 7% cut in grant funds and we want to contract out some of the therapeutic services to try to maintain the level of service to the public. The contract is with Life Therapeutic Solutions (LTS), which is the only company of this type in the area. LTS is owned by Blaine Kading, who is the father of our Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, Kristine Kading. The agreement has been reviewed by our attorney, Human Resources and MMRMA and they approve of the City contracting with LTS. We will have to revise the KCSM grant agreement once the LTS agreement is in place. There is a savings because LTS does not provide their employees with health insurance or a pension. We do need to keep one staff person to supervise and administer the program. This position can not be contracted due to its duties and IRS regulations. The contract will go into effect February 1 pending City Council approval.

Gezon Park Mountain Bike Trail Update – Becky met with Nate Phelps from the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) and with Bill Dooley from PW. Becky referenced the diagram that was included in the commissioner's packet. It proposes using the City property across from Gezon Park adjacent to Metro Health Village. MMBA is interested in this site. They are currently developing some concepts and planning. They are having an open house on their new mountain bike trail which is located on the SW Little League fields off Buchanan. They will be giving tours this Friday afternoon and Saturday at 11:00 am. Question was raised if there was any concern about the wetlands in the proposed site and the possibility of flooding. MMBA members liked the fact that it is in wetlands for more diverse riding in the mud. The site is 21.53 acres. No further action will be taken by the City until contacted by MMBA.

Capital Projects Update

Oriole Park Redevelopment – The pre-bid meeting was held yesterday. Thirty people attended with 27-28 of them being contractors. Usually we have 5-7. The construction bids should be about \$750,000-\$800,000. We are hoping to have good bids come in. Bids are due in January 19. The groundbreaking will probably be April 1.

Housekeeping/Informational Items – Becky's periodic report to the City Manager for the whole Community Services area is included in the Commissioner packet. Becky pointed out the data report of the Inspections fund. There is also information on the 28th St master planning initiative which may include extending Pinery Park through the Hook Water Tower to 28th St. Also included is census information. There is a concern about educating our Latino population that the census information is not given to any other government entity and that we need full community participation. The City needs the census for funding. She also noted that the Team 21 information is interesting. Look this over at your convenience.

Commissioner Concerns and Suggestions – Question was raised about the trees that have been cut down in Pinery Park. We are cutting down a significant number of trees, mostly Ash that are damaged by the Emerald Ash Borer. We have submitted an additional grant to get some tree replacement. We have done two tree plantings in this budget.

Rod Van Oeveren has a prospective new commissioner. He will send us his information and we will contact him.

Public Comment in General (Limit to 3 minutes) – None

Motion to Adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – Motion to adjourn was made by Rod Van Oeveren, seconded by Megan Harley. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Recorded by _____
Nancy Parent
Recording Secretary