

City of Wyoming Parks & Recreation Commission

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF October 12, 2016 @ Wyoming Public Library, Bookmark Multi-Purpose Room

Present: Doug Broek, Robert Cook, Ed McGregor, Dave Skinner, Megan Harley, Aaron Velthouse, Kathryn Crow-Deyoung, Lillian L. Cummings-Pulliams, Doug Wustman

Absent: Rich Pastoor (City Council Liaison)

Staff Present: Rebecca Rynbrandt, Director of Community Services
Nicole Batcke, Secretary

- A. Call to order of the Parks and Recreation Commission** – Commission Chair, Doug Wustman called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.
- B. Approval of Agenda** – A motion was made by Ed McGregor to approve the agenda and seconded by Robert Cook. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of the Parks and Recreation minutes from September 14, 2016 Meeting** – Ed McGregor made motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2016 meeting and was seconded by Kathy Crow-DeYoung. Motion carried.
- D. Public Comment on Agenda Item (limit to 3 minutes)** – None
- E. CDBG 2017-2018 Potential Funding Request** – Becky provided information into applying for a CDBG grant. The reason that we are eligible to apply for these funds is because Wyoming is a city with more than 50,000 people. Previous projects that have been funded with the Community Development Block Grants were, the very first Senior Center (Pinery Senior Center) and the South Senior Center. When the grants become available for application, Becky sends out idea requests within the city for consideration of application for these funds. When applying for capital funding, one stipulation for these monies is that they have to be used within a low or moderate income area. The Parks & Recreation 5-year Master Plan does have the following projects listed within it. Doug Broek asked if the CDBG funds were included or listed as an option within the parks master plan. Rynbrandt did say that the CDBG funds, along with other possible funding options are noted in the 5 year Master Plan. However, we are not guaranteed the funds, as we are in competition with everyone that are be applying to receive these funds as well.
- **Pinery Park Shelter-Section C, & Accessible Pathway** – Visual schematics of Pinery Park, showing the area where we would desire to have a shelter in Section C, was displayed. Originally this was going to be proposed and is why it is listed on the agenda for tonight. However, since placing it on the agenda, Becky has spoken with the City's Engineering Department and this project isn't really feasible anymore. The reason it has been disregarded is due to the water table problems within the section. Especially due to further discussion about how we would be able to overcome the water table issues made the cost of the project sky rocket into amounts of \$250,000.00 and above.
 - **Marquette Park Parking Lot & Shelter** – Schematics of Marquette Park were shown, providing visual of where the shelter, restrooms, playground and soccer fields are currently located within the park. The project discussed for Marquette is to increase the capacity of the current shelter and improvements made to the parking area. Background information was briefly provided about the previous updates that have been done to Marquette; which includes a turf management program along with an irrigation system that was put in place

about 15 years ago. Rynbrandt explained that because of the high usage of the park, we would look into increasing the capacity of the shelter to either the size of Hillcroft or Lamar Park. If funds were left available after that, we would like to redo the parking area. The City/Metro Health/UCOM Community garden is also located in Marquette Park. Wustman asked a question about the possibility of adding a shelter nearer to the soccer fields or more on the East side of the park, versus where it is now. Rynbrandt said that because of the ADA rules now, the shelter would need to have an accessible pathway with direct access to the parking lot. Broek asked about the soccer fields still being at the park, if they were actually included in the 5 year master plan, and set in stone. Rynbrandt indicated we've invested approximately \$70,000 in the construction and irrigation of the fields. The current master plan maintains the soccer fields. Rynbrandt did mention that we are able to line the soccer fields for other sports, such as rugby or other sports, and we have had requests of that nature.

Doug Wustman asked if there had ever been a study done regarding usage of the Marquette Park and that maybe the neighborhood could take some sort of ownership of the park. Becky said that there has been an informal study on soccer field usage at the park; however that there is no sub-area master plan in place for the park. It was noted a public engagement process was held many years ago. The north end of the City used to have a very active neighborhood and business association that seemed to take "ownership" of Marquette. It was out of discussions with these groups that the in-line hockey court was built at Marquette. However, within the last several years, both of the organizations are no longer in existence. In addition to those associations dissolving, the dynamics of the neighborhood area have changed very quickly within the past several years. Becky said she felt the discussion on this issue leaned more towards looking into placing money in the budget for next year to hire a consultant to create a new master plan for Marquette, in lieu of applying for the CDBG grant this year. Becky did share that the deadline to apply for the CDBG funds is October 20, 2016, so she would need to decide soon whether we would apply or not.

Doug Wustman brought up the fact that he didn't believe there had been a lot of investments to the North side of Wyoming in the last several years. In answer to Doug, Becky shared with the commission that there have been multiple park improvements within the last 20 years on the North side of Wyoming. They include renovations at Battjes Park, irrigation placed at Marquette soccer fields, the purchase of additional property for Marquette Park, the construction of the dog park, and significant updates to Lamar Park.

F. Informational Updates/Materials

- **Ideal Park NRTF Grant Application** – The review came back at the end of September, we completed the few questions that were requested and now we are waiting for the final decision of the NRTF to see if we will receive any monies.
- **WSC Recreation Programmer II Position Replacement** – We have hired Chad Boprie, to replace Molly Remenap at the WSC. His first day of work will be Monday, October 31. Chad actually served as a field worker at the WSC several years ago. He comes to us from Hope Network. Doug Broek asked where Eric will be staying where he is at, and not at the WSC. Becky stated that as the Recreation Supervisor, Eric's office will remain up at City Hall. She also was happy to say that the Saturday site supervisor's positions have been filled as well.

G. Library-Parks Millage

- **Recommendations for public education** – This portion of the agenda was to

brainstorm about the possible ways to educate the public on the upcoming library millage question for May's election. Please think about the possibilities and if any ideas arise, provide the information to Becky via email or phone. We are looking for the opportunity to educate the public and different organizations.

- **Targeted group presentations** – Ideas on whom we should target would be greatly appreciated as well. Education of the local schools and businesses are a must, but if there are other groups that you might think of that should be targeted, please provide them to Becky as well.

H. Commissioner Concerns and Suggestions – Doug Wustman told the commission that Valarie Mester interviewed him for a project that she is doing for school. He said that it got him thinking about branding and marketing. Doug wanted ideas of what people thought of when you think of Wyoming. Like what you would associate with Wyoming, i.e. Grand Rapids might be Art Prize. He wanted to know if maybe Becky could provide a little more information on how the Parks & Recreation staff markets and brands the programs and facilities that Parks & Recreation Department has to offer.

Kathy Crow-DeYoung, who said she is also on the Godwin Heights School Board, came up with a thought on what she thinks of Wyoming; empty GM property. She inquired as to why the city isn't snapping it up for park area, apartment or something like affordable housing. Ed McGregor mentioned that he was at a meeting with the City Planner where he discussed what types of businesses would be allowed to purchase land located on Site 36.

Discussion pertaining to Site 36 continued with Becky providing a little more information pertaining to the site being zoned industrial, which means the city wants to bring a business or businesses in that will provide jobs for the community. Becky pointed out to Kathy Crow-DeYoung, that Godwin's school board can request a meeting to educate them on Site 36 and help them to understand what vision the city has for that parcel. Dave Skinner said that he would have thought the city would be discussing the land use with the school district; keeping them informed about what is going on. Becky shared how the City Manager hosts a quarterly School Superintendents meeting in which Site 36 updates are given. She shared that if a school board would prefer a speaker come directly to a board meeting to discuss this topic or any topic, that a call to the City Manager's office would be appropriate. Otherwise the City relies on the district superintendent to share information with the school district board.

28 West Place was also brought up and Becky let the commission know that the street project is actually in the construction stages. As with any project that is proposed within the city, there are several different parts that come to play while pursuing approvals. Becky said the city and school districts need to work together and city residents to create a community in which people want to live in. Becky said in light of the conversation being about the City as a whole and not just the parks and recreation system, she'd share Doug Wustman's comment/question of "How do we market the community and Wyoming" in the greater metro area in order to maintain or develop positive brand for Wyoming, with the City Manager.

A lot of questions came up about the 5-year plan so Becky suggested that maybe we go over the plan at the next meeting of the commission.

I. Public Comment in General (limit to 3 minutes) – None

K. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting – Ed McGregor made a motion to adjourn the meeting and

Aaron Velthouse seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission: November 9, 2016.

Recorded by _____

Nicole M. Batcke
Recording Secretary