

City of Wyoming Parks & Recreation Commission

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF June 13, 2012

Present: Jim Austin, Doug Broek, Bob Cook, Eric Hartfield, Oogie LaMar, Alex Smart, ,
Doug Wustman, David Skinner

Absent: Megan Harley, Will Sheldon, Rod VanOeveren, Rich Pastoor (City Council
Liaison)

Guest: Chief James Carmody, Captain Brad Schutter

Staff Present: Rebecca Rynbrandt, Gloria Pelton

- A. Call to order of the Parks and Recreation Commission** – Chairperson Doug Wustman called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.
- B. Approval of Agenda** – Doug Wustman informed of changes in the agenda which included removing item E) Senior Meals Presentation and item G) Athletic Facility Use and Prioritization Policy. A motion was made by Doug Broek to approve the agenda with changes and it was seconded by Oogie LaMar. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes of the May 9, 2012 Meeting** – A motion was made by Bob Cook, seconded by Doug Broek to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2012 meeting. Motion carried.
- D. Public Comment on Agenda Item (limit to 3 minutes) – None**
- F. Police Department Review of Calls per Park System CY 2011**

Police Chief James Carmody & Captain Brad Schutter reported that the parks in Wyoming are safe and the calls to their department are limited. With the limited resources in the department, they feel that they cover as much territory as they can. Officers trained in mountain bike patrol put their bikes on a car and go to their district and patrol on bike. They have found that being in the parks on bikes gives them a more personal immediate contact with the public and they are also less conspicuous than being in cars. Of the 286 calls for service that the department received, 53 were written complaints. The statistics are very low for a community of this size indicating that Wyoming parks are very safe. The Police Department averages less than 1 call a day. They also show no patterns in the parks to warrant targeting a certain park. Their summer deployment plan includes: 1) officers to visit daily and 2) plain clothes enforcement. Any acts of violence in the parks are usually a result of a sporting event. The number homeless individuals in the parks are very low. Doug Wustman asked about the gang activity in the Wyoming area. Chief Carmody said that they have not seen an increase in gang activity but the drug connections in the groups are a concern. Gang activity seems to decline when school is out. The biggest concern of Chief Carmody, is the major amounts of drugs being brought in to the city. Letters are going out to stores who sell Pseudo drugs asking them to voluntarily comply with no sales. The legislation to ban the pseudo drug is in the house. The Chief also informed us that citizens can bring prescription they are no longer taking to the police department to dispose of so that children cannot access them. Chief Carmody also complimented the parks department and the citizens of Wyoming on the condition of the parks.

H. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

- Update on Citizen Input Strategies (Survey Monkey, Forums, etc). We received 939 responses and 764 of those were from Wyoming Citizens. The questions indicating the years lived in the city shows a good distribution; 30% were 20 or more years. 58% from Wyoming school districts, 15% from Grandville. Etc. Over 80% responding think that the department has been good stewards of tax money. Faced with a shortage of funds, 27 % selected an increase in fees, 38% said to increase the operational millage, 24% said to make cuts in programming. The brochure was how most get the information with growth in the website, Facebook and email newsletter usage. Parks and green space continues to be the most important item ahead of recreation programs, after school programs, WSC, etc. Over 50% of households responding have participated in a recreation program or activity in the last year, with 65% of those in the afterschool program and fitness programs. Basketball was heavily recommended for new programming for all ages. Also recommended were toddler programs or play dates. 68 % said that it is very important to offer sporting events for youth, while adult and older adult were somewhat important. Almost 80% said that cultural and festival events are important. Just over 50% said that they would support a millage if need be for the TEAM 21 program. 97% of residents have visited a park in the City of Wyoming with the most popular being Lamar Park and Kent Trails being heavily used. Most responding use the parks system once or twice a week and 81% use it to walk with 60% to relax and enjoy with playground usage being third. Over 90% felt that the park facilities are clean and well maintained and safe. Of the respondents that do not use the parks, over 35% are just too busy and 75% want City park land left in its natural state. 82% of respondents were white or Caucasian who responded to the survey.
- The public meeting will be held on August 23 at 7 pm at Wyoming Library.

- I. **Capital Projects Update** – The Dog Park parking lot is complete. We are working on an Engineering Request for Proposal to secure consulting services to ascertain the level of water flow into the park and the storm water control system. This information will be critical in final construction design for the proposed wet land area and our need to craft a realistic budget and grant proposal. The trail reconstruction between Lemery and Buck Creek is scheduled for this fall.

J. Housekeeping/Informational Items

- **Wyoming Public School District Athletic Locations** – Following consolidation of schools, they will continue to use the ball field and grandstand at Lamar Park. The school has asked the City to accept the current WWII memorial which is currently at Rogers High School to relocate in the City of Wyoming.
- **SKRA vs City of Wyoming** – SKRA has brought forward a suit against the City of Wyoming. The City has brought a counter suit against SKRA. The first court appearance is later this month, Friday, June 15.
- **Kent County Parks & Recreation Consolidation Study** – The study is complete and should be presented to the county board soon.
- **Correspondence (General)** – There will be no commission meetings in July and August. Please plan to attend the public meeting on the master plan on August 23.

- K. **Commissioner Concerns and Suggestions** –Oogie commented that the transformation of the new Wyoming High School is underway. Some things will be done over the summer to promote and celebrate the merging of Rogers and Wyoming Park. They will be holding some auctions, sale of “old school” uniforms, and other fund raisers.

Rebecca also announced that Jim Austin has submitted his resignation from the commission and tonight would be his last meeting. Jim thanked the commission for its service to the community and shared that he needed to step aside due to health reasons.

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

M. Motion to Adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – Motion to adjourn was made by Doug Broek and seconded by Dave Skinner. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Recorded by _____
Gloria Pelton
Recording Secretary