

**MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, December 3, 2008
6:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joe Schleper called the Park and Recreation Committee meeting Wednesday, December 3, 2008 to order at 6:39 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Joe Schleper, Chair
Mary Ditty, Vice Chair
Heather Motzko, Secretary
Chris Hart
Mike Lindquist
Lori Shoultz

Members Absent: Anders Sonnenburg
Marc Plese, Council Member Liaison

Also Present: Ernie Eden, Public Works Director
Wendy Biel, Recorder

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No discussion or motion made.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of Wednesday, October 29, 2008.

Motion by Mike Lindquist, second by Heather Motzko to approve the Minutes of Wednesday, October 29, 2008.

5. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Highway 12 Park plans.

Joe Schleper described the proposal for a short trail along the west bank of Crow River and north of the newly constructed Highway 12 Bridge; access to the trail will be from the new sidewalk northwest of Highway 12 Bridge.

Ernie Eden depicted the process of recycling trees and brush into wood chips to create this natural trail. The goal for completion of the trail is this winter.

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Motion by Mary Ditty, second by Lori Shoultz for Staff to progress with plans for the Highway 12 Park.

B. Discussion of Summer Recreation Programming application process.

Schleper opened the discussion questioning the minimum duration and time of program(s). Committee members were in agreement for creating a minimum standard for the length of program(s). Members agreed to a minimum requirement of 4 weeks and 8 sessions; Mary Ditty repeated the importance of adding these requirements to both the application and the instruction sheet under Funding Criteria.

Shoultz requested allowing more specific instruction throughout the application. She also asked that a subcategory within the Funding section, to be able to submit detailed operating budget proposal of the program. The operating budget is not to be utilized for any start up costs of any program.

Members agreed that the Summer Recreation Program are not for clinics or camps; proposals may be for academic, arts, or athletic programs, or any combination of these activities. Applications will be available after January 1, 2009 on the City website or picked up at City Hall.

C. Update on new Landscape equipment at Maple Knoll Park.

Ernie Eden described the progression at Maple Knoll Park: playground equipment has all been installed, wood chips as base material was completed, and final curbing will be completed spring 2009.

D. Update on progress of recycling playground equipment to Westridge Hills Park.

Ernie Eden updated the Committee on equipment that has been inspected for safety and durability that can be recycled to Westridge Hills Park. After restoration to some pieces, installation could begin spring 2009.

E. Update on progress of Barb King Park.

Committee is working with Landscape Structures Inc. on the park dedicated to Barb King. Further updates will be available at the meeting in January.

F. Update on progress at Rebecca Park.

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Heather Motzko gave a brief description of the plans for the playground area at Lake Rebecca Park. Landscape Structures Inc. was awarded the contract and will be installing equipment Spring 2009.

G. Update on Central Park projects.

Ernie Eden updated Committee on projects completed: City Council approved a 4 foot fence installed along 1st and 3rd baseline in front of the bullpens at the Grandstand field, the roofs above the dugouts have been removed from the new fields for winter season and some fields have been aerated and top dressed, and the irrigation system at the ball fields has also been winterized. Drainage issues between the newer fields will be addressed prior to start of the season in spring 2009. At that time any mounds that need to be repositioned for proper distance will also be addressed in spring 2009.

Committee members requested Staff to contact Mr. Paulson, Varsity Baseball Coach, for funding updates on future score board(s).

H. Discuss Adopt-A-Park program.

Joe Schleper reviewed the proposal from Staff to create an Adopt-A-Park program. The City of Delano has an extensive park system which requires continual maintenance and upkeep. This program will give community groups an opportunity to work to further beautify the parks and trails and gain recognition for their work in Delano.

Eligible parks are Central Park, eight neighborhood parks, and seven trails. The City of Delano will recognize the hard work of community groups by installing a sign in the designated park or along the designated trail way.

Committee members were very supportive of the proposal and requested further information from Staff. Mike Lindquist suggested comparing other cities and organizations that have similar proposal implemented. Heather Motzko proposed that larger community groups could assist with larger parks or splitting responsibilities amongst applicants so that all interested persons can be involved.

Ernie Eden expressed this opportunity will generate great community pride and involvement. Eden would meet with the community group(s) monthly to establish work plan with goals throughout the year.

I. Discuss Riverwalk Nature Trail

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Joe Schleper began discussion by describing the location of proposed trails west of Central Park and located just behind the dyke parallel to River Road. Ernie Eden continued informing the Committee that his department had cleared an overgrown trail on the south end.

Eden went into further detail of proposal by Staff to develop a dog park area, additional trails joining onto the previous trail, and adding a possible canoe launch. Public Works has continued the recycling of over brush and small trees into woodchips to maintain the natural trail pathway.

Committee members continued to make suggestions for Staff's review of land use in this area: driving range, picnic areas, benches along trails, and lighting possibilities. Mary Ditty suggested Staff to review alternative lighting options such as wind or solar generated. Further discussion will continue during the January meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss the Park & Recreation Meeting of Wednesday, December 3, 2008 was adjourned at 8:20 PM.