

MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 10, 2009
6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joe Schleper called the Park and Recreation Committee meeting Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 6:39 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: Betsy Stolfa, Council Member Liaison
Phil Kern, City Administrator
Wendy Biel, Recorder

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No discussion or motion made.

4. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Update on Barb Kings Park.

Phil Kern updated members that the application name for the Woodland Meadows Park is Barb King Inspiration Park. Kern reviewed the design and concept plan that Steve King, President of Landscape Structures, and Vince Vander Top, City Engineer, have been discussing. Tentative plans have construction starting late summer 2009.

B. Publicize the website www.delanorecreation.com

Phil Kern reviewed the City of Delano website highlighting the Recreation link. Eight sub-links were discussed: Canoeing, Fourth of July Celebration, Golf Courses, Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Movies, Park and City Facilities, Recreation Programs and Trails. Each sub-link was discussed and Members suggested updates that can continually inform residents; cross linking website information would also assist in maintaining updates. Jean Kopp suggested utilizing the Chamber of Commerce Guide Book for additional community information.

C. Discuss naming the Baseball Fields.

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Mary Ditty reminded Members for the requests to submit name applications of the newer baseball fields at Central Park. Phil Kern informed Members of the approved process; once the application is completed and approved by the Park and Recreation Committee it can be forwarded onto Council for final approval. Ditty would contact those that had requested an application.

D. Discuss High School Volunteer for Park Day during the 3rd week of May.

Joe Schleper is working with Matt Schoen, Principal Delano High School, and Ernie Eden, Public Works Director, to finalize the High School Volunteer for Park Day date. In previous years, volunteers have cleaned up Central Park by painting the gazebo, painting picnic tables, cleaning up debris, trimming brush and assisted in the construction of Big Rock Park.

E. Discuss other items from previous agendas.

Phil Kern mentioned an addition to the website, MapMyRun, which Staff is working on to outline potential walking, biking, and running routes throughout the City and surrounding trails.

Heather Motzko requested a link to the website informing residents of potential completion dates for Park and Recreation Committee projects.

Members discussed options to generate excitement for the Adopt-A-Park program; working with neighborhoods, civic organizations, youth groups and possibly advertising through the Community Guide Book.

The option of broadening the Committee to seven members was questioned. Kern stated that the Committee membership is approved for seven members, allowing for one more application to be accepted. Joe Schleper was aware of an interested resident and would inform them of the application process.

Two trail grants have been applied for and are awaiting final approval. These grants could be used at the canoe launch and on the paths west of the dyke.

Mike Lindquist reviewed the banners that the school kids were completing. These banners are currently displayed through the City and hung from flag poles. The theme is 2008 was Highway 12 Construction; this year he described the theme as Health and Wellness. They will be completed and available to be hung by spring.

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Members discussed the option of the Dog Park constructed west of the dyke off River Street North. Kern restated the concerns of Council as it had been presented Tuesday, February 17, 2009; Council is requesting affirmation from the Park and Recreation Committee that the proposal is cost effective and a benefit to the community.

Mary Ditty voiced her opinion that the fence was a necessity due to the proximity to baseball fields, parking lots, trails, and traffic along River Road. Schleper agreed with Ditty especially if the trails and canoe launch were enhanced; the public use of that land would necessitate a fence for the safety and comfort of non-dog owners using that park area.

Heather Motzko felt that with proper advertising and patrolling of non-dog areas (soccer fields, baseball fields, etc) the dog park would definitely be a benefit. She noted many communities have developed dog parks, citing Plymouth and Lake Sarah for example.

Schleper and Kopp were in agreement that the fenced four acre lot would give plenty of room for dogs to run, allowing dog owners a location for their pets to run versus messing the sports field areas and residents using trails and parks nearby wouldn't have to worry about free-running dogs.

Motion Number by Mike Lindquist, seconded by Jean Kopp to re-present the proposal to construct a Dog Park to Council at the April 7, 2009 meeting. Member requested Staff to change the final debt repayment time frame from five years to seven years and construction to begin summer 2009.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss the Park & Recreation Meeting of Tuesday, March 10, 2009 was adjourned at 8:33 PM.