

City of Delano
Parks & Recreation Commission
Minutes from Thursday, August 17, 2006

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm.

Roll Call:

Mary Ditty
Chris Hart
Phil Kern, City Administrator
Joe Schleper, Chair
Lori Shoultz

Approval of Agenda

Without objection the Committee approved the agenda.

Review Minutes of July 20, 2006 Park and Recreation Committee

The Committee reviewed the minutes. Minutes were approved, 4-0.

Order of Business:

A) Grading of Ball Fields #3 and #4 at Central Park.

Phil Kern reported that the City Council has approved and awarded a grading proposal. Removal of trees will begin on 8/16. Grading will include a 3 feet high berm along the west side of Field #4. Fields will be graded to the same elevation and should be complete in 2 weeks.

Irrigation specifications have been developed and will be open for bids next week. Information will be presented to the City Council for approval during the first meeting in September.

B) Central Park--Phase 2 improvements.

Commission agreed that these discussions can be postponed until the Spring '07.

Variables to discuss and make recommendations on include:

Fencing:

--Height of fences (8 ft. vs. 6 ft.)

--Fencing behind home plate (fencing vs. netting, height). Backstops are typically 20-24 feet. Century Fence recommends adding height versus extending fence out over home plate.

--Cost of fencing options (Mary Ditty reported that black fencing is approximately a 25% upgrade over traditional chain-link).

Warning track:

Commission recommends (4-0) that a warning track not be installed. Factors considered were cost, maintenance, and loss of usable "green" area.

Hitting station:

Consider feasibility of fencing including an area that can be used as a hitting station.

Bleacher areas:

Consider concrete pads to help reduce on-going maintenance and improve appearance.

Dug-outs:

Consider roofing for dug-out areas.

Parking by Field #3

Consider moving curb and adding parking to the West side of Field #3.

C) Review citizen request regarding volleyball court.

Commission reviewed letter submitted by 13 residents requesting that the Park Board consider improvements to the sand volleyball court located in Central Park. Specific requests were for new sand, poles (2), net and ropes. City Staff would be able to do improvements. Commission requested that Phil Kern check on costs and report at the next meeting.

D) Update regarding the Baseball Field/Athletic Club.

On behalf of Jack Lynch, Phil Kern reported that the Athletic Club is considering the following improvements to the Main Baseball Field:

- Replace seating in Grand Stand

- Extend Grand Stand roof.

These improvements may occur in the next 3-4 years. The Athletic Club would ask that the Park Commission and City Council consider helping to fund these projects.

E) Update on grants.

Phil Kern reported that the City of Delano has received a grant of up to 1.4 million dollars (matching funds) to purchase properties along the west side of Highway 12 (watershed area due to the proximity to the Crow River).

The City of Delano has submitted a grant requesting \$175,000 to improve the trail system around each of the school buildings. City should be notified by October or November whether or not the grant will be awarded. If awarded the trails will be constructed within the next 2 years.

F) Maplewood Estates Trail

Several residents within these development have requested that the pond area (storm pond) be restored and include native plantings and a trail system. City Staff are considering request, working on a conceptual plan and budget. The City will seek input from the nearest property owners.

G) McKinley Development.

Phil Kern reported that the Park plans for this area will be delayed until the Summer of 2007. Access to the 4th phase of Clover Springs is required in order to get to Park area.

H) Maintenance of outdoor ice rink.

Chris Hart reported that several maintenance issues need to be addressed.

- Poles and Doors for the snow plow entrance need to be adjusted so that the doors open and close without hitting the ice.

- Weed whipping

- Addition of dirt and leveling of rink area

--Painting of boards. Chris Hart will arrange volunteers.

H) Open Agenda Items.

Tennis courts. Discussed that several requests have been made asking that the Park Commission consider adding additional tennis courts to future park areas, especially on the West side of town.

Several residents have requested that lighting be installed at the courts located on school property. Phil Kern will check on the cost of lighting these courts. City and School Staff will need to determine appropriate funding sources.

Gerard Property. No further information. City is waiting to obtain land survey.

Riverfront Park. City is currently investigating funding options.

Seat Wall at Central Park. Phil Kern reported that a local business will be able to improve the texture of the wall. Improvements should be made this Fall.

Delano's Recreation Website. Joe Schleper reported that this site needs to be updated. Further direction is needed as to what the City wants to accomplish with this site.

Westridge Hills Park (Phase 3 and 4). Phil Kern reported that City Staff would be making several low cost improvements to this play area by painting 4-square and hop scotch areas.

Landscape Structures Equipment. No further information.

Lion's Park. Phil Kern reported that another piece of equipment has been removed from this play area.

Summer Programming. Park Commission respectfully asked that Phil Kern request budget and participation information from each of the programs funded by the City. In addition, the Park Commission has agreed that additional guidelines for funding are needed.

Hockey Rink. Phil Kern reported that on 8/17 the results of the land surveys would be presented to the City and School.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.