

City of Delano
Minutes of the Park and Recreation Committee

March 15, 2006

Members Present: Joe Schleper, Chair
Mary Ditty
Chris Hart
Mike Lindquist
Jon Steinmetz, Council Liaison
Phil Kern, City Administrator

Chair Joe Schleper called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

1. Discuss Central Park Construction Staging

Phil Kern updated the Committee on the progress of the bid process for the Central Park Playground. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, April 11, at 4:00pm at City Hall. Kern stated that staff is coordinating the various construction elements for the different weeks during May

The Committee discussed the "community build" portion of the playground construction. Discussion involved several ways of recruiting volunteers to assist with construction. The Committee recommended the City advertise in its newsletter, on its website, and in the Delano Eagle that volunteer shifts are available and take any volunteers that call City Hall. After a couple weeks with this process, the Committee then said it should approach specific groups to fill out the remaining shifts.

2. Discuss Fun in the Sun Summer Program

The Committee discussed whether or not to recommend the Council approve the Fun in the Sun program again for 2006. The Committee expressed the benefits of the program: providing organized activities in the parks and encouraging more public use of parks. The Committee discussed that the program should be operated for 6 weeks (instead of an option for 8 weeks), and raise the pay for the lead program director up to \$18 per hour, depending on qualifications. **Motion by Mary Ditty, Second by Joe Schleper to recommend the City Council approve the FITS program for 2006 with a 6-week format, paying the lead program director up to \$18 (at Council's discretion), and offering the program in the Central, Stahlke, Woods Creek, and Woodland Meadows parks. Motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.**

3. Discuss Summer Baseball Camp Request

The Committee discussed at length a request from Dan Paulsen on behalf of the Delano Summer Baseball Camp Program. The request was for a \$3,000 contribution to the summer baseball and softball program. The Committee reviewed the previous year's

program results. In 2005, the Summer Baseball Camp Program received \$3,000 from the City of Delano to operate its program. The same year, the Program had an excess of funds for operation of the program of \$2,890. The Program expended the rest of its funds plus \$510 additional (\$3,400 total) for an outdoor batting cage to be used by the high school baseball and softball programs.

The Committee discussed in great length the purpose of the City's summer recreation funding monies. Historically, the City funded the summer baseball program entirely with its contribution. In 2001, Community Ed expanded its offering of summer programming to include art and educational programming in addition to baseball and softball. By 2005, Community Education's offerings had transitioned to no baseball or softball offerings and all arts/educational programming. The City's funding of this program had decreased and in 2004 and 2005, the City began funding the Summer Baseball Camp Program.

The Committee discussed the need to establish some parameters for funding summer recreation. Some programs, such as FITS and Community Education's Discovery Zone, are heavily subsidized for its revenue, while the Summer Baseball Camp receives substantial revenue from user fees in addition to the City contribution. The Committee also discussed whether or not programs should be continually funded if they appear to be self-sufficient. Further, the Committee discussed the question of what types of programming should be funded.

In the end, the Committee agreed that a top priority for the fall of 2006 will be to establish parameters and an application process for funding beginning in 2007. **Motion by Joe Schleper, Second by Chris Hart to recommended \$3,000 funding in 2006 to the Delano Summer Baseball Camp Program with the program encouraged to offer scholarship or reduced prices for those whom payment of full fees is difficult, and to set a goal for 2006 to establish parameters for funding in 2007. Motion approved by a vote of 3-0-1 (Lindquist abstained).**

4. Discuss Lake Rebecca Regional Park Master Plan

The Committee discussed the master planning process for Lake Rebecca Park. Kern updated the Committee that this was the first phase of the process and City comments will be used to develop a draft Master Plan for review in May/June 2006. The Committee directed Kern to pass on their comments as follows:

- The proposed campground is a good idea. Committee recommended addition "pack-in" or hiking campsites.
- Recommended examining disc golf as a recreational opportunity.
- Trail reconstruction and new construction was recommended.
- The Committee wanted to see Three Rivers Parks District examine the possibility of a water park element to the facility.
- The Committee strongly supported closing the access road on the east side of the park, provided winter access remains to the lake.
- The Committee appreciated the opportunity to provide comments.

5. Discuss Development Plans and Park Components

Kern updated the Committee on recent development/annexation applications and the projected areas of growth. The Committee discussed the need to maintain the river floodplain and a greenway throughout development. The Committee discussed the development to the southwest of town, specifically along County Road 16. One of the goals of the long-term park plan is to develop a significant, community park southwest of Delano. The Committee discussed the vacant parcel of land proposed for sale (Gerard Property). **Motion by Mary Ditty, Second by Joe Schleper, to recommend the City Council consider presenting a purchase offer to the Gerard family for the 68-acre property south of Delano on County Road 16 for the development of a community park. Motion passed 4-0.**

6. Discuss 206-2007 City Goals

Kern informed the Committee that the City Council has convened a goal-setting session for March 22. The purpose of the session is to establish goals for the coming year. Kern stated that the Chairs of each committee, including the Park and Recreation Committee, had been invited. The Committee was encouraged to communicate its proposed goals to its Chair for discussion at the session.

Being no further business to be discussed by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.