

MINUTES
CITY OF DELANO
Park and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, February 22, 2017
5:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05pm.

2. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Present: Mike Lindquist, Dan Menk, Sean Peterson, Joe Schleper, Tom Schaffer

Also present: Phil Kern, City Administrator; Makenzie Krause, Recorder; Sarah Berres, Shirley Eggersgluss and Jackie from the Big Woods Garden Club

3. Minutes

4. Old Business

A. Update on Ice Rinks

Phil reported that, as a result of the warm weather, the ice rinks are officially gone. He will be meeting with a gentleman who was interested in discussing where a permanent rink could go. From what Phil heard, people tended to like the Central Park location. The Puck in the Park event made a little bit of money, and people really seemed to like it.

Phil also reminded the commission that, while the Litfin location was considered before the Central Park area, it is unlikely that that area will be used for a skating rink. As a result, the City might make the rink more of a permanent presence in the Central Park area, and any grading activity there would have to happen after August. Before then though, the commission will need to determine an exact location. Aaron (the gentleman Phil will meet) was pushing for the location across 3rd street from the current location. The area he wants frequently floods though, which is why Phil will try to suggest elsewhere.

Tom noted that he liked the idea of the Puck in the Park location because it promotes more year-round usage of that area.

Dan then commented that, for the sake of timing, the commission should put a pin in this discussion and save it for a date when it will be able to make this decision.

B. Update on utility box art.

Debbie is in New Zealand, so Phil has been unable to contact her. Therefore, this discussion will be tabled until March.

5. New Business

A. A. Big Woods Garden Club Request

Jackie and Shirley from the Big Woods Garden Club came to discuss planting some flowers or vines along Railroad Ave. This street has been looking very rough and run-down, so the Big Woods Garden Club wants to plant something along the fence, fix the fence, and even ask the railroad to plant some trees.

Phil responded that the City owns the right of way right up to the fence. The fence itself is on railroad property and it was put up by community members. Initially, the fence had some ivy on it, but it died off.

The club thought that evergreen trees would look nice, but that probably wouldn't work on the track side of the fence with the train. Therefore, they thought that a honey suckle type vine would go nicely on the fence.

Dan asked who is responsible for maintaining the fence, and Phil replied that the railroad is in charge of it, but that they aren't likely to maintain it. The City is the one who does the most work on the fence.

Jackie commented that the club could provide the vines if the City could provide the dirt and water for only the first year. In 3 to 4 years, the vines should cover the fence and will no longer need to be actively maintained. She wanted to know if there was any interest on the City's part and if the City would be able to contribute funds.

Phil noted that there is a public affairs person at the railroad whom we can talk to. With any fence issues, the City usually takes initiative, so it shouldn't be a problem to partake in this project.

Dan replied that, so long as the City doesn't have to maintain the vine in the future, we would likely be very open to it.

Joe asked if there is a landscape plan going in with the construction of the new road. Phil noted that there was a minor plan, but that details such as this fence were not discussed.

Mike also commented that the commission could put this as a project to be completed this spring, whether it is the fence repair or the plantings. He also wanted to know if the Safety Commission could take part in the fence repair.

Shirley thought that, since the commission was interested in the project, she and Jackie could go talk to the club to see how much could be invested. The commission, meanwhile, will reach out to the landscape artist and the railroad.

B. Highland Ridge Plat

Phil introduced Highland Ridge as being a land-locked neighborhood, but hopefully not for long. Clover Springs should have a trail connecting the two neighborhoods completed this summer. Back in 2005, Lennar was looking at buying a large chunk of land to create a 40 acre

park. That didn't happen, but there is still an open space where a park could go. In the original concept plan, there was room for soccer fields, t-ball fields, a small playground, and trail connections. Because of the current property lines, the commission won't be able to accomplish building all of this, but it will be able to do some. Developers will be going to the next planning commission, so Phil asked for feedback as to what the commission would like to see. There is a new design, but he still wanted some feedback. The new plan proposes a sport court, plus a nice trail. The neighborhoods have access with the trail to the playground by the water tower, and because of this playground, the developers are looking to build something different.

Right now, the area is not maintained. The neighborhood is split in regards to their opinions of maintaining the grassy area. 70% say leave it be; 30% say cut it down.

Mike asked how big the sport court at Woods Creek is, and Phil replied that it is tennis Court size.

Phil also noted that Sport Court does make a knee wall that could be used to make the courts into hockey rinks during the winter. The City is also going to mandate that parking stalls be put in along the street.

Sarah, who lives in Highland Ridge, noted that she, along with several of her neighbors, appreciates the open space and grassy area. She said that she would enjoy a trail that allows the grassy areas to continue growing and that the commission should focus more on allowing natural environment growth.

Phil pointed out that Highland Ridge has 28 lots filled, 6 open, and 24 more lots coming in. The Clover Springs 4th addition is also growing. Al Brixius drew up a new park plan, but Phil doubted the feasibility and accessibility of usable sport fields. It would be an imposition on neighborhood quietness to have an active field.

Tom thought that diagonal parking might be helpful for allowing more parking.

Mike asked about the grass hill located in the park area, and Phil replied that it rests about 8 feet above where the sport court would be. Phil thought that the developers could definitely create a bigger hill there without much cost. If the City could get \$100,000 from park dedication, that will cover a shaded area and a sport court.

Mike thought that, because of the costs, the commission should recommend not putting in a playground. Phil replied that doing so is definitely a possibility. Also, with these newer neighborhoods that still have ponds and wetlands, the City doesn't have as much of a concern for skating rink availability.

C. Splash Pad Discussion

Phil brought up the fact that, last meeting, the commission had a discussion about a Splash Pad. Landscape Structures was in the process of acquiring a company that would allow it to build a

splash pad. Now, the GFWC has a Splash Pad in their top priority, and Landscape wants to give the City a splash pad. We are to the point now that they have provided a concept plan. It will be approx. 6000 square ft. The cost to the City would be approximately \$250,000. Phil talked to the Council about this idea in concept form, and they Council has not approved anything, but they are willing to consider the idea. Landscape will offer its expertise to fit play pieces with affordable aquatics.

Tom noted that most splash pads are design, then build. The current situation of working with the company will be the most economical.

Phil replied that Landscape wants us to proceed with mechanical, and they want this to be their showpiece. Phil is in the feasibility process right now, and he will have to go to Council to give them costs, options, timelines, and potential locations. Landscape wants this to be open Memorial Day, which is rather aggressive, but this summer isn't out of the question.

Mike asked how this will work with the infrastructure, and Phil replied that Landscape will design it, then the City will work with them. They'll hire the contractors.

Mike asked how the Council feels about this project.

Phil wasn't certain, but he did know that Council is hoping that the Park Board reviews the information and offers some input.

The Commission then proceeded to discuss potential locations and pointed out some pros and cons with each of the spots. Two possible placements were in Central Park (where the ice rinks were over the winter and where the dance floor is during the 4th of July) and one was across the street. More pros and cons will be discussed, and the location will be decided, at the next meeting. The group then noted some cost and safety concerns.

Dan also thought it was crucial to consider the future development beyond this. He wanted to note what this project will mean in terms of future shelters or eating options.

Phil mentioned that, because there are many options with locations, there are several questions from council about amenities that will need to be brought in.

Dan wanted to know about the general temperature of the councilmembers, and Jon commented that the splash pad would be fabulous and should be in our plan. He didn't know where it sits with priorities, but if the City wants it, the commission should make it happen. Cost is rough, but how could it get better?

Joe pointed out that the "Potential Project" list is fluid with opportunity, and certain projects bump up in priority when the opportunity reveals itself.

Jon thought it was important for the group to consider the economic impact. Phil then replied that he can't say what Council will approve, but there is a lot of interest in seeing this get done.

Mike asked what Phil wants the Park Board to do. Phil replied that Council will see the splash

pad on March 28th, which means that the Board will have to come up with a formal opinion about the project at its meeting on the 22nd.

Dan asked if the group wants to keep the potential location narrowed to this area rather than putting it elsewhere in Delano to draw people to a different part of town. Mike seconded this question because the group saw the City's 20 year plan which had several opportunities for potential park growth. Tom then commented that the group should at least make the recommendation that it is in Central Park and not a neighborhood park.

Mike made a motion to examine the areas in Central Park and Tom seconded; motion carried.

Jon asked if the City Planner gets involved in Parks and Rec plans, and Phil replied that he will undoubtedly be needed to draw up something for this project.

6. Other Business

On March 28th, all commissions will come together for a general orientation at 7:00.

7. Adjournment

Tom made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mike; meeting adjourned at 6:54.