

MINUTES
CITY OF DELANO
Park and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, May 24, 2017
5:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Present: Tom Schaffer, Dan Menk, Jonathon Werth, Sean Peterson, Sara Berres, Marnie Lucas

Not present: Mike Lindquist

Also Present: Jon Sutherland, Council Liaison; Phil Kern, City Administrator; Makenzie Krause, Recorder

2. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Sean made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of “Adopt a Park” discussion. Dan seconded and the motion carried.

3. Minutes

Dan motioned to approve the minutes and Sean seconded; motion carried.

4. Order of Business

A. Parks and Trails Map

Phil: The current Parks and Trails map that is presented on signs throughout town have not been updated in 6 or 7 years. The Downtown Business Group is eager to improve the signage throughout town, and their goal is to make the map an informative piece that includes not only parks and trails, but also amenities such as places to eat, stop, etc. The business group is willing to chip some money into the project.

Makenzie: We are working with Joe Schleif at Vital Signs to redesign the maps to make them more appealing and informative. The current maps feature a lot of white space, so we are working to create signs that are more colorful and bring direct attention to everything Delano has to offer.

Dan pointed out that, when these signs were put up originally, there was a concern about damage and vandalism. They have held up well though, so it is a good idea to continue investing into them. Perhaps more can be added throughout town.

Tom asked if there will be some sort of sponsorship with the signs, to which Phil replied could be a potential. The downtown businesses are looking to maybe include a small panel that would say something along the lines of “Brought to you by ___”

Jon asked how many signs there will be, and Phil replied that, while there currently are 6 or 7 signs around Delano, there could be more. When the signs were first made, their intent was to

inform the community of everything that was available in town. The Downtown Business group is looking at this project as a way to engage visitors to the community.

Phil then asked how members felt about the grid, to which multiple members replied that they liked them. Makenzie asked if they still wanted to use a grid if the sign would also be including symbols, to which the commission responded yes.

Marnie asked if there was a way to scale distances, and Phil commented that we would work with Joe to determine a good way to scale it.

Dan commented that there should be a means of internet access, such as a QR Code, that would help make the signs more interactive. Marnie also mentioned that a “North” arrow would also be helpful.

B. Signage

Phil informed the group that city staff attempted working with the 3 River Park group to incorporate a sign down at Rebecca Park similar to the signs found at Baker Park. The first attempt to get the sign was not successful, but staff will continue working on it.

Phil then noted that staff are working on a “Public Parking” project to add more signs and show people that public parking is available.

Phil then discussed that the Downtown Group wants a big sign for the canoe launch. That group is working to pull together the “Float the Crow” weekend, during which people will bring canoes/tubes to Delano so that participants can rent them to go down the Crow and then be picked up and brought back to Delano.

The Downtown Group is working to gain a foothold and be a strong presence here in town. James Vanderlinde is the chair. It is somewhat independent of the Chamber, though some members are a part of it. The group is wanting to invest in some games that could be downtown for people to utilize whenever.

Tom asked how the canoe launch is looking, to which Phil replied that, at ordinary levels, the river is too low for canoes to easily enter, so we will need to order some rock that could provide good footholds.

Dan asked if signs could be purchased to designate the canoe launch area, and Phil said that it could be done.

C. Adopt a Park

Dan brought up the fact that, at one point during the start-up of this program, there was a strong presence enlisting help for the parks. It seemed like it was a well-organized project, but it hasn't really gone anywhere. Now would be a good time to do it, but people are needed to coordinate the projects. He asked if Adopt a Park participants have been coming to the city for

advice.

Phil replied that there is a wide range of involvement. The group that maintains the downtown area is very active in checking in and asking for mulch, garbage bags, etc. However, the City itself doesn't follow up because it is up to the groups to take initiative. It is possible that the City can do more work in getting groups to participate. Staff tries to check in once a year, but if we don't hear from people, then we don't take the park away. We don't want to go out to groups and tell them that they aren't doing a good job.

Dan then responded that it would be helpful to create a checklist of generals that should be done, then hand out the checklist to people who adopt the park. That way there is some means of communication that is out there. He thought it would be helpful to try to emulate other cities with the program and that he could create a checklist to help revamp the program.

Phil transitioned by pointing out how the City hasn't expanded upon the success of Krienke Park. Other parks could attempt the Krienke method, but because the maintenance is already low cost, the City hasn't made it a top priority to invest in the time required to expand the program.

Tom asked where the City promotes Adopt a Park, and Phil replied that it is presented on the city website as well as on social media. Most parks are adopted, so we don't necessarily need to recruit more, but we do need to improve our guidance of the program.

Sara pointed out that it might be helpful to give the people who are involved materials that will help them get more involved.

Dan then commented that Facebook involvement could be really helpful.

Jon asked if Paula does any reports, and Phil commented that she used to, but hasn't in 3 years. If it does become a priority, then it can be worked into the routine.

Dan changed the subject by asking about community groups as a whole and how that pursuit is looking. Phil replied that the topic had been discussed in a previous meeting and it was decided that it would be better to let the groups come to the commission. A letter was sent out introducing the Parks and Recreation and telling them that we were available to assist them; however, since Parks and Recreation typically has full meetings, it was decided that the group's time and efforts could be invested elsewhere, especially when group outreach would have more of a secondary communication purpose rather than an active task purpose.

D. Splash Pad

Phil brought up that the City has advertised the open house to take place between 6-7 pm. The City has been very active on social media and has included detailed information. The responses have been way more positive than expected, and the Council was very open and welcoming to it.

The part of the project that is most in flux is the pavilion portion of the area. The City has been successful in raising money for the pavilion, so it is a definite possibility that the pavilion could be added as well. This pavilion could even include chillers beneath the concrete so that there would be good quality ice outdoors. The hockey association would help with funding and would share the rink with the city.

The City is looking at permanent fencing on the east, west, and south sides. The north side would have a removable fence that would have access to the pavilion.

Tom asked if a fence could be put around the pavilion and in between the pavilion and splash pad. Phil replied that it was possible, but that we don't want to make the pavilion inaccessible to people not utilizing the splash pad

5. Other Business

A. Open House at 6pm

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm and the members moved to the Council Chambers for the open house