

**MINUTES
CITY OF DELANO
Park and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, October 22, 2014
5:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joe Schleper called the regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission of Wednesday, October 22, 2014 to order at 5:06 PM

2. ROLL CALL & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Members present: Joe Schleper, Chair
Dan Menk
Holly Schrupp
Mike Lindquist
Jason Franzen
Dan Vick, Council liaison
Tom Schaffer

Members absent: Merle Wagner

Also present: Phil Kern, City Administrator;
Devin Massopust, Recorder;
Al Brixius, City Planner

3. MINUTES

4. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Representatives from DYBSA approached the Commission to present information on the current state of baseball and field usage within the City of Delano. Kevin Koehler state that the organization has experienced a 4% growth rate and that the number of participants within the tee-ball program increased by 37% the last year. He stated that the level of use on the baseball fields within the City has increased dramatically due to amount of uses from various sports groups on the field as many of the seasons are now overlapping.

DYBSA's need and priority for new facilities is one, full-size field, according to Koehler. He stated that the City of Delano is renowned within the region for it's quality baseball facilities and programs from town teams down to the high school team and down to the lower levels as well. He stated that a new field is a great investment to make and the Litfin property about to be discussed offers a great opportunity.

City Planner Alan Brixius asked what type of amenities are required for a full-sized baseball field. Koehler responded that it would be lighted in a perfect world, but that is not a make or break situation. Chris Hart of DYBSA stated that Zitzloff field is a good example of what a field could be like in terms of size and amenities could be shared with other sports. Mike Lindquist responded that the current fields 10 and 11 are very limited for soccer uses.

A. Update and Discussion on Potential Park at Litfin Property

Brixius began his presentation by stating that a study done in 2011 identified a need for a substantial amount of active play areas as there is an incredibly growing need for facilities amongst all sports. There is rarely or never an opportunity for fields to rest because of the amount of sports teams, according to Brixius. He stated that there was also identified a need for passive uses to access recreational and natural areas. He noted that the current trail system within the City is very popular and needs to be addressed that with this park project.

Brixius detailed how the Litfin site needs to be looked at and analyzed in conjunction with Central Park, Cramer Park, and the Delano Granite Works site. Any new park needs to address current and future recreational demand, provide relief for already overburdened facilities, ensure that it connects to existing parks & the trail system, provide opportunities for a variety of residents and age groups and also preserve the natural and historic nature of the community, said Brixius.

He stated that this park needs to be examined in terms of an area suited for intense recreational facilities as well as passive areas blended within the area.

Brixius then outlined existing conditions and regulatory restrictions that would need to be addressed on the Litfin site.

He stated a number of wetlands have been identified on the site as well as areas designates as shore land which would need to addressed through the DNR.

The Delano Granite Works site, which is currently owned by the City, may have the ability to be transformed into two soccer fields with parking depending on how much of the area is filled, Brixius said.

Phil Kern stated that the City is in the process of requiring the Litfin land and that the City and Park Board are in control of what happens at the site, but it is beneficial to have an idea of what the Board would like to see at the site so that a joint venture with the Township and County can be examined and worked towards. He noted that the County is interested as there is no regional park in this part of the county and if we can hit 100 acres we become a park of regional significance which opens the way to Legacy funding. He said that recent statements made by members of the Township Board seem very negative towards any collaboration.

Brixius stated the following considerations will need to be looked at regarding the Litfin site and related park areas:

1. Explore options for active play on Litfin property – baseball in particular.
2. Look at leaving Granite Works Site as flood capacity and moving the dike to expand active play in Cramer Park.
3. Ask Wenck to look further into soccer/lacrosse fields at Granite Works Site.
4. Look into ways to connect the various properties for tournament play.
5. Identify ancillary needs of these amenities.

Dan Menk stated that communications between all groups dealing with facilities should be

open so as one group or another is not duplicating efforts.

Tom Schaffer noted that perhaps the cart is getting ahead of the horse by doing planning before the environmental study is done at the Litfin site.

Kern replied that we are months from coming up with a master plan, but the goal right now is to identify what active uses are on the table so that when representatives of the City meet with the County and Township we can present that information.

B. Discuss Budget and Commissioner Stipends

The Park Board discussed possibly using their stipends to fund a park related project. No action was taken.

5. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM