

MINUTES
CITY OF DELANO
Park and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, June 28, 2017
5:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:02pm.

2. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda

Present: Mike Lindquist, Tom Schaffer, Sean Peterson, Marnie Lucas, Jonathon Werth, Dan Menk

Not present: Sarah Berres

Also Present: Jon Sutherland, Council Liaison; Holly Schrupp, City Council; Phil Kern, City Administrator

Makenzie Krause, Recorder

Sean made a motion to approve the agenda and Dan seconded; motion carried.

3. Minutes

Jonathon made a motion to approve the minutes and Sean seconded; motion carried.

4. Order of Business

A. Public Art – Wraps and Canoe Sign

Makenzie reminded the Commission that two projects that had been discussed previously – the utility box wraps and the canoe launch sign – had yet to be produced. She detailed what the last discussion had entailed and asked how the Commission wanted to proceed.

Because the canoe launch does need to be advertised, the group thought that it was important to move on this project. Jonathon brought up that, since the Downtown Business Council (DBC) is already working on producing signs throughout the downtown area, it is important that its input be heard. He also brought up that the wraps seem like a bigger project that would need more funding, so it might be better to let the Arts and Culture Committee take the lead on that project.

The group agreed with his line of thinking, and Tom noted that it would be good to incorporate the canoe into the parks and trails maps. Dan also commented that the wraps could be promoted by the DBC, to which Mike responded that Deb Debeer also had a hand in that project.

Dan made a motion to pass the wraps to the Arts Committee and share the canoe project with the DBC. Marnie seconded and the motion carried.

B. Adopt a Park Checklist

Dan outlined the Adopt a Park Checklist he had created and thought that, for engagement purposes, it is important that the City reaches out to the Adopt-a-Park groups and outlines the responsibilities. This checklist will encourage more participation while also holding the adopters accountable. It will also keep the City more informed about the park.

Sean made a motion to utilize the checklist and send it out to the adopters, to which Marnie seconded; motion carried.

C. Dog Park

Makenzie brought up that she had received a phone call regarding a request for a dog park at the County Line Park. A dog park has been on the Commission's list of potential projects for multiple years.

Sean commented that multiple surrounding cities have dog parks. These parks, however, tend to be more removed and not in residential areas, which is where County Line Park is. It also is costly to maintain an area large enough to entertain multiple large dogs to the extent that it is visually appealing.

Tom added that the Commission should consider a dog park, but that staff should do a study about different locations that could work. Phil then replied that, in 2009, there was a similar discussion. The City learned that the cost for fencing would be approximately \$11,000. Fencing it in would be the only thing done to create the park. The Litfin land could be a good option because it is more open. There is a plot of land near Farmington Ave that might also be utilized for a dog park, but Franklin Township does not have the money to build one any time soon.

Marnie asked about the liability of having a dog park, to which Phil replied that the City insurance is through the League of Minnesota Cities, and with that comes a general "Parks and Recreation" insurance policy that would cover the dog park. A dog park would be introducing one more thing for the City to police and control, and it would likely be park staff who would periodically clean it. There is the hope that nature would take care of it, but there would likely still be necessary cleanup.

Marnie then said she was against the dog park because she believed that a dog park is not the best purpose for the land. There are plenty of trails for people to walk their dogs, and she did not believe that the maintenance required would justify the use.

Dan asked if a lot of people wanted a dog park, and Phil commented that, informally, there is a small group of people who would use it. However, when the project came up last time, logically it didn't fit with the city's goals. Tom then brought up the potential of a survey, which Phil thought was possible.

Jon Sutherland noted that, with his experience in Minneapolis, dog parks there seemed to be appreciated.

Tom thought that it would be okay to pursue the project, but that he would like to see public opinion. Dan asked how this would be accomplished, and Phil replied that the city can go onto social media, but that would only be a select group of people that would reply. Tom then commented that it is important to hear from people who disagree as well, so the Commission shouldn't just send letters to the dog owners.

Sean noted that, as Marnie pointed out, there are several places to walk dogs, and there are many nearby towns with dog parks.

The group agreed that the City should create a survey on the Facebook page.

D. Splashpad Update

Phil began the discussion by noting that, at the last meeting, it was determined that the splashpad would be placed on the concrete pad in the park. Unfortunately, the soil beneath that pad is inhospitable to the splashpad, and it would cost \$100,000 to replace it. City staff then went back to Central Park and obtained soil borings throughout it. In the location that was originally planned for the concession stand, the soil was hospitable for the splashpad. Because the location itself is also satisfactory for the splashpad, Council motioned to move the splashpad to that spot. The original splashpad design fits in this location and thus will not need to be altered.

City staff is proposing that the entire area be fenced in and that the concession building be placed on the edge of the splashpad and serve as a boundary to the splashpad. The city engineer is looking at including the mechanical aspects of the splashpad into the concession stand and also including a small changing room that could only be accessed from the splashpad.

It is necessary to move quickly on this project. The design crew is chomping at the bit to begin this project, and they are eager to start digging. We are looking to fast-track this project, and while we have a week to tweak the design, the project will likely jump into motion very quickly.

Marnie asked how this move will impact the pavilion. Phil replied that everyone involved with the project is eager to build a pavilion, so while it may not be included in the splashpad project, we will likely still be building one over the concrete slab.

Tom asked about the oak trees in the area, and Phil pointed out that the potentially ill tree is on the south side of the splashpad. Tom then continued and asked about the concession stand's role as part of the beer garden, to which Phil replied that the City is focusing more on having the beer garden in a separate building. Alex Roeser has also commented that the beer might eventually be sold out of trucks.

Tom brought up the idea of adding an area apart from the splashpad where people could eat and have beverages since he did not think those items should not be brought into the splashpad. Phil responded that there were multiple options that could be done to accomplish this and that

there is plenty of room to make changes to the concession stand design and layout.

Mike asked about the timeline for the concession stand, and Phil replied that it would be completed in tandem with the splashpad. Landscape's goal is to finish the splashpad on October 1, and the City will work to complete the stand along with it.

Sean asked about what will be displaced by the splashpad, and Phil commented that there is a chance that one or two rides will be displaced. The splashpad will be a huge draw to the carnival, though, and it would likely contribute to rather than hinder 4th of July activities.

The group then proceeded to discuss how exactly the splashpad would be operated. They discussed potential costs, capacity limits, and hours of operation. Phil also brought up that there have been discussions with Community Education and that they may be able to handle staffing costs if the City would allow TKC to utilize the splashpad on a frequent basis.

Tom wanted to know if the season pass would be limited to Delano residents, while Marnie wanted to know if babies should be allowed for free. These questions, along with others, will be pondered prior to and discussed at the next meeting.

5. Other Business

A. Litfin Property

Tom wanted to know if the City wanted any input for what could be done on the Litfin property. Phil replied that the Council would likely look for a masterplan from the Commission. At the moment though, city staff has to focus on different projects, so the potential uses for this land likely would not be addressed until this fall. There are many options for uses, but the City does know that the land is not able to support built structures.

Jon Sutherland asked about a survey with a grading plan, and Phil showed the group the most recent plan. The site is 36 acres.

B. Central Park Building

This topic was covered earlier in the discussion along with the splashpad.

6. Adjournment

Before ending the meeting, Phil wanted to bring up that the labyrinth was completed in May. It was seeded multiple times, but the seed was washed away. Public Works will keep working at it, and the Arts and Culture Council will likely host an "opening" in the fall. In terms of the Ascension art piece, it had to be tabled due to funding issues.

Tom motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Marnie seconded; meeting adjourned at 6:39pm.