

## **PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MINUTES**

**April 25, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Baxter Parks and Trails Commission was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Mari Holderness, Ken Hasskamp, Melissa Barrick

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chair Jim Kalkofen, Gail Brecht and Council Liaison Quinn Nystrom

**STAFF PRESENT:** Community Development (CD) Director Josh Doty and Planner Matthew Gindele

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jim Boos

Acting Chair Hasskamp indicated that Mr. Jim Boos would like to speak to the Parks Commission. Acting Chair Hasskamp turned the floor over to Mr. Boos.

Mr. Boos 12611 Isle Court asked what the process is to turn City owned land into a park. He indicated that the City owns land (roughly 11 acres) along the trail on Isle Road. He was wondering if the City would make that land a lateral park instead of developing the area with new homes. CD Director Doty clarified the location for the Commission on the map. Acting Chair Hasskamp asked CD Director Doty for the process of creating a park and any additional thoughts regarding creating a new park. CD Director Doty stated that this parcel was purchased through the EDA and was not purchased for a park. The Council and EDA would have to comment on whether or not it could be turned into park land. Mr. Boos understood that the Parks Commission would not be able to fully approve a new park. He indicated that he has started a petition of those that use the trail to support having a park placed in that location.

Commissioner Barrick asked Mr. Boos what type of park he is looking for? Mr. Boos indicated that he would like to see it preserved and kept natural. He indicated that what spurred the topic is the update to the comprehensive plan. The plan calls for that land to be R-2, with that classification roughly 77 homes could be placed on that land. He would like to see the land kept more wooded and not change the character around the trail. He thanked the Commission for their time and indicated he would present the petition to staff at later date. CD Director Doty indicated that he would talk to staff as well to see if/how to approach the EDA and Council with the request.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Barrick, seconded by Commissioner Holderness to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 28, 2016 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Memorial Bench-OK Park**

Planner Gindele reviewed the first application of 2016 and gave background to the Commission. He explained the preferred location was Forestview Middle School, however that is school property and not a park, therefore that option was not allowed. The second location was OK Park, technically the location is on the school portion of the park, however the school had no issues with the location and is being maintained by city staff. The Commission had no concern with the location of the memorial bench.

Motion by Commission Holderness, seconded by Commissioner Barrick to accept the donation of \$1,500.00 from Joy Zurich for a memorial bench to be located at OK Park as presented by staff. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Riverwood Park-Request for Fitness Equipment**

CD Director Doty stated that he received this request from a Baxter resident that uses the park and has seen

other residents use it as well. CD Director Doty reviewed the request with the Commission. He informed Mr. Patrick of the process and the number of projects that are currently in the works and the length of time an approval can take. CD Director Doty indicated that there is not a need for a motion; he just wanted the Commission to be aware of the request. Commissioner Holderness indicated that she has been in favor of having a fitness trail and would be all for the installation if there were funding available. Commissioner Barrick stated that there is a big fitness trail going in at the Arboretum. CD Director Doty stated it would be interesting to see the use numbers from the Arboretum to see how popular the equipment is/being used.

### **Oakwood Trail Update**

Planner Gindele stated that staff has met with the Camp Vanasek Board regarding the trail and they are opposed to a trail on Oakwood Drive. They proposed that if a trail *must* go along Oakwood Drive, it should go on the east side and not the west side. The camp would possibly negotiate having the trail on the west side and cross over to the east side north of the camp. Acting Chair Hasskamp asked why they are opposed to the trail. Planner Gindele indicated that a trail would greatly reduce the camp's privacy as it would be very near their recreational buildings where children often do activities. The camp has various groups that rent the grounds, such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and the trail would run close to the recreation area. The other concern was their septic system and protecting the system. The other concern was for the loss of trees and they tend to feel like they are a "woody" camp and would like to remain that way. Planner Gindele noted that there is a traffic study being conducted to determine the safety of the crossing location.

Commissioner Barrick asked about the lease that Camp Vanasek has with the County, if the County has more of a say than the camp. CD Director Doty stated that the County asked the City to have the conversation with the camp, therefore, they want to make sure their lessee is OK with the trail. He further stated that all three entities would need to be in agreement for the trail to move forward. CD Director Doty showed the Commission a few different options on the map for Cedar Scenic, Oakwood and possibly Browerville Rd.

### **Draft 5 Year CIP**

CD Director Doty indicated that he placed this item on the agenda at Chair Kalkofen's request. Being the Commission is short a few members they may want to hold this item over until the next meeting. The Commission agreed.

### **OK Park-Construction Updates**

#### **Pavilion**

CD Director Doty stated that Baratto Brothers, the general contractor of the pavilion provided a nice update for the Commission. The Commission reviewed the update and pictures provided. Commissioner Holderness asked if the rain has impacted the schedule. CD Director Doty at this point it has not impacted the schedule.

#### **Safety Netting-Phase 2**

CD Director Doty stated that the nets are up between the east and west fields, phase two nets are going up next week and will be ready for use.

#### **Whipple Beach ADA Observation Deck**

CD Director Doty stated that the stone work is being started this Wednesday (April 27<sup>th</sup>) and completed by Friday (April 29<sup>th</sup>). The weather did hold this project up briefly.

### **Other Business**

Commissioner Barrick asked if staff documents when a person(s) comes forward to the Commission and requests a park that is not on the CIP map. CD Director Doty stated that in the three years he has been with the City there has been a few requests, he indicated that staff hasn't kept a running list, but could put a list together moving forward. Commissioner Holderness asked about the piece that was spoken of tonight. CD Director

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Doty stated that the impervious calculations could hold back intense development of that land, even though it is zoned R-2. He further explained the EDA's involvement with the parcel of land and the study being completed to see what the land is worth.

The Commission discussed the changes that they have seen since joining the Commission.

The next scheduled meeting is May 23, 2016 at 4:00 pm.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Brecht, seconded by Commissioner Barrick to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

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Acting Chair Ken Hasskamp

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Shanna Newman, CD Administrative Assistant