

PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MINUTES

April 27, 2015

The regular meeting of the Baxter Parks and Trails Commission was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Jim Kalkofen, Commissioner Mari Holderness, Ken Hasskamp and Gail Brecht

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Liaison Quinn Nystrom

STAFF PRESENT: Community Development (CD) Director Josh Doty

OTHERS PRESENT: None

Approval of the Minutes

The March 23, 2015 minutes were not approved at this meeting, they will be approved at the May 18, 2015 meeting.

OK and Clearwater Park Tour

Oscar Kristofferson (OK) Pavilion with Kitchen Facility

The Commission started in the area of the large park pavilion. Staff reviewed the poor condition of the pavilion and pointed out the east end of the structure that had recently been removed. Staff identified that they may need to remove the west end of the pavilion as well and brace the structure to make sure that it is safe for the summer season. The pavilion was built in a low area of the park and takes drainage.

The group moved to the second pavilion. Staff discussed that when this pavilion is removed, that the restroom portion, which has concrete block walls would remain. The commission agreed that the bathrooms were in great condition. The commission reviewed the Kitchen. It was noted that the kitchen has old, residential grade appliances, which are not to code. It was also noted that the space is not easily cleanable and that there was a recent complaint about black mold.

Staff pointed out that the City will need to decide if one or two pavilions are constructed and what location or locations would be selected. The commission reviewed this area of the park and discussed options. The commission determined one large pavilion with a kitchen makes the most sense. The commission stated that the best location for the new pavilion appears to be in the general location of the existing large pavilion (without the kitchen). It was decided that the kitchen should be on the west side of the pavilion with the tables and open area facing the playground equipment.

The commission walked to the ball field area. Staff provided an update of what is being planned to provide a phased safety netting system for the area. Staff pointed out that the original plan was for netting above each bleacher. However, staff found a netting option to protect the bleacher area and some of the areas where people might stand outside of the bleacher areas.

Clearwater/Inglewood/Excelsior Rd. Area Park

The Commission walked the majority of the park land. Staff pointed out that that they were surprised with how much upland there was with mature trees. Staff talked about how the EDA owns the land adjacent to Clearwater Road, which would need to be considered with any park improvements. Staff added that the forested area with mature trees is south of the EDA land on City of Baxter park property. The group walked south through a mature oak forest area, then through two pine plantation areas. Staff discussed that the south end of the park property gets more and more wet but that numerous ponds have been dug over the years so there are upland areas around the pond which are great opportunities for passive trails around ponds. The Commission stated that they were pleasantly surprised with the amount of buildable area there is for a park.

Other Business

The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2015 at 4:00 pm, due to City Hall being closed in observance of Memorial Day on May 25, 2015.

Adjournment

MOTION by Commissioner Holderness, seconded by Commissioner Brecht to adjourn the meeting at 5:55p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Jim Kalkofen

Shanna Newman CD Clerk