

PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MINUTES
May 20, 2013

Interim Chair Kalkofen called the regular meeting of the Baxter Parks and Trails Commission to order at 4:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Gail Brecht, Lori Thramer, Jim Kalkofen and Council Liaison Jim Klein

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Gordon Heitke

OTHERS PRESENT: None

Approval of the Minutes

Interim Chair Kalkofen asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION by Commissioner Thramer, seconded by Commissioner Brecht to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 22, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Whipple Beach Tour Council Invitation

Interim Chair Kalkofen noted the invitation and asked who would be attending. Commissioner Brecht is the only one that was unable to attend.

Report of Council Discussion of Woida Road Improvements

Interim Chair Kalkofen asked if anyone had read the article in the paper. The Commission asked Council Liaison Klein for information regarding the road. Council Liaison Klein stated that the road is in terrible shape and cannot even be overlaid at this point. Currently the Council is looking at different options and the cost associated with redoing the road. He also stated that a trail is being discussed; however he was not certain the trail would take place. The Commission agreed that with the road being redone, now is the time to push for a plan to include a trail. Different options for a trail on Woida Road and different trail widths were also discussed. Administrator Heitke gave the Commission the different options that the Council has been discussing. He also explained the cost, funding challenges and potential drainage and wetland issues associated with widening and expanding the road, as well as the timing of utilities. The Commission decided that the overlay was not the way to go and would only be a "band-aid", they would prefer it be done correctly with a trail.

The Commission looked for a map that would show if a trail was planned for Woida Road. None of the Commissioners had their trail map with them and the one they were working on had been removed from the council chambers in an effort to clean-up the conferencing area in the chambers. Administrator Heitke supplied the Commission with a trail map.

Motion by Thramer, second by Brecht to remind City Council of the future trail (shown on the trail map) to be installed along Woida Road in their discussions of the improvement plans for that road. Motion carried unanimously.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Administrator Heitke gave a brief update on the consultant selection process and timing.

Accessible Playground Update

Administrator Heitke has placed calls to Shane's Inspiration and is awaiting responses. The Commission will look at the proposed expanded playground area with the City Council at the joint meeting on May 21st at 5:30 pm.

Park Dedication Fund

Administrator Heitke stated \$672,645.00 is the balance with the deduction of the 2013 projects totaling \$24,174.00 leaves a balance of \$648,471.00. The Commission asked if there were any other big projects that park fees would be coming in. Administrator Heitke indicated that there are a few potential projects that are being discussed.

Baxter Drive and Charles Street Intersection Improvements

The Commission discussed the location of the trail. Commissioner Brecht asked about the cost of a common labor being \$65.00 per hour. That amount included insurance and workers compensation Council Liaison Klein added.

The Commission reviewed the two options. Commissioner Brecht asked if there was going to be any assistance from the DNR. Administrator Heitke acknowledged that he was not aware if there were any third parties involved in this project at this time.

Interim Chair Kalkofen asked if Administrator Heitke knew when this project was proposed. The Utilities Commission minutes indicated most likely 2014 as the 2013 budget was budgeted at \$4,000.00. The trail is now estimated to be \$15,000.00. Administrator Heitke stated that Public Works Director Trevor Walter would be available at the joint meeting with the City Council on May 21st and those questions related to increased cost could be answered at that time.

Parks and Deer Hunting

Interim Chair Kalkofen noted that he has seen deer on all of his bike rides. Other Commissioners have also noticed how many deer are in town. Council Liaison Klein stated that he knew a homeowner that would like to bow hunt on Excelsior Road near the trail, because the deer are always feeding there.

Continuation of Parks and Trails Plan Update

Interim Chair Kalkofen asked Administrator Heitke to find and or reproduce the map.

Old Business

Riverview Park

Nothing has been done at the park to date. Interim Chair Kalkofen noted that he was down there and the water was high and people have been driving down there. Council Liaison Klein asked if the picnic tables have been ordered, Administrator Heitke was not sure of the status. Council Liaison Klein indicated that he will ask staff.

Interim Chair Kalkofen noted all the birds in his yard.

Interim Chair Kalkofen asked how the joint meeting at Whipple Beach Park was going to be

structured. Administrator Heitke stated it will be somewhat informal for the purpose of viewing, however it has been posted and is a meeting.

Interim Chair Kalkofen asked Administrator Heitke the status of getting two new commissioners. Administrator Heitke indicated that the openings are still being advertised. Council Liaison Klein stated that there were two applications that have been submitted. Administrator Heitke explained that the Mayor handles the appointments. Council Liaison Klein stated that the two applicant's names and did not understand why this is not resolved. Interim Chair Kalkofen stated that it was good that there will be at least two applicants. Commissioner Brecht stated that one of the applicants has been requested to attend meetings and has not attended regarding her project.

The Commission discussed the current amount of rain and the rain damage in Duluth. They also discussed the fishing on Lake Mille Lacs and fishing regulations.

Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be June 24, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

MOTION by Commissioner Brecht, seconded by Commissioner Thramer to adjourn the meeting at 4:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Interim Chair Jim Kalkofen

Shanna Newman CD Clerk