

**PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**June 23, 2014**

Chair Kalkofen called the regular meeting of the Baxter Parks and Trails Commission to order at 4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Jim Kalkofen, Commissioners Mari Holderness, Ken Hasskamp, Gail Brecht and Council Liaison Jim Klein.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lori Thramer

STAFF PRESENT: Community Development (CD) Director Josh Doty

OTHERS PRESENT: Chuck Schmid, John Sandberg, Bob Meyer, Andy Carlson, Lori Rubin, Jeanyne & Cliff Hess, David & Ann Dunham, Kaarin Hanske, Lisa Koehler, Neal & Doris Moede and Angie Flaten

**Jewelwood Park Neighborhood Meeting**

Chair Kalkofen welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Commission, Council Liaison and staff to the residents. He explained that the City has some park land in their neighborhood and would like to make a small park for the children he sees in the audience. He noted the pictures around the room. He asked each resident to come up to the podium and give their opinion of what they would like to see in the park.

Andy Carlson 14591 Jewelwood Dr. has two young daughters and he would like to see the park catered towards younger children and in the future would like to see trails built in the park and connecting to Whipple Beach.

John Sandberg 14711 Jewelwood Dr. walks the neighborhood and he too has two children. He would like the park to be built, however would like the park to be kept somewhat natural.

Angie Flaten 14703 Jewelwood Dr. has two children and they made a list of the number of kids in the neighborhood that would like to use the park. The list has the age of each child, which shows that there are a lot of young kids in the neighborhood. She presented the list to the Commission. She added that she would like to see playground equipment, bike paths/walking trails, some public space for picnic lunches, and to keep the park small with the rest of the park land kept natural. She said that no tennis courts are needed.

Bob Meyer Meadow Ct. does a lot of walking in that area. He gave the grandparents perspective that the grand children wanted to go to smaller parks. He stated it was a pleasant experience where they could see the children at all times with trees trimmed up and the trail went around the whole park with the playground equipment in the center. There was also off street parking for safety.

Chuck Schmid, owns a lot in Baxter on Jewelwood, however they haven't built their future home yet. He is in favor of a park with trails for the children.

Lori Rubin 14906 Jadewood Dr. introduced her son Tanner, he would like to see monkey bars. She would like to see the bike trails added towards Whipple Beach Park.

Kaarin Hanske 14584 Jewelwood Dr. would really like to see a park close by for her two children to play. She said that kids currently play in the street. She would like to see a public area and was also OK with a small parking lot, not too much as it should be a neighborhood park.

Jeanyne Hess 14541 Jewelwood Dr. doesn't have an opinion as they are new to the area and is not too familiar with the area at this point. She didn't quite understand where the park is located.

Ann Dunham 14564 Jewelwood Dr., asked how big the park is, CD Director Doty stated it is roughly 4-5 acres. Her lot is abutting the park. Her concern is cutting down the trees too much and losing the buffer. She also did not want to see a parking lot. She was in favor of a few picnic tables and a BBQ area with a small playground set for the kids.

Lisa Koehler 14729 Jewelwood Dr., her main concern is removing all the trees. She is OK with having the playground, however would be very upset with the trees being removed. CD Director Doty asked her if the underbrush would be OK to being removed. She was OK with the underbrush being removed. She also stated there is not a need for a pavilion, as that would bring in more cars and make the neighborhood less safe.

David Dunham 14564 Jewelwood Dr. asked if there had been any consideration given to the water that is in the park. Would it be costly for the water to be removed? He also expressed concern about having a potential parking area. CD Director Doty held up the map and Chair Kalkofen explained the area to the residents and where the Commission was thinking about locating the small park on the west side of the park property. He explained that the Commission was thinking about this location because it is the area of the park with the fewest trees.

Doris Moede 14556 Jewelwood Dr., she would like to see the trees left and not taken down and would be fine with a small park.

Chair Kalkofen asked CD Director Doty if there were any additional comments from staff. CD Director Doty noted that the residents are pretty consistent and that will make it easier to plan a park. The next step is to put some draft plans together. He noted that the City Council also needs to approval for moving forward with the park improvements. He added that the plans would need to be reviewed a upcoming Park Commission meetings.

Andy Carlson stepped forward and asked that they (the residents) would be able to attend future meetings so they can assist in the development of the park. Chair Kalkofen noted that once there is a plan then the residents would be notified and could attend for an update.

The Commissioners all agreed that what the Commission has been discussing is exactly what the residents are looking for in this neighborhood. The goal is to have this park up and running as soon as possible, hopefully in the next few years.

Chair Kalkofen explained the park dedication fund to the residents.

As the residents were leaving the meeting, they took time to review some of the photographs that staff had provided.

Chair Kalkofen asked about the time frame, CD Director Doty stated that there needs to be a plan and costs estimates put together. We will try to see if we can have something for the next parks meeting, however he can't make a promise at this point. Commissioner Brecht noted that it could be split into two phases, one being the benches and trash cans and the second being playground equipment. Chair Kalkofen asked about putting the playground equipment similar to the equipment at Southdale Park. CD Director Doty stated it could be possible. Chair Kalkofen asked if a portion of the street could turn in a parking lot. CD Director Doty stated that from a safety perspective, backing out on a city street could be a concern. He stated there are other options such as parallel/on-street parking. Commissioner Brecht stated that there isn't a big draw to this park, such as ball fields and didn't see a need for a parking lot. Commissioner Hasskamp agreed with Commissioner Brecht. Chair Kalkofen stated maybe the parking lot should be looked at for phase two, as an "as needed" parking lot. Chair Kalkofen asked if there was a need for a port-a-potty, he was surprised that no one brought a restroom up with the number of small children. Commissioner Brecht stated the residents all lived around the park. The Commission spoke of trails for in the future. Chair Kalkofen stated that the Council should see the phase one and potential for phase two should it be needed.

The Commission spoke of the nice attendance by the residents and items the residents requested and how well the meeting went.

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Holderness, seconded by Commissioner Hasskamp to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 19, 2014 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Other Business**

Commissioner Brecht noted that a lot of people have shared positive comments on the trails being completed at Loren Thompson Park.

Chair Kalkofen noted that Riverview wasn't underwater and that the port-a-potty was installed.

Council Liaison Klein asked why there wasn't a window for serving food in the block wall to the Kitchen at the Whipple Beach pavilion. CD Director Doty stated that staff had that discussion and the concern was vandalism. CD Director Doty informed the Commission of the progress on the pavilions.

#### **Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Holderness, seconded by Commissioner Hasskamp to adjourn the meeting at 5:21p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

---

Chair Jim Kalkofen

---

Shanna Newman CD Clerk