

PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MINUTES
July 28, 2014

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Community Development (CD) Director Josh Doty

OTHERS PRESENT: None

Approval of the Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner Brecht, seconded by Commissioner Holderness to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 23, 2014 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Parks Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan

Chair Kalkofen asked CD Director Doty to review the changes to the draft parks chapter of the comprehensive plan. CD Director Doty stated that we are final stages of the comprehensive plan update and that this may be a final opportunity to improve the plan before the adoption phase. CD Director Doty walked the Commission through the changes and noted a few small errors on page 1-3. It was noted on page 4 that Jewelwood Park needed to be added to the graph. Council Liaison Klein suggested shading in the kitchen facility for Whipple Beach, being that the pavilion has a kitchen. Chair Kalkofen noted that under Riverview Park, the trail box should be shaded as the trail is being worked on. Commissioner Brecht noted that there is not a warming house at Berrywood Park. Council Liaison Klein suggested adding the wood chip trail near FitQuest to the graph, to make sure it did not get forgotten. The Commission stated that the trail is not a park and should be located elsewhere in the chapter. Commissioner Holderness stated that maybe an additional graph should be made listing out passive trails to ease Council Liaison Klein's concern over the trail. Perch Lake, FitQuest, Mississippi Overlook are trails that could be added to the graph. The Commission talked about the Nordic Ski trail and it being maintained by the Nordic Ski Club and not the City.

The Commission had a discussion regarding the Active-Community Parks on page 4 and decided that the last sentence regarding the service radius should be removed.

CD Director Doty noted that the Camp Ripley/Veterans State Trail was added to the plan, which shows a few different potential trail options through Baxter. The Commission discussed the different options and the need for funding to start the trail project.

On page 7, Council Liaison Klein stated that the Park Funding area needed to be clarified that the City is able to choose if we accept land dedication or cash in lieu of land.

Page 9 was the Future Parks and Trail System map, CD Director Doty reviewed the changes with the Commission. Some of the areas of review were the Whipple area, Island lake area,

Mississippi Overlook area, the city's property on Mapleton, a trail segment on Excelsior, and several options for providing a safety re-route of the Paul Bunyan Trail south of Highway 210. CD Director Doty explained that the map shows a general area for a Hwy. 371 trail crossing. He explained that the frontage roads of Hwy. 371 and Clearwater Road are also areas for future study, as there are challenges to provide trails with this area being built out. The study could also consider trails along residential behind commercial properties to provide pedestrian access to the back side of the commercial development. Chair Kalkofen asked if the connection from the arboretum to the mall/movie theater was on this map, CD Director Doty said that it is and this trail connection has been talked about at Council level as part of a future excelsior road project. Another goal is for trails to be built from Grand Oaks to Excelsior Rd and to the Cub Foods commercial area. The potential for a park next to the boat landing on White Sand Lake was discussed as a possibility. The Commission discussed the idea and liked the idea of purchasing the lots even if nothing is done with the land for a while.

CD Director Doty encouraged the Commission to list the priorities that they would like to see done.

CD Director Doty then turned to page 10, 11 and 12 the Implementation Plans and reviewed the changes with the Commission. He explained that staff went through the list and added items to the list. On page 10, the Commission discussed Whipple Beach. Chair Kalkofen asked if reevaluating the disc golf should be added. Council Liaison Klein asked about upgrading the parking lot lighting. CD Director Doty indicated that the lighting upgrade is done periodically and Whipple Beach is an area in need of upgrade. CD Director Doty explained the ADA observation area. Chair Kalkofen asked who does the study to evaluate park accessibility? CD Director Doty indicated that staff may be able to do some of it but it might be better for it to get outsourced. Chair Kalkofen asked that staff bring back comments from staff regarding hiring a consultant and the potential cost.

Commissioner Brecht stated that on page 12, number 4-Snowmobile/ATV trail should be moved to "ongoing" being the DNR has a roll in this trail. CD Director Doty will move it to "ongoing". CD Director Doty noted that there are a lot of "short" term items on the list and they need to be prioritized appropriately. Chair Kalkofen asked the Commission to look over the trails portion and determine if maybe some of these items need to be moved over to a different time frame. Commissioner Hasskamp asked what the time frames are considered to be, "short term" is how many years. CD Director Doty stated that we did not define a specific time frame. If a timeframe it put towards a specific project, then the public can expect that the project will be completed. He added that if we add a timeframe, than staff would want to study the timeframes very closely to determine what is realistic. The Commission agreed that the timeframes should remain as they are, without a specific year. The Commission thanked CD Director Doty for the hard work that has been put into this chapter.

Jewelwood Park Design

CD Director Doty stated that he had contacted Mr. Steve Mead with Playtime/Playground of Golden Valley, MN. He requested three different options. The playground equipment is geared toward children from ages 2-5 years old. He added that this age was chosen based on the list of children and their ages provided at the informational meeting. This company was chosen because they have a past history supplying playground equipment for Baxter. The Commission reviewed the three options and discussed each option. Staff came up with an estimate of roughly \$20,000.00 to clear and prep the site, in addition to the playground equipment and related

installation cost. Commissioner Brecht asked if there was going to be a swing set. Chair Kalkofen asked if the Southdale playground equipment could be priced for the Jewelwood Park. CD Director Doty will look into that option.

Commissioner Hasskamp asked that CD Director Doty supply an update on the amount of funds that are in the parks dedication fund.

The Commission agreed that at the next meeting, they will work to list priorities within the short term category of the implementation plan.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Other Business

Adjournment

MOTION by Commissioner Hasskamp, seconded by Commissioner Thramer to adjourn the meeting at 5:47p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Jim Kalkofen

Shanna Newman CD Clerk