

PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MINUTES
November 24, 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, Commissioner Mari Holderness, Lori Thramer, Gail Brecht and Council Liaison Jim Klein.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Hasskamp

STAFF PRESENT: Community Development (CD) Director Josh Doty

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Barrows

Approval of the Minutes

Prior to approval of the minutes Commissioner Brecht asked if there had been any conversation regarding a Joint Powers meeting. CD Director Doty stated they are waiting to approve the comprehensive plan and have the Council see what is being looked at for each park prior to holding a meeting. Commissioner Brecht stated that there is a need to know if pond hockey is going to take place, as her son is willing to coach the program. She further explained the programs that Brainerd has. CD Director Doty stated he would follow up and see if a meeting can be set up and if pond hockey was in the brochure that Community Education puts out. Council Liaison Klein stated that a date should be set up for the meeting.

Chair Kalkofen asked if there was an update on the Jewelwood Park. CD Director Doty stated that the Commission has gone as far as they can for now and now staff thinks that it needs to go to City Council and have them approve it prior to holding a second neighborhood meeting. The holdback is that the comprehensive plan needs to be approved, which currently supports Jewelwood Park as a high priority. CD Director Doty stated he is hoping the Long Range Planning Commission recommends approval of the comprehensive plan tonight after this meeting. The commission updated Chair Kalkofen on the previous meeting regarding the playground equipment. Chair Kalkofen stated that if the comprehensive plan was not approved tonight, he would like to see staff take this to the Council separately from the plan approval.

MOTION by Commissioner Thramer, seconded by Commissioner Holderness to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 27, 2014 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Private Memorial Dedication (Plaque's) on City Park Property

CD Director Doty stated that staff received a request to donate a bench with a plaque on the bench. He reviewed pictures and cost estimates for standard city tables and benches. CD Director Doty indicated that there are several different ways to have memorials. Staff's perspective is if the City is going to allow the memorial it should be of quality materials that will last for a long time and be as maintenance free as possible. CD Director Doty noted that the cost of a standard city bench with installation is \$700.00. Chair Kalkofen asked if the parks need a bench or if their donation could go towards another item in the park. CD Director Doty stated it depends what we want to offer for options and what people are willing to spend for a dedication. He stated that the Commission should come up with a list of items that could be donated, such as trees, flowerbeds, benches or picnic tables. Commissioner Brecht agreed that there should be

standards for the dedication and the plaques should be of a specific size. Chair Kalkofen agreed that there should be specifications for the plaques. Commissioner Holderness agreed that once a person does a dedication, others might want to do the same. Council Liaison Klein stated that the Lions wanted to have a bench put it and nothing was done, therefore it went away. CD Director Doty stated that getting this process in place would allow anyone to dedicate a bench. Chair Kalkofen asked CD Director Doty to follow up on the cost of a plaque. CD Director Doty stated he would follow up on how it would be affixed to the bench, size and standard for the next meeting. Commissioner Brecht noted that it would be nice to put the benches along the trails too, such as the ones around Perch Lake.

Comprehensive Plan Update

CD Director Doty noted that the packet includes letters that were submitted regarding the parks portion of the comprehensive plan update. CD Director Doty reviewed each letter with the Commission.

Brainerd Homes Letter-Rock Yliniemi owns land next to the boat landing on White Sand Lake, this area was identified as a potential park. He is requesting this land be removed from the park plan. CD Director Doty stated that this property did recently sell and a single family home is being proposed for one of the lots. The Commission agreed that if the land has sold, it should be removed from the plan.

MOTION by Commission Brecht, seconded by Commissioner Holderness to remove the land on Memorywood Drive next to the boat launch as a potential park. Motion carried unanimously.

Quincer Letter-CD Director Doty stated that the letter requested a definition of intent for the different city parks. CD Director Doty stated that there is definition of each park and wanted to know if the Commission was OK with the current definitions. Council Liaison Klein stated that this person had some concerns about Riverview Park being developed. Commissioner Holderness stated it's hard to have a "definition of intent" when it is always changing and growing with the population. CD Director Doty stated there was a lot of discussion about Riverview Park prior to its development. Chair Kalkofen agreed with Commissioner Holderness. Commissioner Brecht agreed that when the City acquires property for a park, it does have a procedure to follow.

Kirchner & Fundingsland Letter-CD Director Doty stated that this letter is asking for additional biking pathways throughout the City. He stated that the comprehensive plan does include bike and pedestrian plans.

Doucette Letter-CD Director Doty indicated that this letter is requesting a dog park. Council Liaison Klein stated that John Sullivan had requested a dog park in the area near Highway 371. Commissioner Holderness stated that it is something that should be looked at in the future. She added that the parks accommodate walkers, kids, sports and the parks should accommodate persons with dogs. There are several apartments in town and those folks need a place to exercise their dogs. The Commission discussed the City owned property near Rush Lake across from Southdale as a potential area. There is a wooded area to buffer the residents and a parking area across from the area. Commissioner Brecht stated that the Commission should contact a person that has built a dog park and the parameters of having a dog park. Commissioner Holderness asked if staff should contact the writer and let them know that the Commission is considering a dog park. Commissioner Brecht asked if that property is City land or park land. CD Director

Doty indicated that it is City land and the City could sell it to a person that would like to place a home on it. The Commission also discussed the former leaf disposal site next to the maintenance facility as a location. The Commission agreed to continue to think about it but not act on it at this time.

Lord of Life Letter-CD Director Doty indicated that this letter is in regards to the land they own down by the Mississippi Overlook Park and the possible development of their property. He stated that the church's intent is to sell the property for development. He stated that development of this property could make access easier to Mississippi Overlook Park. Council Liaison Klein asked what the zoning is currently on that property, CD Director Doty indicated low density residential.

Heittola Letter & Articles-CD Director Doty noted that at the last Long Range Planning Commission meeting that several motorized trail supporters were present to advocate for motorized trails to be part of the comprehensive plan. There was discussion of the Veterans trail and the power line as an option for motorized trail. In the current plan there is a goal of developing the power line as a bike and pedestrian trail, which does not this as a motorized trail. Council Liaison Klein asked Commissioner Brecht what the County thinks of motorized trails, as she sits on the board. She stated that it is a tough issue and that there are strong feelings towards and against the trails. CD Director Doty indicated that it is in the draft plan that we would work toward finding motorized trail locations in the city and therefore, does not see a need to change the current draft plan. Chair Kalkofen stated that it is not just ATV trails but those for snowmobiles as well. Council Liaison Klein asked if it is a motorized trail or just ATV trail. CD Director Doty stated that a motorized trail would typically be allow both snowmobiles in the winter and ATV's in the summer but it is based on what gets decided. The Commission discussed the current regulations and which roads the motorized vehicles can use to gain access to an authorized use area.

Next Meeting

CD Director Doty asked the Commission if they wanted to hold the December meeting being it is close to the holidays. Commissioner Thramer indicated that she will not be available for the December meeting. The Commission is going to tentatively going to hold the meeting unless there is nothing to discuss.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 22, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Other Business

Chair Kalkofen introduced Steve Barrows, new Council member, to the Commission.

Council Liaison Klein stated that it was a joy serving with this Commission for the past 8 years. Council Liaison Klein indicated that he will not likely be attending the December meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION by Commissioner Holderness, seconded by Commissioner Thramer to adjourn the meeting at 5:18p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Jim Kalkofen

Shanna Newman CD Clerk