

**PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**November 25, 2013**

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 Gail Brecht, Lori Thramer, Mari Holderness and Council Liaison Jim Klein.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Hasskamp

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Gordon Heitke and Community Development Director Josh Doty

OTHERS PRESENT: None

**Approval of the Minutes**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Thramer, seconded by Commissioner Holderness to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 28, 2013 as amended and presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Council Actions**

**Disc Golf Proposal**

Chair Kalkofen asked if any commission members had any comments regarding the staff memo regarding the Council decision on disc golf. Council Liaison Klein stated he had reviewed the costs with Greg Fagering and the amount is closer to \$15,000.00, not \$25,000.00. The Commission agreed not to discuss this until later in 2014 as the Council had made their decision not to construct in 2014.

**Project Updates**

**Park Pavilion Cost Estimates**

Administrator Heitke stated that construction costs and design options will be presented and discussed at the January meeting.

**Discussion of Parks and Trails Component of Comprehensive Plan Update**

**Parks and Trails Planning-Needs, Goals and Policies**

Administrator Heitke described the primary sections of the expected parks component of the comprehensive plan – 1) Inventory, 2) Needs, 3) Goals and Policies, and 4) Future Parks and Trails Improvement Plan. He presented a revised compilation of park needs identified in the 2000 20/20 Vision, 2002 Baxter Park Plan, and the October, 2013 community meeting held for the current comprehensive plan update.

Commission members reviewed those needs and discussed any current additional needs. They discussed several items including a community center; pavilions; the need for a public indoor space for activities that are not related to the schools; whether there is a need for additional athletic fields and passive parks; Isle Dr. trail and the benches along that road; lighting for

tennis/basketball courts; improving the OK Park score boards; pedestrian crossings; and the ownership of the property by Baxter Elementary.

The Commission also discussed the former nature learning center and the potential for reaching out to see if there is a chance of working together; exploring the potential for additional land acquisition on the Mississippi River, expanding Mississippi Overlook Park; the need for a 371 over/underpass trail; snowmobile trails; signs on the trails for visitors; Fairview Rd. trail; and a Cedar Scenic Road trail to access Whipple Beach Park.

Past goals, policies and recommendations from the 1996 Comprehensive Plan, 2007 Comprehensive Plan, and draft goals and policies for the 2013 comprehensive plan update as submitted by the planning consultant, were reviewed. The commission identified the goals, policies and recommendations currently relevant. Chair Kalkofen referred to the October minutes and the similarity to items the Commission has been discussing and the items the consultant had listed.

Staff will draft needs, goals, policies, recommendations based on the commission's comments for future review for inclusion in the comprehensive plan.

The Commission reviewed the letters received from Mr. Tim Quincer and the Nordic Ski Club. CD Director Doty stated each letter was given to the Commission to keep them aware of the conversations/letters being received.

CD Director Doty reviewed the map created to show the Commission the areas discussed in the October minutes. Chair Kalkofen asked for a map showing the park land along Forestview Dr.

**Other Business**

None

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. (moved up due to the holiday week)

**Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Commissioner Brecht, seconded by Commissioner Thrasher to adjourn the meeting at 5:44 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair Jim Kalkofen

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Shanna Newman CD Clerk