

PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MINUTES
December 16, 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, Ken Hasskamp and Council Liaison Jim Klein.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Community Development Director Josh Doty

OTHERS PRESENT: None

Approval of the Minutes

Chair Kalkofen asked about the comments in the minutes stating staff will draft needs, goals, policies, recommendations based on the commission's comments for future review for inclusion in the comprehensive plan, when will the Commission see that information. CD Director Doty explained that the Commission has seen some of the draft already, however with this meeting the draft may need to be revised. CD Director Doty stated that it will be available at the January meeting, Chair Kalkofen asked that it is placed on the agenda.

MOTION by Commissioner Thramer, seconded by Commissioner Brecht to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 25, 2013 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Parks and Trails Component of Comprehensive Plan Update

Live Mapping

Chair Kalkofen discussed the new senior living areas that are being proposed on Excelsior Rd. and the former golf course property being potentially purchased by Woodland Good Samaritan. Those areas need to be looked at closely as the seniors will need ways to get around without walking on streets.

Chair Kalkofen turned the floor over to CD Director Doty. CD Director Doty placed on the screen a map that the Commission has looked at in the past (large aerial) and present park/trail map showing locations that the Commission has been discussing. He then reviewed the map with the Commission.

The Commission discussed several areas using the larger aerial map. Those areas included the Excelsior Rd. apartments, an extension to the mall area from the apartment buildings, the possibility of a cross-walk with a flashing light for safety to the mall area, the danger of crossing/driving on Conservation Drive Rd. and Excelsior Rd.

The Commission agreed that the Cypress Rd. connection is the preferred area to connect College Rd. to the Paul Bunyan Trail in the future. There was discussion regarding the BNSF railroad property and the difficulty in obtaining land to continue the trail.

There was discussion of the Paul Bunyan Trail and what the current route for the trail is and if it should be revised. Several different routes were discussed.

The Commission looked at the drawing of the Isle Dr. extension and where trails should be placed during that construction. They looked at the realignment of Isle/Forthun and the best locations for a trail that will keep people safe from future traffic as the area develops.

The Commission returned to the golf course area at Chair Kalkofen's request. CD Director Doty stated that if this area develops, during the process the trail would be discussed with the developers, however there is still a need to get to the development. The Commission looked at where Clearwater Rd. ends and Cypress Rd. starts as a good location for a trail crossing on Hwy 371 as it would bring people across the road to the business district and to the former golf course property. The Commission looked at all east/west road possibilities for a trail. The Commission liked the idea of placing language in the comprehensive plan that upon development of the former golf course property trails would be required.

CD Director Doty asked if there was any discussion on the west side of Hwy 371. It was discussed that Woida Rd. is getting reconstructed and a trail will be added to that road. Inglewood Dr. was discussed and the need to finish that trail.

Council Liaison Klein asked if the comprehensive plan should include an overpass for people to cross Hwy 210 at Highland Scenic Rd./48. It has been an item the Commission had discussed in the past.

Commissioner Brecht asked about the map labeled Baxter Park Land. Chair Kalkofen had asked for the map. It is a land locked piece of property along Hwy 371. Chair Kalkofen is going to walk the land and see if it is worth asking for an easement.

The next step is looking at the parks and taking inventory of what is in the parks and what are some of the items that the Commission would like to see added to the comprehensive plan.

Other Business

Chair Kalkofen would like to add Berrywood Park to the agenda and the potential for purchasing the lot next to the park. The Commission also stated that at the next meeting they would discuss Mississippi Overlook, the southwest area for a park and the northwest area and Jewelwood Dr.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

MOTION by Commissioner Hasskamp, seconded by Commissioner Holderness to adjourn the meeting at 5:44 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved by:

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Jim Kalkofen

Shanna Newman CD Clerk