

RECREATION, LIBRARIES AND AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

12-0592R

RESOLUTION GRANTING APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
LOWER CHESTER PARK MASTER PLAN.

CITY PROPOSAL:

RESOLVED, that the city council hereby approves the Lower Chester Park Master Plan and authorizes implementation of the plan as funding becomes available.

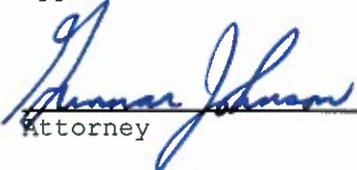
Approved:


Department Director

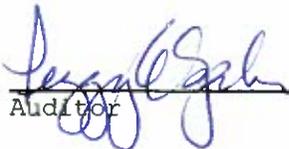
Approved for presentation to council:


Chief Administrative Officer

Approved as to form:


Attorney

Approved:


Auditor

PARKS KB:rb 11/19/2012

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution approves the Lower Chester Park Master Plan and implementation thereof. Items addressed include cleanup of the area south of Lower Chester for more accessibility from 4th Street; improvement of stone steps on the 4th Street side; improvement of the existing hockey box; a 10' x 10' shed for the "Seeds of Success" program; improvement of the existing shed; improved accessibility; a play ground area; a drain system; an open turf area; and the inclusion of an area for Bocce Ball.

The presented plan was approved by the Duluth Park Commission at the October 10, 2012, commission meeting. The plan is also supported by the Neighbors of Lower Chester as their recommendations have been incorporated into the proposal.



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of October 10, 2012



The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM in the Duluth Heights Community Center

Members Present: Tom Beery, Joel Braun, Erica Erickson, Karen Erickson, Edwin Hall, Andy Holak, Susan Beasy-Latto, Barbara Stark, Eric Viken

Members Absent: Kristin Ridgewell, Jon Welles

The minutes for the meeting of September 12, 2012 were approved on motion of Edwin Hall supported by Barbara Stark, unanimous

PRESENTATIONS:

Revised Lower Chester Mini Master Plan - Luke Sydow

- requesting action of approval of the Plan and the Action Steps presented at this meeting
- some of the items addressed were that there would be a cleanup of the area south of Lower Chester and thus make it more accessible from 4th street; the improvement of the stone steps on the 4th street side; the improvement of the hockey box; a 10 x 10 shed on the east side for the Seeds of Success; improvement of the existing shed (this year it is hoped that some painting of the shed and roofing will be completed); improved accessibility; a play ground area (which is yet to be designed); a drain system; open turf area; and the inclusion of an area for Bocce Ball; one issue to be address is parking, in particular in the winter season
- the Neighbors of Lower Chester have met with Mr. Sydow and their recommendations are incorporated into this plan and they support it as presented; if this plan is approved and implemented, the area designated for cleanup will be in the regular City maintenance schedule

On motion of Eric Viken the Duluth Park Commission approves the Lower Chester Park Master Plan as presented - 2nd by Tom Berry - unanimous.

Commissioner Hall inquired as to records of vandalism, destruction, garbage, etc. in Parks; Kathy Bergen is not aware of such tracking but will inquire. Frank Jewell, County Commissioner, suggested a program where those who do damage are involved in needed repairs.

The presentation on Park Maintenance projects was held to next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

James Gittemeier presented a proposal for new trail development at the missing section of Devonshire Street which would be included in a walking trail up to the new Lincoln Park Middle school, connecting from Harrison Street to the school. They have been working with the School District on this proposed trail. It would be a year around limestone trail. In the future it is hoped that bus and bike paths will also be created. If approved, the trail could be done this year with rock, built with water runoff and flooding taken into consideration. It is hoped that volunteers can be secured to build and maintain this trail, with a suggestion that maybe it could become a class school project. The issue of safety and security also would be addressed with lighting. Following discussion, **On motion of Tom Beery the Duluth Parks Commission supports the concept of building a sustainable trail to connect the discontinuous sections of Devonshire Street as presented; this trail will serve as an important connection for students and faculty to access the new Lincoln Park Middle School - 2nd by Eric Viken - unanimous.**

COMMISSION COMMITTEES

There has yet to be a meeting convened relative to distribution of grants from Pull Tab proceeds, Andy Holak volunteered to get the process started thru contact with Kris Ridgewell, Recreation Chair.

Discussion was held on the Duluth Traverse and its crossing of the closed Central High School site. Some members did attend a meeting discussing this issue and recommended the moving forward of a request to the School District for an easement. Kerry Leider, of the School District, does not support such an action at this time. It was suggested that a presentation should be made to the School Board on the trail and Sustainable Trail Design. The Trails Committee will work up a presentation.

No other Commission Committee reports.

COMMISSIONER AND LIAISON REPORTS

City Councilor Emily Larson noted that the Council is currently working on the City Budget; the formal presentation of the Parks budget will be October 22, 2012. The Council is also working on a street plan. She noted that she believes there is Council support for the value of trails.

Commissioner Beery addressed the trail proposed from Lowell School to the Lakewalk. The City has requested a State Legacy grant of \$2.8 million for development of this trail. Tom Beery advised that he has personally requested a grant for creation of Focus Groups relative to this issue. There are many partners involved including the County and the School District and it has the approval of City Engineering. James Gittemeier would like to make a presentation on this trail at a future Park and Recreation Commission meeting. The issue of a name for the trail was raised and Kathy Bergen advised that the Mayor has created a Task Force to create a process for the naming of Parks, Trails, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

The Washington Square Mini Master Plan has been tabled to next year to consider a plan that will include other spaces, such as Portman Park, for a larger neighborhood plan.

CitySourced is still being held due to the workload of the MIS Department.

DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT

- Kathy Bergen distributed the "Good News" report.
- She advised that due to construction issues (cement slab required) the Lester Park playground will be on hold until next year, however, the equipment to be installed has been purchased with 2012 Park Fund monies
- The Tot Lot for the Portland Square will be constructed this fall, in the area of the park near 4th street.

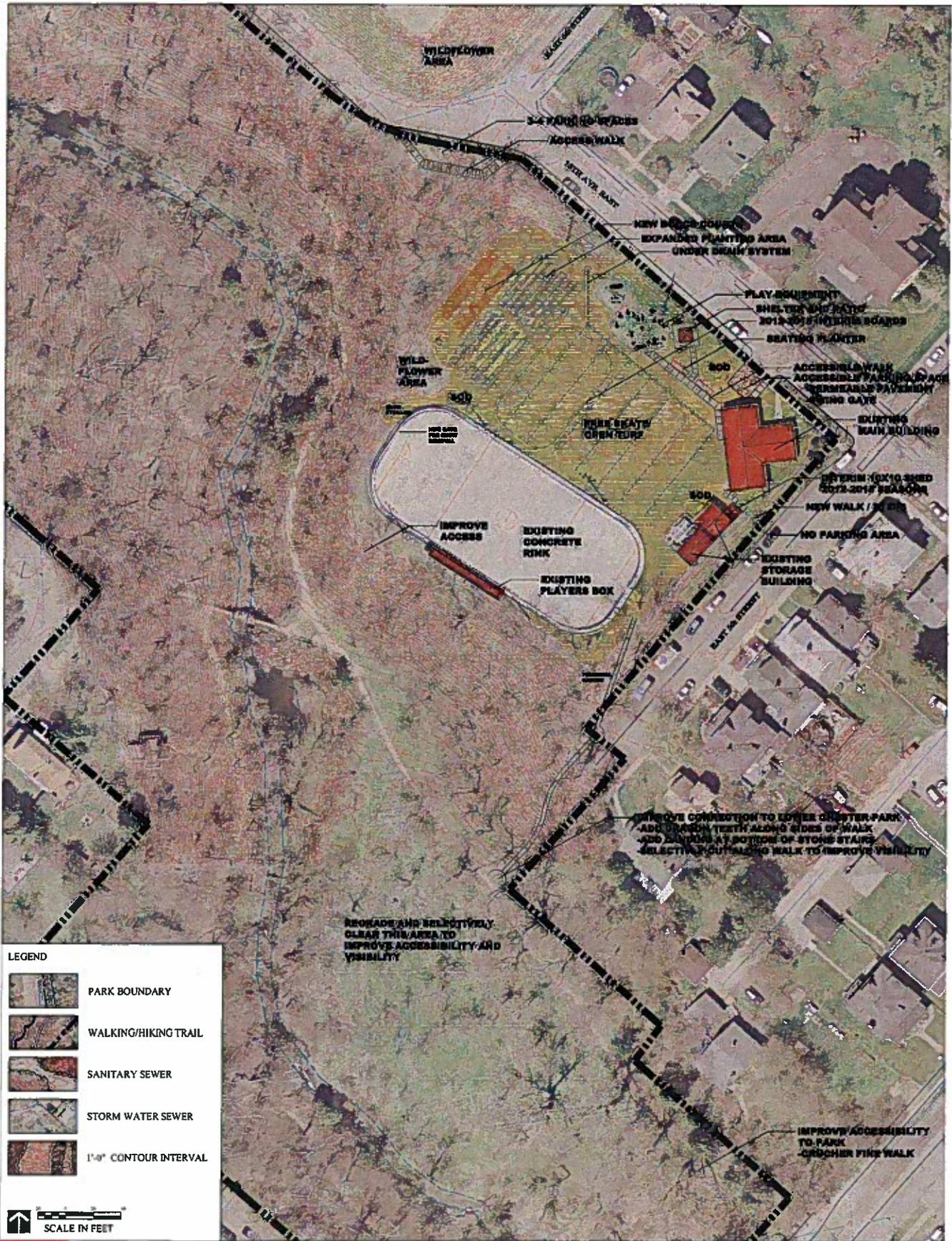
MISCELLANEOUS

James Gittemeier noted that the State Department of Transportation now has "quality of life" as its top concern, preceding vehicle movement, in highway design. The redo of Highway 23 is being done with concern for quality of life.

Discussion was held on Mesabe Avenue, noting that it is an entrance into the City and is need of upkeep, however, this is a MN DOT road and not a city street.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM on motion of Edwin Hall, supported by Susan Beasy-Latto; unanimous.

Prepared by Karen Erickson, Secretary



LEGEND

-  PARK BOUNDARY
-  WALKING/HIKING TRAIL
-  SANITARY SEWER
-  STORM WATER SEWER
-  1'-0" CONTOUR INTERVAL

 SCALE IN FEET

LOWER CHESTER PARK MASTER PLAN

SHEET 00-1
04 August 2011