



PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2012

Meeting called to order at 5:05 PM

Roll Call

Members Present: Thomas Berry, Joel Braun, Erica Erickson, Karen Erickson, Edwin Hall, Andy Holak, Susan Beasy Latto, Barbara Stark, Eric Viken, Jon Wells

Members Excused: Kristine Ridgewell

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes: Hall/Stark moved approval of the minutes for the meeting of January 11, 2012 (unanimous)

Presentations:

ADA Requirements and Accessibility - Bob Grytdahl (Human Rights Office) and Tari Rayala (City Architect)

- The goal is universal design, which means it not only meets the ADA guidelines but also is also easy to use.
- In review of the issue of the accessibility to the infant swing at Playfront park, the ADA guidelines address those play areas designed for children 2 years and older, not infants, thus the current Playfront swing area meets ADA, even though it is not easy to access with a manual wheelchair. Using poured rubber as a ground cover for an entire play area more than doubles the cost.
- Discussed the lengthy process of writing through adoption ADA guidelines.
- The City budget had formerly included \$75,000 for ADA improvements; however, this was eliminated in the 2012 budget.
- The City architect is hopeful of reinstating to \$100,000 in 2012. ADA compliant park/trails are an important benefit to tourist industry.
- One question involving ADA rules that is being reviewed is that the rule that persons with a disability status for driving purposes may use motorized vehicles on trails.

Commissioner and Liaison Reports:

- Commissioner Hall questioned if there should be Park and Recreation Commission involvement in improvements being considered for Wade Stadium and Spirit Mountain. Ms Bergen responded that Spirit Mountain, as part of their process, brings changes to the Commission and it is anticipated that they will be at the March meeting.
- It is the intent to bring information on Wade Stadium to the Commission when the funding issue has been determined.
- Commissioner Braun made note of the ongoing issue of the Congdon Skating Rinks and noted that the Mayor appears to be in support of assisting with Park Fund dollars.

New Business:

Annual Meeting

- Ms Bergen is recommending that the format for the meeting includes items to celebrate successes; describe Park Fund; updates on future projects; update on Park maintenance priorities. Previous years were for planning, but the City now has the Parks Master Plan as well as the Trails Master Plan.
- In addition to Ms Bergen's suggestions it was determined that this meeting would be the time to discuss and encourage citizen volunteers to get involved with Parks & Trails. Ms Bergen will ask a representative of Park Maintenance to be at the meeting as well as the Mayor and City Councilors to discuss the Park Fund. Chair Braun appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to assist with the planning and preparation for the Annual Meeting – Ed Hall, John Wells, and Tom Berry.

Old Business:

- City Councilor Dan Hartman appeared and presented additional information on renaming two forest areas in Fond du Lac/Mission Creek and Magney-Snively. He presented updated maps of the areas, noting that the current named parks would remain but be inside of the proposed Forest Preserves. Forest Preserve has no legal definition and thus no limits on uses. The proposed Fredrick Rodney Paine Forest Preserve is approximately 2,000 acres. The Magney-Snively Forest Preserve is approximately 1,700 acres. There is also no legal definition of "Park" and this should be developed. Following discussion: Motion made by Tom Berry to accept the proposal by Councilor Hartman to name a section of the forest north of Fond du Lac (includes Mission Creek area) the Frederick Rodney Paine Forest Preserve; and to name a second tract of forest near Spirit Mountain (that contains the smaller already named parks of Snively Park and Magney-Snively Park) the Magney-Snively Forest Preserve."

Division Manager Report:

- Park Fund update - A plan is being developed for projects of improvement as they meet the Master Plan and then fund in priority order
- Mayor's Task Force on Land Disposition – there has been a report written which will go to the Mayor and City Council – it is expected to be a policy for the process of land disposition
- Presented the monthly "Good News" – requesting volunteer help for the Fun Fest to be held February 25 and 26.
- Judy Gibbs noted grants that she is currently applying for and asked volunteers to assist with this process.

General Comments:

- Andy Holak brought up the topic of Sports Domes such as in the metro area and how they are available year around for multiple uses; addressing the issue of cost versus use and benefits when compared to the cost of Wade Stadium improvements.
- The normal process for major improvements to city facilities would be to start from the Park Division/Park and Recreation Commission and move up through the process; however, Wade Stadium was started at the legislative level.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM – Stark/Hall (Unanimous)