



Parks & Recreation Commission

Minutes of September 14, 2011

Meeting called to order at approximately 4:07 pm by Joel Braun.

Members Present: Joel Braun, Karen Erickson, Edwin Hall, Andy Holak, Susan Beasy Latto, Patti Nadeau, Kristin Ridgewell, Barbara Stark, Jon Welles

Members Excused: Thomas Beery, Eric Viken

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Edwin Hall to approve the minutes of August 10, 2011 as written – 2nd by Barbara Stark – approved unanimously.

Presentations:

Proposed new name for the Miracle Field at Harrison – presented by Ed Gleason and Sherry Hutton

- The presentation was a proposal to name the Miracle Field the Terry Mattson Memorial Miracle Field.
- This field is the tenth field being built in Minnesota to facilitate a handicapped accessible field for children and adults with special needs to play baseball.
- Terry Mattson was a huge advocate for the commission on disabilities and equal access for all.

Motion was made by Karen Erickson to name the field The Terry Mattson Memorial Miracle Field - 2nd by Susan Beasy Latto – approved unanimously.

Update on Trails and Bikeways Master Plan - Judy Gibbs, Amy Norris, and James Gittenmeier

- Dick Haney commented on complete streets.
- This was an informational presentation. The draft will be sent to all Park & Recreation Commissioners via email.
- Barb Stark asked about the timeline and Kathy Bergen responded “it is a tight timeline” - the Parks and Recreation Commission will vote in October and the City Council will vote the following week.
- The next version of the plan will incorporate the public input. The public meetings will be held tonight, Monday the 19th and Wednesday the 28th. All public meetings will be held from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at various locations. The public comment period will end on Wednesday the 28th.
- Joel asked Judy to highlight the changes for the commission on the revised plan.

Commission Committee Reports:

Facilities – no meeting

Administrative (E-board) – Executive Board will meet on September 16 to set the October agenda

Commissioner & Liaison Reports:

Patti Nadeau – Bayfront Park Baby Swing questions? Kathy is looking into this.

Kristin Ridgewell – Memorial Park Community Center update

Joel Braun – Accolades to our City Councilors regarding issues at Washington Square Park – parking issues in conjunction with East High school parking. Todd Fedora, City Councilor is working on limiting to PARK ONLY parking for park users.

New Business:

- Kathy Bergen informed the commission about a new interim committee - City Water Safety Committee - formed to look into stream and river safety issues after the loss of a young man's life.
- Committee members includes staff from Parks & Recreation, the Fire Department, Police Department, Park Maintenance, the St. Louis County Rescue Squad, and the NOAA rip current work group.
- Focus will be on all water used for recreational purposes and education on water safety.

Old Business:Mayor's Task Force on Land Disposition

- Barbara Stark reported the process for parcel identification for uses, ownership issues, and comprehensive land uses has been started.

Friends of the Park

- This group is no longer using Lower Chester as their home base.

Parks Fund Referendum

- Kathy Bergen reported that the referendum was unanimously passed by the City Council on Monday and so it will now be on the November 8th ballot.
- A YES vote will be an increase in property tax and the funds will be earmarked for Parks and Recreation purposes.
- A NO vote will not raise taxes. Kathy will provide factual information to be used for educational purposes. As employees, Parks and Recreation staff cannot sway or persuade voters either way. Commissioners, as private citizens, can advocate for the referendum but cannot do press releases or speak to groups representing the commission.

Division Manager's Report: Handed out by Kathy Bergen with highlights presented.

Speakers/ Public Comment: Larry Sharp reminded everyone of the upcoming "HILLFEST" event this weekend,.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Barbara Stark to adjourn – 2nd by Edwin Hall meeting adjourned at approximately 5:42 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Kristin Ridgewell for Eric S. Viken