

PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
December 12, 2012
7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

AGENDA

Public Participation

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from November 14, 2012

Reports

1. Public Works Report
2. Recreation Report
3. Community Center Committee Update
4. Chairperson's Report
 - a. Ward V & Ward VI vacancy

New Business

1. Santa Fe Trail signage at Weltner Park
2. Franklin Trail Rededication Discussion

Old Business

1. Parks Master Plan – Five Year Priorities Discussion
 - a. Park Improvements
 - b. Trail Plan
2. Nall Avenue Church Parkland Update

Information Items

- Next Meeting – January 9th

Adjournment

PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

November 14, 2012

Council Chambers

The Park and Recreation Committee met at 7:00 pm. In attendance: Laura Wassmer, Chair, Ashley Weaver, Vice-Chair, Diane Mares, Peggy Couch, Tim O'Toole, Maggie Swartz, Clarence Munsch, Joe Nolke, Max Rieper and Kevin Letourneau. Staff: Bruce McNabb and Dennis Enslinger. Also present: Thos O'Brien and members of the community garden group.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Laura discussed whether or not the Committee wanted to hear from the Community Garden group. Laura indicated that without comment by the Tree Board it was unlikely that the Committee could reach a decision. It was noted that the Tree Board will not likely meet until January or February.

Thomas O'Brien indicated the garden had great participation in 2012 and 50% of the plot holders have renewed. The current challenge is how many plots will be available for 2013. As previously reported, there is a large tree to the south the group would like removed because it shades the southern plots and would allow for expansion. If the tree is removed there is room for an additional 20 plots. If the tree is not removed there is room for 6 – 8 additional plots. Daniel Olson, an Eagle Scout, has committed to helping with the expansion. However, he has to have his project done by summer of 2013.

Peggy asked how the current plot holders secured plots for 2013 and in 2012. Thomas noted in 2012 it was first come first serve. Returning gardeners were able to secure a spot in 2013. New plot holders in 2013 will be able to attend four public meetings and then solicitation will begin after the public meetings. Peggy noted that she was pleased with the upkeep of the garden.

There was a question about garden expansion at Cherokee Church. Thomas thought they would be able to expand at this location. However, there is a new pastor so they are still working on this matter.

ADDITIONAL PARKLAND

Dan Bloom indicated the Countryside East Homes Association was very interested in some underutilized land south of Nall Avenue Nazarene Church. He indicated it is one of the few green spaces in the northern part of the City. The neighborhood is interested in the City pursuing either a long-term lease or acquisition of a portion of the area. CSE believes that is a good time for the City to approach the Church at this time. Peggy asked if the homes association was interested in maintaining it as a Homes Association park rather than a city park. Dan indicated CSE does not have the funding for the maintenance and would like to see this as a city park.

Bruce asked if the adjacent property owners are interested in owning the portion of the land on the western side of the creek. Dan indicated they may be interested in that prospect.

Max shared he was interested in this area and asked if there was a cost estimate of maintaining this area. Dennis noted city staff has not done an estimate since it is unclear as to the exact area to be maintained.

CONSENT AGENDA

The minutes from September 12, 2012 were approved.

REPORTS

Public Works Report

PORTER SWINGS

Bruce reported the Porter Park swings were a work in progress and he hopes have them done by spring 2013. The cost is approximately \$5,000-\$10,000 for removal and installation of a new structure, not \$35,000 as previously stated. The cost will be covered by the current budgeted maintenance. Bruce will report back on the various swing setups in the various parks.

SNAPSHOT UPDATE

Bruce referenced the material in the packet as a cost analysis of alternative herbicides and noted Public Works was going to divide the existing parks into two groups - one using SnapShot and one using an alternative material. Laura requested Public Works provide a total cost comparison between types of applications. Bruce reported he did not plan on taking this matter to City Council but would inform them of the new approach regardless of the budget impact. Laura further requested he itemize which parks would receive the alternative material and also report that to the City Council, Parks Committee and Environmental Committee. There was some additional discussion about materials being used in other grassy areas and/or using all organic products in some parks to give a good comparison. Bruce said he would gather that information.

PARK LIGHTING

The two parks under consideration are Harmon and Franklin. Harmon is part of a larger study of electrical needs within the park that includes uses for Villagefest and Jazzfest. This study will be completed by an outside consultant in the spring of 2013. Franklin will be done under our existing electrical contractor since it is simpler.

PARK RECYCLING

Bruce noted that two bags of recycling were collected in the month of October. Laura asked if the contamination was high. Bruce noted that this was not really an issue. Diane asked about recycling at City Hall and PW. It was clarified that it was being done at these two facilities.

Ashley asked Bruce what areas he thought would be better locations for the recycling containers within Franklin Park. There was a discussion about how the current location was not conducive to recycling, noting there was a balance to the location to make sure they were not used for trash containers. Laura wanted to know the cost of relocating the existing facilities. Bruce indicated Public Works would cover the costs. There was a discussion about expanding recycling to other parks. Laura indicated that it was a priority. There was a discussion using cardboard boxes or some other cheaper alternative. Public Works will provide some cost alternatives.

Recreation Report

Dennis presented the 2012 Recreation Report. There was a discussion concerning the true cost of the activities and if fees were set to achieve full cost recovery. Staff was requested to do an analysis of the fees vs. actual costs of recreational offerings for the last few years.

Chairperson's Report

Laura indicated there were still vacancies in two wards.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMUNITY GARDEN

There was debate about the overall health of the tree the group wants removed. The general consensus is to see what Tree Board recommends. There was additional discussion on the topic of whether the garden will be a long-term issue and if community gardens would be a main stay in the community.

PARKS MASTER PLAN - PRIORITIES

Laura indicated the Committee should go through the Parks Master Plan and determine the top priorities. Specifically, she would like to identify priorities by individual improvements, not by entire park upgrades. She noted there is \$330,000 for a parks project in 2015-2016. She would like to earmark these funds for specific project(s).

There was a discussion on what projects are funded. Bruce clarified the tennis courts at Harmon have funding in the 4-year budget. There was discussion about the plan for a Park Infrastructure Reserve Fund.

To better inform the committee as to the specific improvements within each park, Chris will provide hard copies of site maps and costing data from the parks plan. Also requested was major cost maintenance items and a list of the top five things that will break in the near future.

NALL AVENUE CHURCH PARKLAND

After brief discussion, Laura requested staff contact the church, set up a site visit and see what they had in mind for the property. There was some discussion about the parking that would be required and the issues it could create. Laura asked the committee members to visit the site.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 12th.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Date: December 12, 2012

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LOCATION OF SANTA FE TRAIL AND STATE LINE SIGNS IN WELTNER PARK

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Parks and Recreation Committee approve the location of the requested signs in Weltner Park.

BACKGROUND

The Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA) has approached the Public Works Department to install two small National Park Service interpretive signs in Weltner Park. The purposes of the signs are to denote the original location of the Santa Fe Trail and the 1823 survey of the nearby State line.

Each of the signs would be 2' by 3' and would be provided by the National Park Service and the SFTA. The signs would be installed by the Public Works Department.

Mr. Ross Marshall of the SFTA will attend the Committee meeting to present the proposal and respond to questions.

FUNDING SOURCE

No special funding will be needed from the City to complete this project.

RELATION TO VILLAGE VISION

CCS2 Parks and Green Space

CC2a Preserve and protect natural areas.

CC2b Enhance parks for active and passive recreation through capital improvements such as landscaping, tree and flower planting, shelters, picnic facilities, athletic fields, etc.

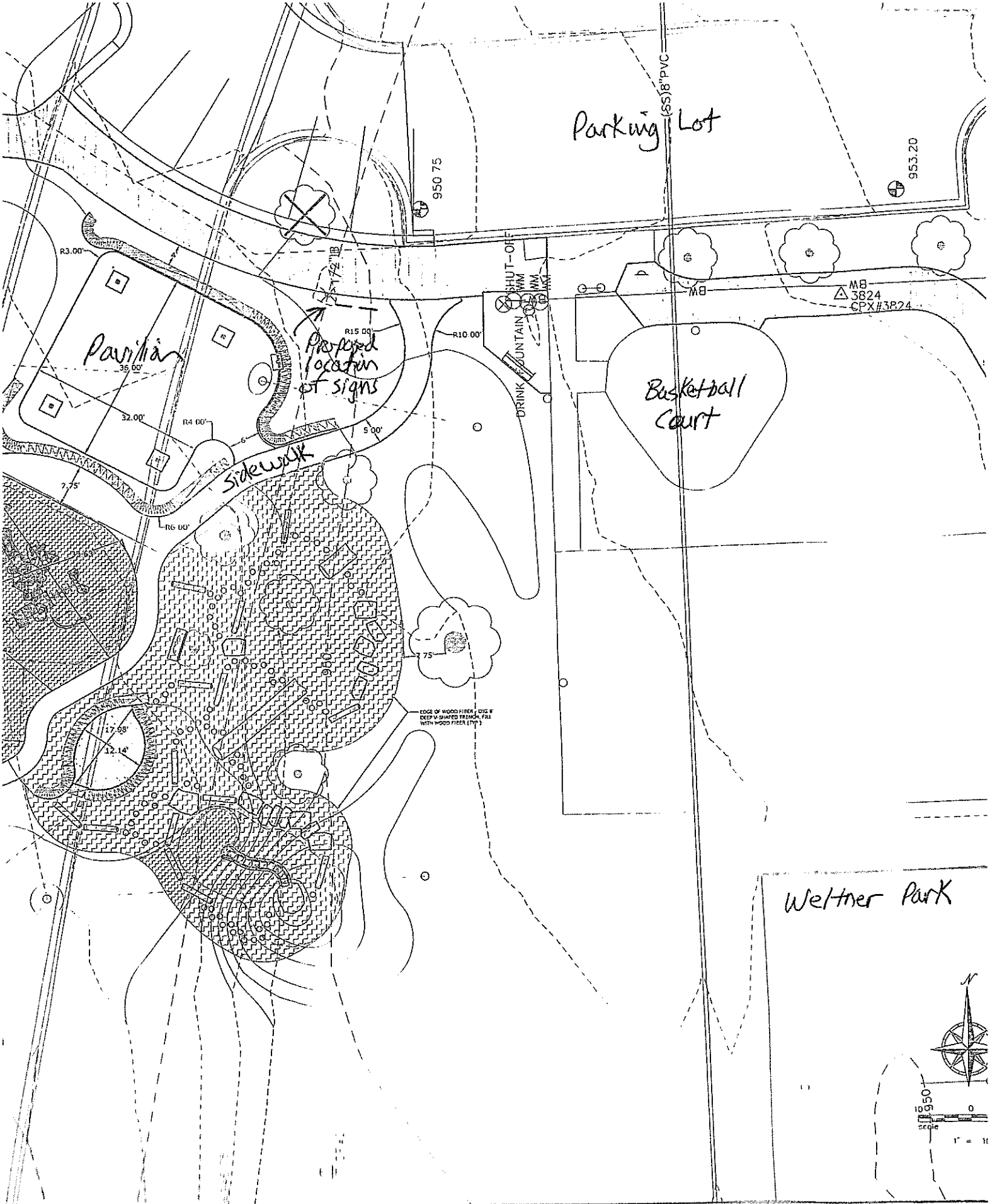
ATTACHMENT

Map showing proposed location of signs in Park.

PREPARED BY

Bruce McNabb, Director of Public Works

Date: November 26, 2012



Wetner Park

