

PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

December 11, 2013

7:00 PM

City Hall

AGENDA

Public Participation

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from November 13, 2013

Reports

1. Public Works Report
2. Recreation Report
3. Chairperson's Report

New Business

1. 2014 Park Improvements Plans and Process Discussion

Old Business

Information Items

- Next Meeting—January 8, 2014

Adjournment

PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
November 13, 2013
City Hall

Park and Recreation Committee met at 7:00 PM. In attendance: Laura Wassmer, Chair, Maggie Schwartz, Clarence Munsch, Diane Pallanich, Kevin Letourneau, Diane Mares. Staff: Danielle Dulin, Keith Bredehoeft

Ms. Wassmer called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Public Participation

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from October 10, 2013

Ms. Wassmer stated that in the Public Works report, it should be noted that the location of the landscaping alternatives should be Prairie Park and the large island in the vicinity. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

1. Public Works Report

Mr. Bredehoeft explained that he is still working with the bond company to resolve the issues with the trail in Franklin Park, but he has found it difficult to work with them. However, he will continue working towards a resolution. The field at Porter Park had a spot where grass would not grow despite Public Works' efforts; they have decided to lay sod with the hope that grass will be established by spring and summer. A resident has expressed concerns about planting sod this late in the year, but he indicated that he has had a lot of success with it. He explained a water truck is used to water it, but the fact is, it takes a lot less water this time of year than in August and September. Also, the high usage of Porter Park has led to the consideration of an additional port-a-potty. Mr. Bredehoeft stated that the contract with Doug Pickert for the park improvements in 2014 has been executed. Pedestrian beacons are still being considered for the pedestrian crossing at Weltner Park. There was discussion about the installation and function of the beacons. Ms. Wassmer suggested striping the crosswalk to draw more attention to it. Mr. Bredehoeft stated that could be done; in the past, the "piano key" striping was reserved for school crossings, but safety standards now allow for them to be used elsewhere. Mr. Bredehoeft announced that there will be a sign dedication ceremony in Weltner Park on Monday, November 25, 2014 at 11:00 AM for the Nine-Mile Point, a significant point on the Santa Fe Trail.

2. Chairperson's Report

Ms. Wassmer stated that the Statuary Committee comprised of Ashley Weaver, Ruth Hopkins, and herself with Danielle Dulin providing staff support, has convened and is meeting with Paul Benson, museum conservator at Nelson-Atkins to discuss the City's statuary. Diane Mares and Diane Pallanich offered that some of the HOAs have worked with Mr. Benson before and suggested contacting them to see if they have retained any of that information.

New Business

1. Approve 2014 Recreation Fees

Ms. Dulin explained that the 2014 recreation fees were being increased in accordance with the formula that has been used in the past that averages the 5-year average increase and a 2.5% increase. This

allows the fees to keep pace with increases in salaries and operational costs. Ms. Wassmer explained that the direction from City Council is to increase recreation fees gradually each year to keep up with inflation because it is less of a burden on our members than to dramatically increase the fees when we realize fees are falling behind expenditures. Mr. Letourneau moved to approve the 2014 Recreation Fees as written with the clarification that the pool rental fee will be \$308; Ms. Mares seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Prairie Village Beach Club T-shirts

Ms. Pallanich brought the idea before the committee to sell t-shirts supporting the Prairie Village Pool. She explained that many years ago, the t-shirts with "Prairie Village Beach Club" were sold at the City Clerk's desk during pool membership sales. She proposed that the Committee consider selling them this year to raise money for something at the pool or increase community spirit and get people excited about the pool. The Committee agreed it was a neat idea. Ms. Dulin stated that she would do more research on the subject.

Old Business

1. Discuss Park Donation Policy

Ms. Dulin explained that a few times a year, the City gets a request from someone that is interested in donating an item in one of the parks with a plaque recognizing the donation. The Municipal Foundation's current policy is that to have a plaque placed in a park, the donation must be greater than \$5,000. If the donation is greater than \$500, the donor's name will be placed on the plaque in City Hall. Donations of other amounts are recorded in a book kept at City Hall. The Parks and Recreation Committee discussed this at their March meeting. At that time, they discussed having an option where individuals could contribute to a specific park, and their name would be located on a plaque in a centralized location, for example, the shelter if the park had one. Additionally, the Committee discussed having a list of items that were needed in each park that people could apply their donation to a specific item in a specific park.

Mr. Bredehoeft noted that when an individual finds out the amount is \$5,000 to have their name in the park, they are often discouraged. Discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of the donation threshold, the potential of overcrowding the parks with memorial items, recognition of donors, increased awareness of a park donation, and the fairness of being able to donate to a specific park. Ultimately, the Committee decided that there is no reason to change the donation policy, but park donations could be recognized in the Parks and Recreation brochure that is distributed with the *Village Voice* in the spring if the donor wished.

Informational Items

Ms. Dulin indicated that after carefully vetting many options, Ms. Hagen-Mundy decided that she did not want to change the practice field reservation procedures for 2014, and we will continue with the current procedure.

Next meeting—December 11, 2013 @ 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.