

**City of Cottage Grove
Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Commission
April 11, 2005**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Commission was duly held at City Hall, 7516 – 80th Street South, Cottage Grove, Minnesota, on the 11th day of April, 2005.

Chair Bob Davy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan Dubois, Bob Davy, Tim Sirianni, Bill Haluzak, Keith Kleinsasser, Paul Poncin, Ryan Simmers

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Senior Planner John Burbank
Council Member Karla Bigham
Ice Arena/Park & Recreation Manager Zac Dockter

John Burbank introduced new members Ryan, Bill, Keith, and Paul.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 14, 2005 minutes were approved as mailed. Motion by Alan Dubois, seconded by Tim Sirianni. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Pine Coulee Land Sale Request – Continued

Dockter reviewed the memo stating that the Commission had reviewed a request from Ron Gerlach to purchase a 30' X 170' strip of land at Pine Coulee Park. The Commission asked staff to bring back some details on the cost of sale and lease. Staff presented a \$30,000 asking price. Staff also stated that price was mentioned to Ron Gerlach who was still

interested in purchasing the parcel of property. Motion by Paul Poncin to recommend that Council consider the sale of the 30' X 170' section of Pine Coulee Park to Gerlach Services at a price of \$30,000 with the understanding that the funds received from this transaction will be placed in a Park Trust Fund to be used for Capital Improvement projects. Seconded by Bill Haluzak. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Meeting

John Burbank reviewed the rules and procedures for the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resource Commission meetings and also asked the Acting Chair and the Commission to begin to elect a Chair, Vice Chair and to also find a volunteer for the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee. Ryan Simmers volunteered to sit on the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee. Elected to offices were Bob Davy, Chair and Alan Dubois, Vice Chair.

B. Park Dedication Requirements

Burbank stated that the City annually reviews the development fees and after researching several other communities in the Twin Cities Metro area, staff and the Planning Commission have recommended to charge \$3,000 per unit for all attached and detached residential units. A motion by Paul Poncin was made to recommend the increase of the Park Dedication fees to \$3,000 per unit for all attached and detached residential units. Seconded by Alan Dubois. Motion carried.

C. Oakwood Park Master Plan

Burbank reviewed a proposal that has been sent to Council and Council accepted the proposal from Close Landscape Architecture for the master planning of the Oakwood Park area. He also indicated that there are several areas that are going to be included with this land to make it approximately 178 of park and open space. As the map showed, there are several areas that get linked into what is going to be considered the Oakwood Park area. Some of the areas are going to be the Camel's Hump Park, Hardwood Avenue Corridor, Clear Channel property, and Frattalone property are some of the items as discussed in past meetings that will all be reviewed by the Close Architecture firm. Burbank stated it is an exciting project. The information will be worked on all summer and should be wrapping up in the fall of 2005. Burbank stated he would keep the Commission members informed of any issues that may arise.

D. 2004-2005 Warming House Report

Dockter reviewed a memo from Jason West, Recreation Supervisor showing the attendance at rinks with warming houses saying that usage was down this year mainly because of the extreme highs and lows in temperatures throughout the season.

PARK MASTER PLANNING WORKSHOP

A. Park Facility Study Information

Burbank simply stated that the Open House for the Parks Facility Study was originally scheduled in March, but now it is going to be re-scheduled for May 9, 2005 in the Council Chambers. The meeting is just prior to the Parks Commission meeting.

B. East Ravine Update – Park and Open Space Details

None

TRAIL WAY PLAN

A. Oakwood Park Trail

Dockter reviewed a map of the proposed trail off of the cul-de-sac behind the new mall where Subway and CROP are located and how it links up to the neighboring Washington County Multi Family Housing Units and also to the existing park pavilion. Dockter stated that the area has been cleaned out from invasive species to allow the oaks to breathe and become the focus point of that wooded area. The cleaning out also helps to take the scary factor out of the walking trail to Oakwood Park by opening it up and allowing for some low land and up land seeding areas. The area should be fairly visible from the streets and people should have less fear of walking through that area. Dockter also stated that some interpretive signs and monuments will be placed on the trail so people can read about the history and the natural resources they can look for when walking along the trail.

B. 2005 Conservation Partners-Environmental Partnership Application (Cottage Grove Trail Way Prairie Restoration/Interpretive Signage Grant)

Dockter reviewed a grant he submitted to the DNR for \$20,000 to be used towards the prairie restoration of a sixty acre parcel on the Cottage Grove Trail Way Corridor. The goal is to kill off invasive species and restore the land back to its original form. It benefits the City and the maintenance becomes minimal over years. It's also beneficial to Excel where the invasive tree species do not climb into the power lines easing their access for work on the lines as well. Also, as part of the grant application, interpretive signs will be used for the education of trail users. The signs would allow users to read about what they can look for as far as the natural resources in the area.

REPORTS

A. Golf Division

No comments.

B. Ice Arena Division

No comments.

C. Parks Division

No comments.

D. Recreation Programming Division

No comments.

E. Planning Commission

No comments.

F. Historic Preservation

No comments.

G. Council Agendas

No comments.

H. Monday News

No comments.

I. CGAA

No comments.

PARK PLANNING/MANAGEMENT EDUCATION MATERIALS

This includes items of interest that are going on in other communities and items to help Commissioners become better members.

Burbank supplied a park map from St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin at the Interstate Park. It is just an informational piece that he thought was interesting. He thought it showed what our City is trying to do essentially with our trails mainly in that Oakwood Park area making a natural, passive park.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Representative Karla Bigham mentioned that the Council had discussed a few park projects. They approved the grant application for the Prairie Restoration Project along with the trail. They approved the architectural and landscaping plan for Oakwood Park. They've also approved to purchase a portion of the land at Hamlet Park for ponding and the ballfield expansion.

STAFF COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Paul Poncin to adjourn, seconded by Allan Dubois. Motion to adjourn carried at 8:17 p.m.