

**City of Cottage Grove
Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Commission
August 8, 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 8th day of August, 2005.

Chair Bob Davy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan Dubois, Bob Davy, Keith Kleinsasser, Paul Poncin,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Haluzak, Ryan Simmers, Senior Planner John Burbank

OTHERS PRESENT: Community Development Director Howard Blin
Ice Arena/Park & Recreation Manager Zac Dockter
City Council Member Karla Bigham

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 13, 2005 minutes were approved as mailed.

OPEN FORUM

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Oakwood Park Master Plan – Update and Discussion

Howard Blin updated the Commission members on the future plans for Oakwood Park as developed by Close Architectural Firm. Plans were reviewed and discussed. The Commission also took a moment to walk through the park and staff pointed out some of the key potential developments of the park.

B. Park Facility Study – Final Draft

Howard Blin briefly reviewed the Park Facility Study and addressed questions and concerns from the Commission.

C. Neighborhood Park Rock Installation

Zac Dockter informed the Commission that seven new park rocks have been installed this year, which means that the majority of the parks have rock signs with nine more to be installed next year.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Biscoe Grove

Howard Blin reviewed a zoning amendment to rezone approximately 123 acres of land from agricultural to rural residential near 100th Street and Lehigh Road. The zoning amendment would allow for 39 rural estate lots. Staff recommends at this time to take cash in lieu of land since the area of discussion is far from any maintenance equipment and would be a maintenance nightmare for staff. Also, future development of that area would allow for future parks and greenway space above and beyond what can be put in this small development. A motion to recommend taking cash in lieu of land on the Biscoe Grove subdivision was made by Paul Poncin. Seconded by Keith Kleinsasser. Motion carried.

B. Silverwood

Howard Blin reviewed the proposal, which is located 7530 – 65th Street. The final plan is in place and staff is looking for the Commission to approve the parks, greenway, and open space areas as proposed. A motion was made by Paul Poncin to recommend acceptance of the greenway plan and cash in lieu of land for the remainder of dedication requirements. Seconded by Keith Kleinsasser. Motion carried.

C. Trail Way Signage

Dockter reported that John Burbank, after using the trails throughout Cottage Grove, noticed that our trail signs could use some sprucing up. An idea was presented to the Commission for discussion. The Commission liked the idea of sprucing up the signs a little bit with the expansion of the trail system. However, several members also felt that keeping the signs simple would help people know the usage for a particular trail, such as a walking trail or a biking trail. The Commission generally felt that the sprucing up of the signs was a good idea, but they need to be simple and informative.

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.

No comments.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Allan Dubois reported that Washington County is once again discussing a trail connecting to the St. Croix River. He noted that when this trail was first proposed, the neighboring residents opposed it. He hopes that this time the County will be successful in getting this trail connection.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Karla Bigham updated the Commission on the Military Road realignment and using a parkway alternative as opposed to removing the historical roadway completely. She congratulated the

Recreation Department on the success of Safety Camp. She also mentioned that she took a construction tour of the Mississippi River, and the fishing pier and water access seem to be a success.

STAFF COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Paul Poncin to adjourn, seconded by Keith Kleinsasser. Motion to adjourn carried at 8:20 p.m.