

**City of Cottage Grove
Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Commission
February 13, 2006**

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 13th day of February, 2006.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Davy, Allan DuBois, Keith Kleinsasser, Bill Haluzak, Paul Poncin, Ryan Simmers

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Simmers, to approve the November 14, 2005 minutes as mailed. Seconded by Poncin. Motion carried. December 12, 2005 and January 9, 2006 meetings were canceled.

OPEN FORUM

Karla Bigham presented a plaque of appreciation for six years of service on the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission to Allan DuBois.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Kingston Park Recreation Storage

Burbank discussed with the Commission potential storage options for the playground program at Kingston Park. A few years ago, it was decided to utilize a temporary storage system, with plans to review that practice in future years. Staff is looking for feedback from the Commission on other options for storage at Kingston Park. Options include using the pod for another year, continuing to rent the container but placing it on a cement slab with landscaping around it, or building a permanent storage building at a cost of about \$75,000.

The Commission discussed these options and seemed to generally agree that the City should work with the Athletic Association to see if there is any potential to cooperate together to build a storage facility to meet both the Athletic Association and City's program needs.

B. Trail way Information Nodes

Dockter presented a map of potential locations for trailway information nodes/kiosks and also areas that could use benches. The Commission reviewed the map and discussed potential locations and potential designs for the kiosks. The Commission generally agreed with the layout of the map. A motion was made by Poncin, seconded by Haluzak, to recommend installation of kiosks and benches on a scheduled plan at the locations submitted by staff. Motion carried.

C. Capital Improvement Plan – Final

Burbank presented the final version of the Capital Improvements Plan for 2006 through 2010 and highlighted some of the items that contribute strictly to parks. Poncin questioned what Highland rink paving meant in 2008. Dockter replied that was simply to pave the hockey rink to allow for increased ice time in the winter and additional summer opportunities by having a hard surface there. Poncin also asked about the boat landing location. Burbank responded that they are still working with other entities, such as Washington County and Shiely Construction, to pinpoint a particular location that might hold the funds in place if we can get something done soon. Davy asked about the Hamlet expansion. Burbank replied that we are still in the planning stages. The city is working on the ponding requirements first, because that is the primary focus for the grading of that area. After that, the city will consider the expansion of the athletic complex at Hamlet Park.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Property Identification Posts

Dockter reviewed a memo asking the Commission to require future developer agreements to include the installation of park property identification posts in all parks and open space areas. Locations of the park posts and specifications of the park posts would be determined by staff. Motion by DuBois, seconded by Poncin, to recommend the installation of park property posts in future development agreements via City policy. Motion carried.

B. Hazen P. Mooers Park Signage

Burbank presented a historical analysis of the Grey Cloud Island area. He stated that this information could be engraved on a plaque and installed at Hazen P. Mooers Park. The plaque would be placed on the Park's rock sign that is planned to be installed in 2006. Motion by Kleinsasser, seconded by DuBois, to recommend the installation of the historical sign on the park signage rock. Motion carried.

C. Cross Country Ski Trails 2006/2007

Dockter mentioned that there seems to be an increased interest in cross country skiing in Cottage Grove, but the City currently does not provide any opportunities on municipal properties. He did note that there are opportunities for cross country skiing at Cottage Grove Ravine Park, which is a Washington County Park. County park users have to pay the park entrance fee of \$5 per entrance or purchase a seasonal pass for \$25. Dockter stated there is a gentleman in town who owns a cross country ski groomer who would be willing to perform this work for the city for \$50 per hour if we would like to install our own ski trails. Staff thought that would be a good idea since we are not incurring any upfront expense by purchasing any equipment or supplies to provide this amenity to our citizens during the winter. General consensus seemed to be that this is a great opportunity to provide more recreational activity for our citizens. It was recommended that \$1,500 be included as a budget addition starting in the 2007 budget cycle (there are approximately 10 snowfalls per year). Motion was made by DuBois to request a budget addition of \$1,500 in the 2007 parks budget to improve ski trails at the Pine Tree Valley Park location, seconded by Kleinsasser. Motion carried.

D. Park Events and Volunteerism

Dockter reviewed several park related events that will be happening this summer, including the Adopt-a-Park program, the Fishing in the Neighborhood program, and the Arbor Day event. Dockter asked if any Commission members would be interested in volunteering at those events. There are a variety of different ways to volunteer, such as running an informational booth, helping in the operation of the event, running a fishing contest, or adopting Oakwood Park for spring and fall clean-up. The Commission asked that this be presented on the next meeting's agenda, including firm plans to adopt Oakwood Park and a schedule of times for volunteering at Fishing in the Neighborhood and Arbor Day events.

E. Comprehensive Plan Update – Parks

Burbank reported that the Metropolitan Land Planning Act requires all metropolitan area communities to submit an updated Comprehensive Plan to the Met Council by the end of 2008. Staff will begin updating the Cottage Grove plan in the near future. The Parks Commission's primary responsibility would be to update the Plan's parks and trails element, which would guide future decisions regarding the locations of parks and trails throughout the City. Burbank noted the Parks Commission will need to appoint a representative to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. At this time no action is requested, but more information will be brought to the next meeting.

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

Burbank submitted a couple items for this subject. No comments were made.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

There was a general discussion on the dog park location, size, group advocates, etc. Burbank replied that it is a citizen-run group and the current idea for the location is at the Ravine Park. Therefore, the group is working with the county. DuBois had concerns about placing the dog park in the Ravine Park and asked where it would be located. Poncin replied that it would be on the hilltop on the west side of the pond.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Karla Bigham updated the Commission on how the dog park group has been working with the City Council. The City Council has wrapped up C.I.P. work, and has held discussions about helping to fund the Camel's Hump Overlook development. Council has also held Recreation Center and Ice Arena expansion workshops and approved the Washington County Service Center proposal.

STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Poncin, seconded by DuBois to adjourn. Motion carried, Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.