

**City of Cottage Grove
Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Commission
January 10, 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 10th day of January 2005.

Chair Steve Morse called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Morse, Allan Dubois, Tim Sirianni, Bob Davy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Eddy Wuorenma

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes to approve.

OPEN FORUM

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Park Land Sale Requests – Pine Coulee Park

Dockter stated that staff had met as requested by the Parks Commission at last month's meeting. Staff came to the conclusion that a Park Master Plan should be developed before the consideration of selling any land at Pine Coulee Park. So, staff proposed a Master Plan for the park. The Commission agreed to the proposed Master Plan and staff replied that they will continue with the Commission's request to pursue potential sale or lease of land in return for funds to be used to improve the aesthetics of the park.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2005 Meeting Schedule

Burbank submitted a schedule of 2005 meetings. They will continue to be the second Monday of the month. Burbank also stated that two members of the Commission have submitted their formal resignation. Jon Mortrud and Barry Hamilton can no longer serve on the Parks Commission and staff is pursuing suitable replacements for those two Commission Members.

B. Planning Case PP05-006 – Pierce Preliminary Plat for Oak Wood Glen

Burbank reviewed the Oak Wood Glen proposed site stating that it was going to consist of eight lots within a considerably wooded area. The discussion has been held as to what percentage of the lot would be public and private or if there should be cash in lieu of dedication during development of this property. Burbank reviewed the areas to be discussed. A general discussion was held on those areas and Burbank stated up to 40% of the proposed lot is being discussed as potential park land. David Pierce spoke and said he would prefer to keep the entire area a private open space however; he was willing to dedicate approximately a minimum of 10% if the City was pursuing a trail or a natural open space area through the wooded lot. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of public versus private park area. Steve Morse stated that he does not want to make a decision at this time. He would not want us to let this park go completely private and find in the long term, during future planning, that we really needed that parcel of land to be public or for other projects to be completed. The Commission came to a consensus that they recommend staff to pursue an agreement to make this a private and public park open space area and come to some sort of negotiation so both sides are happy and also preserves the wooded area as best as possible.

C. 2005 Tree Mitigation Plan

Dockter briefly reviewed the reasoning behind the development of a tree mitigation plan by the City and explained the results of the planting of trees in 2004 and also presented the Commission with the Phase 2 and 3 projects in 2005 and 2006. A general discussion was held on the future projects and what is in store for tree mitigation in the long term future.

D. Capital Improvement Plan

Dockter reviewed the City of Cottage Grove's Capital Improvement Plans explaining what the plan is and how the City utilizes it as a five year planning device. He showed the 2005 projects, specifically in regards to Parks and Recreation areas, so the Commission can see what items are scheduled this year, what items are scheduled in the future and add input if necessary. General discussion was held on the CIP.

PARK MASTER PLANNING WORKSHOP

A. Park Facility Study Information Session II

No additional information was noted for this topic.

B. East Ravine Update

Burbank briefly explained that the East Ravine process still continues to move along rapidly and continues to receive extremely positive feedback.

TRAIL WAY PLAN

A. 2005 Trail Way Grant Applications

Burbank submitted information from the DNR on potential Trail Way Grants and explained to the Commission that the City of Cottage Grove will be applying for one or two of these grants in hopes to receive additional funds to contribute towards trail projects which eventually means we can complete more trails in 2005.

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.

None

COMMISSION COMMENTS

None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Karla Bigham mentioned that the City Council will be working on their 2005 Goals and Accomplishments this Wednesday. The public is invited to attend and also there will be some more information on the Infrastructure Management Task Force of which Eddy Wuorenma is the liaison.

STAFF COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Allan Dubois, seconded by Bob Davy. Motion to adjourn carried at 8:30 p.m.