

**City of Cottage Grove
Parks Recreation and Natural Resource Commission
June 11, 2007**

Meeting held at Highlands Park – 6975 Idsen Avenue.

Roll Call:

Present: Bob Davy, Ryan Simmers, Paul Poncin, Bill Schumal, Ashley Thurber, Krystal McCalvy

Absent: Sheri Yaritz, Councilmember Myron Bailey

Others Present: Zac Dockter, John Burbank

Approval of Agenda – motion to approve by Paul Poncin, 2nd by Ryan Simmers, motion carried

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve by Paul Poncin, 2nd by Ryan Simmers, motion carried

Old Business

1. New Member Appointment – Burbank introduced Krystal McCalvy as a new member to the Parks Commission. Krystal will be filling the second youth seat.
2. Hamlet Park/Norris Marketplace Streetscape Design – Burbank presented three landscaping plans for the northern portion of Hamlet Park as submitted by Brauer and Associates. Paul Poncin stated that he likes the southern trail connection across Hadley Avenue as well as the designated seating areas. Bob Davy stated that he was concerned that the user groups of this park area may be different to what we are typically accustomed to. He asked that staff keep that in mind while preparing the plans. Bill Schumal asked what type of lighting is being proposed. Dockter responded that staff is currently debating what type and how much lighting should be provided in this area. The area may be unique in that activity could quite possibly be sustained throughout the seasons. Bill also stated that the amphitheater does not seem to be a good fit and is also concerned about accessibility issues with grades and street traffic. Ryan and Paul both mentioned that more benches and trash receptacles that what is typically standard should be considered for this area. As experienced in other parks near commercial centers in other communities, the parks certainly seem to get used heavily and we should be prepared to accommodate those uses.

Burbank also presented a landscape plan for the Highway 61 off ramp onto 80th Street. Bob asked if trails would be present in this area and if it should be considered. Burbank stated that there are no current plans for

a trail but the area will be excavated in a manner that could account for a new trail connecting Cottage Grove and St. Paul Park. Krystal and Ashley stated that the city should consider a similar landscaping plan for the on ramp on the opposite side of the highway. That would provide for a better sense of balance to the area.

New Business

1. Everwood – Land Trust Easements – Burbank reviewed the land trust easements in the Everwood subdivision and explained how and why the transactions are being delivered.
2. Park and Open Space Tour – Burbank surveyed the commission as to a desire for using the August or September meeting to rent a tour bus and visit key elements to our park system.
3. Highlands Park Improvement Review – Dockter reviewed the improvements that have taken place at Highlands Park over the past year. Those improvements included installation of the pond, trails, benches, landscaping, trees and tree maintenance. Dockter stated that the project has been very well received by the public and neighbors of the park.

Project Updates

1. Hamlet Park – Dockter stated that the ponding work has been completed and the new trail system is constructed and ready for use. There will continue to be landscaping improvements such as brush clearing and tree planting, but the project is nearing completion for this segment. Dockter also stated that ponding work in the south end of the park will continue to take place throughout the summer. However, this particular construction will not affect the activities of the park.
2. Pine Tree Valley Park – Dockter reviewed the feedback from the neighborhood meeting on May 23rd. Although there was plenty of negative feedback at the beginning of the meeting, staff feels most issues were talked through and the residents generally accepted the plan. City Council will be awarding bids on June 20th so theoretically construction could begin as early as June 21st. The first phase of the project will be to swap soils with the ice arena expansion property. Following that work, the pond, parking lot and trails will be constructed.

Plans and Amendments

1. Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee – Update – Burbank reported on the activities of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, and that as that group delves into Parks and Open space land use and trailway

discussions, the Parks Commission will be given information to comment on.

Reports

No Comments on the reports

Park Planning/Education Materials

None

Commission Comments

Thurber commented that the City should host an art contest for creating public art in the Parks program, and that the Hamlet North project would be a good place to implement the program.

Council Comments

None

Staff Comments

None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Poncin, 2nd by Schumal at 8:15pm.

After the Meeting the Commission members toured the new pond improvement area in the Park.