

**City of Cottage Grove
Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Commission
May 9, 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 9th day of May, 2005.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Sirianni

OTHERS PRESENT: Senior Planner John Burbank
Community Development Director Howard Blin
Ice Arena/Park & Recreation Manager Zac Dockter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 11, 2005 minutes were approved as mailed. Motion by Ryan Simmers, seconded by Bill Haluzak. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. East Ravine Update – Plan Summarization

Burbank discussed the latest updates in the East Ravine planning process. He highlighted items such as a planned greenway/park system. The parkway design, potential community/government center, future impacts on Old Cottage Grove and future impacts on the Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Recreation Programs 2005

Dockter reviewed the programs scheduled by the Recreation Department for 2005 in the spring, summer and fall. He also mentioned that the Recreation Department will be moving to the Ice Arena offices.

B. Softball Tournaments

Dockter discussed the proposed softball tournament on June 18th during the Strawberry Festival.

PARK MASTER PLANNING WORKSHOP

A. Park Facility Study Update

Burbank mentioned that at 6:00 an open house was held for the Park Facility Study and everything went well and we will continue through that process.

B. Hamlet Park Redevelopment - Update

Burbank reviewed the latest plans for the proposed park expansion and the surface water management. He also mentioned that land was purchased this last winter and we've reached the point where earthwork has begun, so we are in full swing. Dockter mentioned the athletic components will not be built right away. The more realistic timeframe will be five to fifteen years before it is complete.

C. Posavad Land – Open Space Development Sketch

Burbank reviewed the 120 acres of property near the northwest quarter of Cottage Grove which is in planning for future development. The planning includes trails, natural waterways, woods with pines, a potential private community center, greenway corridors, and a shelter for the neighborhood. The Commission expressed concern in regards to a private community center at that location. They would rather see a public community center. It would be hard to tell people that they could use all the park except for one component.

TRAIL WAY PLAN

A. Oakwood Park Trail – Design Elements

The progress of the park development was reviewed. Burbank proposed the option of the trail having interpretive signs. The Commission generally agreed on the natural rock type of monument and agreed to a paver brick leaf design for the trailhead. (Options 1 and 3.)

B. Trail Way System Presentation

Burbank stated that he will present a more elaborate PowerPoint presentation on Cottage Grove's entire trail system in the near future. He also reviewed the Oakwood, Camel's Hump, and Clear Channel properties potential plans and how that links up with the Oakwood Park progress. He mentioned that Close Architecture is developing a master plan for all those areas combined.

REPORTS

A. Golf Division

No comments.

B. Ice Arena Division

No comments.

C. Parks Division

Dockter reviewed some of the construction updates within the parks.

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 shared Strawberry Festival information off of the Cottage Grove website. This was for information sharing purposes only.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Bob Davy stated that the Kingston Soccer Complex is in terrific shape and he wanted to thank the park staff for their efforts.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

STAFF COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

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